

MINUTE OF FLAG MEETING

**TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 2.00PM
BANFF CASTLE, BANFF**

Present

Belinda Miller	FLAG Chairperson
Shona Anderson	Visit Scotland
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise
Gavin Clark	Scottish Natural Heritage
David Cook	Banff & Buchan College
Reid Hutchison	Aberdeenshire Council – Community Economic Development
William Murdoch	Aberdeenshire Council – Harbours Project Manager
Maureen Stephen	Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Services
Chris White	Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager

Officers in Attendance

Ann Marie Macaskill	AEFF Co-ordinator
Vicky Thomson	EU Rural & Fisheries Programmes Team Leader
Anne MacLennan	EU Rural & Fisheries Assistant

Apologies

Moir Beverley	Aberdeenshire Council – Finance
James Buchan	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Will Clark	Peterhead & Fraserburgh Fish Processors Association
Ian Gatt	Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association Ltd
Roger Goodyear	Banff Coast Tourism Partnership
Ian Hay	East Grampian Coastal Partnership
Alexander Macleod	Aberdeenshire Council – Community Planning
Michael Park	Scottish Whitefish Producers Association
Andy Willox	Federation of Small Businesses

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Belinda Miller welcomed FLAG members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. Rhonda McFarlane from Angus FLAG was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 2.1 The draft FLAG minute of 6 June 2012 was approved and will be uploaded on the AEFF website.
- 2.2 The draft minute of the AEFF PAC of 28 August 2012 was noted and will be approved at the PAC meeting on 20 November 2012.

3 CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

- 3.1 Ann Marie is working closely with three coastal Area Managers to include potential AEFF projects in the bid for a share of the Aberdeenshire Council "Investing in Our Towns and Villages – Making Them Better Places to Live and Work" funds. Details of the outcome of the projects brought forward to Policy &

Resources Committee meeting will be circulated to FLAG members once available.

- 3.2 Belinda confirmed that £50,000 from the Aberdeenshire Council Regeneration budget has been ring fenced for AEFF.
- 3.3 Belinda, Ann Marie and Derek MacDonald attended the first meeting between Marine Scotland and other Scottish FLAGs in Edinburgh on 16 August 2012.
- 3.4 The post of Fisheries Project Officer has been advertised. This is an additional post funded through Axis 5. The post holder will work closely with groups to work up applications to all EFF Axes, not just Axis 4.
- 3.5 A claim has been submitted to Marine Scotland for Axis 5 start-up costs.

4 CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE

- 4.1 The Co-ordinator's Update is summarised below:
 - Funding summary sheet was issued for Round 2 projects.
 - Co-ordinator and Chair are working up comments on the draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) which was received from Marine Scotland.
 - Ann Marie attended the Scottish Skipper Expo in June.
 - The Aberdeenshire FLAG fact sheet is now live on the FARNET website.
 - Ann Marie submitted an article for the forthcoming FARNET newsletter.
 - Ann Marie confirmed that three AEFF projects are going forward for consideration to the Aberdeenshire Council "Investing in Our Towns and Villages – Making Them Better Places to Live and Work" Funds. The Policy & Resources Committee meets on Thursday, 20 September.
 - Marine Scotland considered the Build and Sail Your Own Dinghies project, which was approved in Round 1, to be ineligible. Negotiations were carried out over the summer. AEFF enlisted the opinion of a FARNET Representative who was of the same opinion as Marine Scotland's with regard to the project eligibility. Aberdeenshire Council has now funded the Dinghies project from the Industry Sector budget. FLAG discussed the effect of this ruling on other projects likely to come forward to AEFF. Projects must have strong fisheries links which the FLAG considered to be the case with relation to the Build and Sail Our Own Dinghies project. These must be clearly set out in the application form. It is not sufficient for the project to be based in a fishing area.
 - The practice of small project applications of £5,000 or under being approved by the PAC will no longer be valid. All small projects must now go forward for consideration by the FLAG.

A summary from the first meeting between Marine Scotland and Scottish FLAGs was circulated. Important points for Aberdeenshire FLAG to note were highlighted as follows:

- Some difficulties identified regarding interpretation of the eight eligible measures from EC Reg 1198/2006 Article 44 "Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas".
- Marine Scotland guidance permits work to commence on a project prior to approval at the applicant's own risk. FLAG will not provide this

information routinely as it was considered to be too great a risk for community groups. AEFF acknowledgement letters will advise that no work should be undertaken until grant is approved.

- Final drawdown date for all claims to Marine Scotland is June 2015. Final project grant claims to be submitted by March 2015 to facilitate this. Ann Marie will advise all applicants of this.
- Marine Scotland guidance is for applicants to obtain two quotations for all works. FLAG agreed to adopt the LEADER practice of advertising procurements for capital projects on the Public Contracts Scotland website.
- A random sample of 10% of projects will be inspected by Marine Scotland. Claims chosen for inspection will not be able to draw down funds during the inspection process although the progress of the project will not be held up. It was anticipated the turn around for this will be 1 week.

5 AEFF WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA

- 5.1 The member's only area on the website has now been divided into six folders. Visitor numbers to the AEFF website are high.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 6.1 Belinda Miller declared an interest as the applicant for project 007, Taste of Grampian Seafood Pavilion. Another member of the PAC will chair the discussion relating to this project.
- 6.2 Jamie Bell declared an interest as a match funder for projects 008, Banff Coast Tourism Development and 010, Scottish Marine Safari. As a match funder, Jamie will be allowed to participate in the voting procedures.

Due to Jamie leaving the meeting early, it was decided that the above two projects would be considered first.

- 6.3 FLAG was informed about formal approval regarding Lead Partner applications. The SLA states that (7.3.3):

If after consideration, the FLAG **in principle** approves the project for funding, the application will be submitted to Marine Scotland for verification before the project is **formally** approved by the FLAG.

Following discussion, FLAG indicated that it would be advantageous if Lead Partner applications could be validated by Marine Scotland before the application is presented to the FLAG.

7 PROJECTS 004 TO 010

7.1 008 – Banff Coast Tourism Development 2013-14

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. A range of themed packages will be developed.

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.

FLAG commended the work of the Partnership to date and was encouraged by the significant level of support for the proposals which fit well with Economic Development strategy.

FLAG suggested that in order to strengthen fisheries links, the applicant highlight the benefits of the proposals for the fishing industry.

FLAG agreed that the co-ordinator post will help increase awareness and membership of the Partnership.

FLAG welcomed the detailed information provided about the concept but would like to see additional information regarding the specific outcomes of the proposals and a more detailed indication of how the money will be spent over the three year period. It was agreed that the applicant be asked to produce a draft work plan for year one of the co-ordinator's remit and it was also considered to be important that a yearly report is produced to evidence outcomes of the project.

FLAG would like to see further detail regarding the exit strategy which will help to ensure the sustainability of the Partnership at the end of the three years.

Summary of Responses	In favour	9
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £67,500 APPROVED.

7.2 **010 – Scottish Marine Safari**

This project originally came forward for consideration in Round 1. However, decision was deferred at that meeting 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 mainland Europe, costs have now reduced to £8,366.

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

FLAG appreciated the work by undertaken by the applicant to answer the concerns which were raised in the last application round.

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 reduced project costs were welcomed as was the fact that the applicant continued to keep his own contribution at the same level as in the earlier application.

As per the business plan, it is proposed to run two trips per month. Interest and demand looks good and the applicant is considering purchasing a second vessel. Food served on the vessel for breakfast and lunch will be locally sourced. There will also be opportunities for clients to eat onshore, ensuring further tourist spend in coastal areas.

Any maintenance required on the vessel will be carried out in local shipyards

FLAG were keen to promote the innovative ROV camera and suggested the possibility of the camera being rented out to fishing/oil operators to supplement funds in the low season.

FLAG considered that the proposals would offer a high-end service for visitors and agreed that this is an excellent project from a tourism point of view.

Summary of Responses	In favour	9
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £8,366 APPROVED.

7.3 **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. The large pontoons, which will have to withstand the extreme North East weather conditions, will be sourced locally.

Planning consent has been obtained.

Funding application submitted to the Aberdeenshire Council “Investing in Our Towns and Villages – Making Them Better Places to Live and Work” funds 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.

FLAG commended the commitment of the small community and agreed that there was strong evidence of demand for additional facilities at this successful marina.

Discussion took place regarding the effectiveness of the excavated material for armouring the outside of the harbour wall.

Proposals relate to eco-tourism and FLAG considered fishing links to be strongly demonstrated by the protecting and enhancing of an old fishing harbour as well as by the number of part-time fishing boats being berthed in the harbour.

Summary of Responses	In favour	9
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £27,500 APPROVED.

7.4 **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. A pictorial story of the people of Johnshaven through the decades will be told.

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.

Project costs have increased slightly following recommendation of the PAC for the project co-ordinator post to be extended to two years. A more detailed breakdown of overhead costs has also been provided.

The Johnshaven Primary school Head Teacher has confirmed the school’s intent to make use of the facility.

FLAG suggested that it will be essential for the marketing of the facility to commence in January in order to ensure footfall in July. Shona Anderson suggested that the applicant contact Visit Scotland for assistance with marketing.

It was also suggested that Robert Armstrong, Aberdeenshire Council Business Development Executive for Kincardine & Mearns, be approached for advice and help to build a business case.

Summary of Responses	In favour	9
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £55,900 APPROVED.

7.5 **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 focus of the project is to add value to locally landed fish produce and promote the local and the food. 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 and 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.

Following clarification requested by the PAC on the number of jobs created, the applicant confirmed that there will be 2FTE in the kitchen, 1FTE front of house and 6 part-time posts for waitresses. The applicant will also be working with Banff & Buchan College to provide an opportunity for a trainee chef.

The FLAG considered the project to have the potential to increase tourism in the area.

Discussion took place regarding possible displacement issues. There are letters of support from both the local chip shop and caravan park. Project proposals can be covered by the de-minimus regulation and this will be built in as a condition of offer.

FLAG raised the question of the applicant attaining some form of award as a recognised measure for providing local, fresh, high-quality produce.

FLAG approved the project with the addition of the condition that the applicant works towards appropriate quality assurance recognition. It was agreed that another condition of offer be that the applicant liaises with appropriate food and drink networks when appointing the leasee for the restaurant.

Summary of Responses	In favour	9
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £44,171 APPROVED.

At this point, both Jamie Bell, Scottish Enterprise, and Maureen Stephen, Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Services, left the meeting early.

7.6 **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. Belinda left the room.

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.

FLAG considered the proposals to be innovative as the seafood pavilion will bring a new element to an event which historically focuses on farming and agriculture. The project will showcase new products and with the addition of the educational area, it was suggested that the applicant be encouraged to enter the Innovation Awards.

FLAG agreed with the PAC suggestion that the chiller unit be made available for other organisations to use at a small fee.

As per the Service Level Agreement, FLAG will make a recommendation to Marine Scotland regarding approval of this Lead Partner project.

Summary of Responses	In favour	7
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £5,867 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Belinda Miller returned to the room.

7.7 **009 – PORT Boatshed**

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 project will create three new posts for a manager, boat builder and apprentice. Proposed works will include the creation of a workshop, public viewing area, office, wetroom and toilets.

The inclusive package promotes the maritime history of the area and offers opportunities for knowledge transfer between the restoration volunteers who will be current or retired fishermen. Workshops 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.

FLAG considered that the educational benefits of the proposals will be likely to result in better trained, skilled and confident participants. The project has strong fishing links and FLAG welcomed the innovative proposals to restore and diversify the use of a derelict building.

FLAG agreed that the new facility, once established, will encourage visitors to come to the area, stay in the area and spend in the area.

Summary of Responses	In favour	7
	Not in favour	0
	DOI	0

PROJECT FUNDING OF £125,000 APPROVED.

12 AOCB

FLAG members expressed their thanks to Banff Castle for the meeting venue and hospitality.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

FLAG meeting: Tuesday, 4 December 2012, Committee Room 4, Woodhill House at 2.00 pm.