

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
AEFF PROJECT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2012 AT 2.00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM E2, WOODHILL HOUSE**

Present

Belinda Miller	FLAG Chairperson
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise
Gavin Clark	Scottish Natural Heritage
Roger Goodyear	Banff Coast Tourism Partnership (substitute for Ian Hay)

Officers in Attendance

Ann Marie Macaskill	Aberdeenshire Council
Vicky Thomson	Aberdeenshire Council
Anne MacLennan	Aberdeenshire Council

Apologies

James Buchan	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
David Cook	Banff & Buchan College
Ian Hay	East Grampian Coastal Partnership

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1.1 Belinda welcomed PAC members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

2.1 The draft minute of the FLAG meeting on 6 June 2012 was noted and will be considered for approval at the FLAG meeting on 18 September 2012.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

3.1 Belinda informed the PAC about the Aberdeenshire Council 100 Day Alliance Fund. Two Area Managers have included several potential AEFF projects in their bids for funding. Outcome unknown as yet. It is anticipated these projects will be subject to committee approval.

3.2 Belinda confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council's Regeneration fund has been realigned with £50,000 allocated to AEFF. Regeneration budget requires to be spent by 31 March 2013 but there may be scope to carry forward.

3.3 Belinda, Ann Marie and Derek MacDonald attended the first meeting with other Scottish FLAGs and Marine Scotland in Edinburgh on 16 August.

3.4 The additional Axis 5 post of Fisheries Project Officer will be advertised on Friday, 31 August. The post holder will work with potential applicants and the AEFF Co-ordinator to bring projects forward to AEFF as well as working with stakeholders developing projects under EFF Axes 1-3 .

- 3.5 Axis 5 claim has been submitted to Marine Scotland. This claim covers pre-launch activities and the time spent on developing the strategy document.

4. CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE

- 4.1 A copy of the Co-ordinators update was circulated and will be presented again at the FLAG. Brief summary of the main points below:
- A number of EOIs have been received for Round 3.
 - Draft Service Level agreement (SLA) has been received. Co-ordinator and Chair to respond to Marine Scotland with comments.
 - Aberdeenshire FLAG fact sheet is now live on the FARNET website.
 - Outcome of the Aberdeenshire Alliance funding bids will be known following the Aberdeenshire Council Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 20 September 2012.

5. AEFF WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA

- 5.1 The member's only area on the website has now been divided into six useful folders. Expressions of Interest are to remain confidential however there is a spreadsheet available summarising all EOIs received.

6. MARINE SCOTLAND GUIDANCE UPDATE

- 6.1 Ann Marie summarised the main points arising from the first meeting between Marine Scotland and other Scottish FLAGs:
- Some challenges regarding interpretation of eligible measures.
 - Marine Scotland regarded the Build and Sail Your Own Dinghies project as ineligible as it did not have a direct and obvious link to the fishing sector in the project application form.
 - Aberdeenshire Council has now funded the Dinghies project.
 - This ruling may have an effect on several of the projects coming forward to AEFF.
 - Applicants must demonstrate a clear link to the maritime and fisheries industry and/or heritage at the application stage. All projects must clearly align with the eligible measure in EC Reg 1198/2006 "Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas" Article 44
 - It is not the case that projects coming forward to AEFF from fishing communities will be eligible because of geographic area only.
 - AEFF application acknowledgement letters will advise no work should be undertaken until grant is approved. Marine Scotland allow acknowledgement letters to permit works go ahead prior to this date at the applicants risk. AEFF FLAG has decided against this approach and will continue to state that no works must be undertaken until grant is approved.
 - A random sample of 10% of projects will be inspected by Marine Scotland. This process will hold up the claim being inspected for approximately one week but not the overall progress of the project.
 - Final drawdown date from Marine Scotland is June 2015. Final project claims to be submitted early 2015 to allow for this.
 - Onus is on the applicant regarding compliance with procurement procedures. The LEADER practice of advertising procurements on

the Scottish Government website Public Contracts, Scotland will be adopted for capital projects. Marine Scotland guidance is for two quotes to be obtained.

- Contingency can be shown as a stand alone cost of 5% of total project costs.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7.1 Belinda Miller declared an interest as the applicant for project 007, Taste of Grampian Seafood Pavilion. Another member of the PAC will be asked to Chair discussions relating to this project.

7.2 Roger Goodyear declared an interest as Chairperson of the applicant group for projects 008, Banff Coast Tourism Development 2013-14 and 009, PORT Boatshed.

8. PROJECTS 004 TO 010

8.1 004 – Cairnbulg Boathaven

The project is to widen and deepen Cairnbulg harbour and install one new pontoon, adding a further 20 berths. The proposals will build on the success of a previous phase 1 application to LEADER for the installation of pontoons.

The harbour is currently at berthing capacity and there is a waiting list for this facility. Expansion will generate further income and will ensure the long term sustainability of the harbour. Rock excavated during the deepening process will be a free resource for the harbour and will provide cost savings to the project.

Planning consent has been obtained.

Funding application submitted to the Aberdeenshire Council Alliance Fund for public co-finance.

Due to the coastline having a population of dolphins and being designated SSSI, the applicant must adhere to strict rules about blasting with regard to the protection of marine mammals.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 “Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas” Article 44 Eligible Measures A, E and F

PAC considered the proposals to relate strongly to eco-tourism and will provide an infrastructure to bring tourism into the area, thus stimulating the local economy. The project represents good value for money and fits AEFF criteria.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £27,500 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8.2 005 – Our Village: A People’s Story of Johnshaven

The project is to redevelop a former lifeboat shed in Johnshaven into an exciting Heritage Hub for the area.

The Heritage Hub will house a small collection of local artefacts and collections which display the rich maritime and fisheries heritage of the area and incorporate learning display boards.

The building will include the installation of a small kitchenette, toilet facilities and heritage display area. The impressive building will have a split mezzanine floor and the existing cobbled floor will be levelled out, making the facility inclusive for all users. A project co-ordinator will be employed.

The Hub will be used by local residents and primary school children as a centre for learning and promoting the history of the area.

The Hub will be open on a seasonal basis and will be a key focal point for the annual Fish Festival which is a large tourist attraction,

Heritage Lottery funding has been secured as public co-finance.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 "Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas" Article 44 Eligible Measures A, C E and F

Discussion took place regarding the figure provided for projected income which was considered to be high. There will be no entry fee charged, only donations. Income will be generated from hire fees in the future and there will be a modest charge for goods on sale.

PAC would like to see the project co-ordinator post extended to two years, making the facility more sustainable. In order to generate enough income to keep the co-ordinator in post PAC suggested the possibility of making an application for Homecoming 2014 funding. It was also suggested that applying for accreditation would open up more funding opportunities for the group.

The building is listed and the applicants have considered various approaches to heating the facility. This is proving to be a continuing challenge and PAC recommended the applicant make contact with Aberdeenshire Council's Renewable Energy Development Co-ordinator for further advice.

PAC would welcome the involvement of local schools in the project.

PAC considered the building to be an excellent facility which is badly needed in the area. The hub will result in increased footfall to the area as the facility becomes known as a suitable venue for holding events/workshops.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £42,023 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8.3 006 – Whitehills Seafood Restaurant

The project is the redevelopment of an unused inshore fisheries building at Whitehills harbour into a quality seafood restaurant. Works include the installation of additional windows to the front of the building, providing

exceptional views over the harbour. A side door entrance vestibule will also be constructed.

The project will create 6 job opportunities in the catering sector and will promote the use of prime quality, locally sourced seafood.

The focus of the project is to add value to locally landed fish produce and promote the food and the area. The proposals have emphasised the demand for a quality restaurant in the area and will create a service for day trippers berthing in the harbour, visitors to the caravan site as well as local customers.

There is widespread local support for the project including the local chip shop. The restaurant will provide a much needed service .

Planning application has been submitted for the windows and for change of use.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 “Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas” Article 44 Eligible Measures A, B, C, D, E and F

PAC agreed there is an urgent need for a quality restaurant in the area. The potential for sailing tourism will be enhanced by this project. The marina is currently full and there is a long waiting list to get in.

PAC highlighted the importance of the tenant caterer being in place in time to have input in the design process, the specification of the kitchen layout and quality of the fittings and furnishings.

PAC would also like clarification on the number of jobs created, it was considered likely to be more than 6 FTE.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £44,171 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8.4 007 – Taste of Grampian Seafood Pavilion

As Belinda Miller declared an interest in this project, Gavin Clark was appointed as Chairperson for the project discussion.

The project is to establish a dedicated Seafood Pavilion at the Taste of Grampian one day food and drink festival at Thainstone in Inverurie. The Seafood Pavilion will promote local seafood, fishmongers and seafood producers to local consumers. Visitors to the pavilion will be introduced to under utilised species and seafood cooking demonstrations will be held. There will be a dedicated educational area for children.

Proposals include a custom built display unit for keeping fish chilled and the production of a printed brochure to promote the Pavilion to show visitors. The brochure will be available in the larger ring adding to the exposure of the Seafood Pavilion.

The proposals offer an opportunity to add value and to promote locally landed fish produce. Collaborative working between those in the fishing

industry will also be encouraged by the housing of all exhibitors in one dedicated area.

A reduced rate for exhibitors will be offered for the first year of this two year project.

Match funding is confirmed from Taste of Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council will provide the public co-finance.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 "Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas" Article 44 Eligible Measures A and D.

PAC agreed that the event would provide a captive audience but questioned whether Inverurie as the event location could present a problem. However, it was agreed that as all exhibitors are based on the North East coast, the location of the event would not be an issue.

It was agreed that the project could be self sustaining once established.

PAC questioned whether there was scope for the display/chill facilities to be utilised at other events.

PAC welcomed the promotion of under utilised species and the seafood pavilion will bring a new element to an event traditionally focussed on farming and agriculture.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £5,381 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Gavin Clark handed back to Belinda Miller.

8.5 008 – Banff Coast Tourism Development 2013-14

Roger Goodyear declared an interest in this project and will not participate in the project discussion.

The project is to develop the Banffshire coast as a high-value and highly distinctive tourist destination. Proposals will directly support the rural fishing/coastal economy of Banffshire by employing a project co-ordinator to deliver a new innovative approach to improving the quality of products, accommodation, service and visitor experience in the area. The aims will be to increase economic output and increase visitor numbers by developing joined up tourism offerings through providing a mechanism for collaboration between tourism businesses and coastal communities.

Specifically, these proposals will encompass natural strengths, including dramatic scenery - both seascape and landscape, a distinctive heritage, including fishing, picturesque harbours with tourism potential, wildlife - both on land and at sea, and a range of tourism products, including visitor attractions, specialist retail outlets, accommodation and eating out facilities.

The co-ordinator will be appointed on a 3-day per week basis and on-costs such as pension and NI are not part of the application. The co-ordinator will

be supported by a team of volunteers.

Public co-finance secured from Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Enterprise. Match funding confirmed from Banff Coast Tourism Partnership, who are making a 10% cash and in-kind contribution.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 “Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas” Article 44 Eligible Measures A, B, C and E.

Discussion took place regarding differences from the earlier Scottish Enterprise application to LEADER. PAC agreed that although there is an element of continuation, the proposed projects are new initiatives and therefore this application clearly different from the previous project.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £67,500 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8.6 009 – PORT Boatshed

Roger Goodyear declared an interest in this project and will not participate in the project discussion.

The project is to restore derelict buildings adjacent to Portsoy harbour. The renovated Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training (PORT) Boatshed will pioneer an inclusive package of boatbuilding, restoration and sail training for participants of all ages.

The inclusive package promotes the maritime history of the history and offers knowledge transfer between the restoration volunteers who will be current or retired fishermen through workshops. These will incorporate repairing nets, creel construction and sail making.

The local shipyard in Macduff is very supportive of the project and has expressed an interest in offering their skills in traditional construction of fishing vessels.

Phase 2, outwith the scope of this application will be the addition of bunk house accommodation and provision will be made for the building work for the bunk house in Phase 1.

The Boatshed will complement the established community facility at the Salmon Bothy and the annual Scottish Traditional Boat Festival event.

There have been several enquiries from local schools wanting to take part and Banff and Buchan College is also interested.

Public co-finance secured from Area Regeneration monies and funding application submitted to the Aberdeenshire Council Alliance Fund for the balance.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 “Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas” Article 44 Eligible Measures B, C, E and F.

PAC was impressed with the innovative proposals to restore and diversify the use of a redundant building into an all year round inclusive package. The strength of this project lies with the Board and their impressive track record. There are strong links with the community and widespread community support for the proposals.

The applicants have gone through the Making it Real process and PAC was confident about the sustainability of the proposals due to the potential for generating income being strong.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £125,000 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8.7 **010 – Scottish Marine Safari**

This project originally came forward for consideration in Round 1. However, decision was deferred for further information including the completion of a full marketing plan.

The project is to purchase an electric tender boat for the exploration of marine wildlife on safari type expeditions from the Orlik vessel. An ROV camera will also be incorporated to enable tourists to see wildlife underwater.

The project has strong fisheries links; through the conversion of a traditional wooden trawler (Orlik) and offers unique opportunity to explore the eco tourism wildlife sector in abundance along the North East coast.

The Orlik has a green energy policy and the electric engine on the tender vessel will be charged from the solar panels and wind turbine. This means there will be minimal disturbance to wildlife.

Due to the tender vessel being available from a local shipyard rather than from the continent, costs have now reduced to £8,366.

It was clarified that four jobs will be created. A breakdown of the time the vessel will spend in each area was also provided projecting 50% of time spent will be on the Aberdeenshire Coast with 25% on the Moray coast and 25% in Highland.

The project meets EC Reg 1198/2006 “Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas” Article 44 Eligible Measures B, C and F.

With the revisions and additional information provided, PAC acknowledged that the applicant has addressed the issues which were raised in Round 1. PAC welcomed the much reduced cost and the fact that the applicant’s own contribution remains at the same level as in the earlier application.

PAC considered the potential market for underwater inspection services to be a valuable source of income outwith the tourist season. The applicant’s commitment to work closely with local visitor attractions, making the vessel more attractive to the day charter market, was welcomed.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £8,366 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

8. AOCB

The Co-ordinator of the Angus FLAG has requested if it would be possible to attend the next meeting of the Aberdeenshire FLAG to observe the processes. This was agreed.

The PAC acknowledged Ann Marie's hard work with these Round 2 projects.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

FLAG meeting – Tuesday, 18 September 2012, Banff Castle at 2.00 pm

PAC meeting – Tuesday 20 November 2012, Conference Room E2,
Woodhill House at 2.00 pm