

## **COTSWOLDS LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE**

### **Summary:**

- To present an update on the progress of the LEADER Programme.
- Decision on the LAG Executives recommendation for reallocating resource between investment themes.

### **Recommendation:**

- That the update report be noted.
- That the LAG Executives recommendation for reallocating resource between investment themes is approved.

**Officer Ref:** James Webb, LEADER Programme Manager (01451 862033)

### **Cotswolds LEADER Programme Management Report covering Oct-Nov 2017**

#### **General Items**

##### **1. New Vice Chair and Non-Board member recruitment**

Carol Garfield, Vice Chair tendered her resignation from the LAG as of 30<sup>th</sup> November. John Matthews was appointed Vice Chair at the 29<sup>th</sup> November LAG Executive Meeting. The recruitment of a new non-Board member will be by open application. Deadline for applications: Noon Friday 5th January 2018 (applications: submission of CV and covering letter) Interviews: Monday 15th January 2018.

##### **2. LEADER Handbook**

We now have a new draft of the updated LEADER Handbook version 5. Once our version is confirmed by the RPA, it will be made available to Applicants.

##### **3. Programme performance**

RPA LEADER statistics for the West Midlands as of 09/10/2017 was circulated at the October LAG Executive meeting and the November Executive meeting.

##### **4. Attestation Report**

An RPA Attestation visit took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The subsequent report was recently received and stated the following: documentation was all in order. The minutes show a good system of recording discussions, conflict of interest and project related issues. Good records of decisions taken as well. Files are in good order. No issues and no actions. The security questionnaire has been submitted to the security team in Defra and approved so no issues. It was noted that the Programme Manager is very involved in a number of wider AONB meetings which take up a significant amount of time. We would request that as we enter the performance review for LEADER that the PMs activity is focused on LEADER delivery. A very satisfactory visit.

##### **5. Promotion**

14/12/2017 – James Webb will be presenting at the Fairford & Lechlade Business Club.

Cotswolds Conservation Board new website launch.

## Projects

### **6. Applications approved at the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 LAG Executive mtg**

**F Walker: Walkers Logs**, Compton Abdale, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

- [www.walkerslogs.co.uk](http://www.walkerslogs.co.uk)
- Micro Enterprise. 3 jobs created.
- £49,980 towards a new firewood processor.
- Example video: <https://vimeo.com/217460146> ).

**GS & CJ Tomlinson**, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £9,798 towards an ADF Milking System (Cluster Flush)
- Example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eh4iQq8lqU>

**N Spencer: Middle Hall Farms Limited**, Eastington, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £21,014 towards a Slurry Separator
- Example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eq8FCebcGHY&t=187s>

### **7. Applications to be considered at the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 LAG Executive mtg**

**G Wildy: Slimbridge Holsteins Slurry Management System**, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £26,060.64 grant request towards a 6m TRAMSPREADER trailing shoe slurry system on dairy farm.
- Example video: <http://www.tramsread.co.uk/applicators/trailing-shoe>

**B Wilczak: Capreolus Distillery**, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

- [www.capreolusdistillery.co.uk](http://www.capreolusdistillery.co.uk)
- Micro Enterprise. 1 job created.
- £10,513.47 towards distillery equipment and upgrading electric supplies.

### **8. Full applications to be progressed**

*We are aiming to present as many of the following applications at the next meeting. However, this is subject to the timely receipt of information requested and satisfactory checks by the appraiser and RPA.*

**G J Clark: Dairy adaptations**, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £27,852 towards a 7m DEZWAEF Grassland Injector Trailing Shoe Slurry System, FM570 Tractor Mounted GPS, and Alta cow watch (Cattle Rumination Collars).
- Cow Watch brochure [http://www.eli-innovation.com.au/uploads/2/7/1/4/27140759/alta\\_cowwatch\\_brochure\\_australia\\_lr.](http://www.eli-innovation.com.au/uploads/2/7/1/4/27140759/alta_cowwatch_brochure_australia_lr.)

[pdf](#)

**R Arneil: The Cotswold Group Ltd** (formerly Cotswold Trees & Access), Fairford, Gloucestershire.

- [www.tree-access.co.uk](http://www.tree-access.co.uk)
- Forestry Productivity. 1 job created.
- £12,200 towards forestry equipment.

**J Woolcock: Blaythorne's Brewery**, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

- Micro Enterprise. No direct jobs but indirect jobs created.
- £50,000 towards conversion of agricultural building and equipment into a brewery.

**Cirencester Town Council**, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

- Culture & Heritage. No jobs created.
- £14,000 towards interpretation at the Amphitheatre site.

**T Moore: Bathurst Estate**, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

- [www.cirencesterpark.co.uk](http://www.cirencesterpark.co.uk)
- Forestry Productivity. 0.5 jobs created.
- £19,200 towards forestry equipment.

**T R George: Down Farm**, Slad, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. 1.4FTE jobs created.
- £24,660 towards a specialist drying system.

**D Seatter: Little Explorers Early Learners**: Down Ampney, Gloucestershire

- Rural Services. 2.5-3 FTE jobs created.
- £9,120 / £10,988 towards establishing a community-led preschool reinvigorating an existing portacabin.

**J Hobbs: Farmhouse dairy ice-cream & butter production**, Elmore, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. 2 jobs created.
- £28,060 grant request towards production equipment on dairy farm.

## **9. Full applications in development (not yet submitted)**

**G Alan: Wotton Under Edge Swimming Pool**, Gloucestershire.

- [www.wottonpool.co.uk](http://www.wottonpool.co.uk)
- Rural Services. No jobs created. **Due 12/10/2017.**
- £9,000 towards new reception and changing rooms.

**R McCulloch: Bledington Community Shop Ltd**, Gloucestershire.

- [www.bledington.com/groups/bledington-shop-and-café](http://www.bledington.com/groups/bledington-shop-and-café)
- Micro Enterprise. No jobs created. **Due 31/10/2017.**
- £30,320 towards Shop/ Café Development.

**Tim Bowles: Farm Camp Bath Ltd**, Winsley, Bradford on Avon

- [www.thefarmcamp.co.uk](http://www.thefarmcamp.co.uk)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism. 1 job created. <b>Due 03/12/2017.</b></li> <li>• £14,000 towards a new cobb and bale Roundhouse Activity space together with a new timber facilities structure (comprising 2 x composting long-drop toilets, 2 x showers, a sauna, a kitchen and waste recycling depot)</li> </ul>
<p><b>J Woolcock: Blaythorne's Farm</b>, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Productivity. No jobs created. <b>Due 31/12/2017.</b></li> <li>• £36,000 towards a Zero-Till Direct Drill.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GS &amp; CJ Tomlinson</b>, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Productivity. No jobs created. <b>Due 31/12/2017.</b></li> <li>• £5,682.09 towards a fixed cattle handling system</li> </ul>
<p><b>Village Hall: Naunton Village Hall</b>, Naunton, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Services. No jobs created. <b>Due 31/12/2017.</b></li> <li>• £37,200 towards a kitchen extension and new meeting room.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sir Henry Elwes: Colesbourne Gardens LLP</b>, Colesbourne Park, Colesbourne, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.colesbournegardens.org.uk">www.colesbournegardens.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Tourism. 1 FTE jobs created. <b>Due 31/12/2017.</b></li> <li>• £35,600 towards create coach parking for 4x 12m coaches, widen the access road to accommodate the coaches and enlarge the tearooms by 50%.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D White: Scrubditch Care Farm</b>, Naunton, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk">www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Micro Enterprise. RPA have confirmed this falls under Farm Diversification. 2 FTE jobs created. <b>Due 08/01/2018.</b></li> <li>• £33,196 towards relocation of the farm to a new site including groundworks, building a new steel framed activity barn to be used as a 'wet weather' activity area for students and 3 portacabins to be combined with an existing cabin to be used for a meeting room; office; staff wc; coats and boots; activity room; quiet room; cooking studio; eating and activity area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C Mercer: Chairman's Dome Retreat</b>, Slad, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Tourism. 1.2 jobs created. <b>Due 12/01/2018.</b></li> <li>• £21,600 towards a new glamping site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Arlingham Parish Council</b>, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism. No jobs. <b>Due 26/01/2018.</b></li> <li>• £20,800 towards new car park and signage to increase visitors to the village and utilise an existing network of walks and other village amenities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>J King: Longhills Farm</b>, Mickleton, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://littlecountryhouses.co.uk/">https://littlecountryhouses.co.uk/</a></li> <li>• Tourism. Increase in overnight stays, small increase in wages either as overtime or may be new job creation using self-employed person (RPA have confirmed this can count as job creation). <b>Due 25/02/2018</b></li> <li>• £16,000 towards purchase of an additional mobile accommodation unit (similar to previous funded structures) and a toilet/shower unit.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Cotswold Seeds</b>, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.cotswoldseeds.com">www.cotswoldseeds.com</a></li> <li>• Micro Enterprise. 4 FTE jobs created. <b>Due 27/02/2018.</b></li> <li>• £98,700 towards a Food &amp; Farming Education Centre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Robin Merrett Farm Partnership</b>, Arlingham, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Productivity. 0 Jobs created. <b>Due 15/03/2018.</b></li> <li>• £8,381 towards an automated calf rearing system.</li> </ul>

## **10. Review of investment theme allocations**

- At the 29<sup>th</sup> November meeting, the LAG reviewed the current allocation of funds across the six investment themes against the projected demands for these funds from current applications, Expressions of Interest (EOI) and initial enquiries through the project ideas form. Papers 5b Targets vs Actuals and 5c Application Pipeline were used as the evidence base. Discussion ensued and the following points were made:
- Priority 1 Farming – £26,410 unallocated in this theme. There are two EOI's ready to invite to Full Application collectively valued at £46,559. Interest has been consistently strong in this theme and applications tend to have a high conversion rate through to contracted projects.
- Priority 2 Enterprise – £282,216 unallocated in this theme. Interest from potential applicants at the early stages is strong. However, the drop-out rate is high due to the speculative nature of enquiries at this stage.
- Priority 3 Tourism – £212,395 unallocated in this theme. Interest from potential applicants at the early stages has picked up of late. However, the drop-out rate is high due to the speculative nature of enquiries at this stage.
- Priority 4 Rural Services – £2,766 unallocated in this theme. There are currently no further interest from potential applicants at the early stages.
- Priority 5 Culture & Heritage – £85,918 unallocated in this theme. There is one potential application for £50,000 at the early stages. However, this application may not progress because the project might not be ready by the end of the Programme. RJW offered to promote this investment theme to his contacts in order to stimulate interest. The LAG were grateful for this offer but also cautioned that if no interest was received by late January, the unallocated resource could be moved to another investment theme where demand was higher. JW added that the Programme team did not have the capacity to drive promotion in this investment theme.
- Priority 6 Forestry – £9,933 over-allocation in this theme because an applicant has increased the grant request between EOI and Full Application. There is no further interest from potential applicants at the early stages.
- For clarity, the allocated figure is the sum of money assigned to Full Applications in Development, Full Applications received, Full Applications in Appraisal and QC and all Approved, Contracted and Completed projects. Therefore, the balance is the unallocated figure.
- The LAG **recommended** reallocating an additional £75,000 to Priority 1 Farming to allow the current EOIs to progress and support additional applicants in this investment theme.

- The LAG **recommended** supporting this reallocation by moving:
- £20,000 from Priority 2 Enterprise
- £40,000 from Priority 3 Tourism
- £15,000 from Priority 5 Culture & Heritage.
- In respect of the above reallocation, the LAG **recommended** a reduction of 4.1 in the jobs target, consisting of: 2 jobs from Priority 2 Enterprise, 1.6 jobs from Priority 3 Tourism and 0.5 jobs from Culture & Heritage. Total = 4.1. The rationale for the reduction in the jobs target is because investments in Priority 1 Farming projects so far have not created new jobs but have significantly improved farm productivity and animal welfare and enabled existing staff to be redeployed to other farming activities.
- The Accountable Body; The Cotswolds Conservation Board, would consider this recommendation and make a final decision at a Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- It was agreed that a further review of the investment themes takes place at the 14<sup>th</sup> February LAG meeting to coincide with the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 Board meeting of the Accountable Body.

#### **11. Contracted projects = 12 with a total value of £344,849 and 14.32 jobs created**

##### **Priority 1 - Support to increase farm productivity**

###### Tresham Farm, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire

£10,059.48 grant towards a cluster flush system.

The cluster flush system was operational by December 2016 and aims to reduce the cases of mastitis. This brings herd health and welfare benefits, as well as increased yields. Next quarterly report due: 31 December 2017.

###### Cotstone Lodge, Broadway, Worcestershire

£5,206 grant towards a mobile sheep handling system.

Final Claim submitted: 30 October 2017

First report due: 16 November 2018

###### Manor Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

£49,958.21 grant towards a robotic milking system.

Final Claim due: 17 November 2017

First report due: 17 November 2018

###### Wall Farm, Aldsworth, Gloucestershire

£20,450 grant towards a cluster flush & EID system.

Final Claim due: 31 January 2018

First report due: 31 October 2018

Middle Hill Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire

£20,048 grant towards a cluster flush system & cow mattresses.

First Claim due: 30 June 2018

First report due: 30 November 2018

**Priority 2 - Support for micro & small businesses (non-agricultural) and farm diversification**

Westend Office Suites, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

[www.westendofficesuites.co.uk](http://www.westendofficesuites.co.uk)

£39,999.98 grant towards 10 new business units.

The units were built and completed by October 2016. Report to 31/03/2017: the offices are finished to a high standard and have had full or near full occupancy since completion, supporting 10 local businesses and creating 2 indirect jobs. Next report due 31/03/2018.

Saltpig Curing Company Ltd, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

[www.saltpigcuring.co.uk](http://www.saltpigcuring.co.uk)

£13,011.32 grant towards the conversion and fit out of a business unit.

2 jobs created.

Completed in April 2017, the grant supported the fitting of chillers, a drying room and associated equipment to accommodate this meat curing start-up business. The curing process can take 6-12 months so there will be a lag time before the business can actually sell the products. A new website has been launched and we are awaiting the LEADER logos to be incorporated, due 30/09/2017. (MP 01/09/2017). First report due: 30/05/2018.

Vegetable Matters, Ebrington, Gloucestershire

[www.vegetablematters.co.uk](http://www.vegetablematters.co.uk)

£48,849 grant towards the construction of new farm shop.

5.07 jobs created (target 3.5).

The new farm shop opened in July 2017 employing 3 new members of staff. Because of demand, the number of staff was increased in August. Employee numbers confirmed in first report submitted in October 2017. Also in October, Vegetable Matters wins the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) county awards scheme for its sustainable building design and community benefits. Second report due: 30/09/2018.

Wotton Farm Shop, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire

[www.wottonfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.wottonfarmshop.co.uk)

£47,972.97 grant towards an extension to double the retail space of the existing farm shop.

4 jobs created.

As at October 2017, all works have been completed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final grant claim has been submitted. First report due: 30 June 2018.

### **Priority 3 - Support for rural tourism**

Longhills Farm, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire

[www.littlecountryhouses.co.uk](http://www.littlecountryhouses.co.uk)

£29,292 grant towards improved site access and two holiday homes.

1.25 jobs created.

The two bespoke wooden holiday homes were finished and ready for guests in July 2017.  
First report due: 31 December 2017.

Cerney Wick Farm Equestrian, Cerney Wick, Gloucestershire

£49,992.55 grant towards the conversion of agricultural buildings into 5 residential holiday units.

2 jobs created. Final Claim due 1 May 2018. First report due: 30 April 2019.

### **Priority 6 - Support for increasing forestry productivity**

Little Owl Logs, Bibury, Gloucestershire

[www.littleowllogs.co.uk](http://www.littleowllogs.co.uk)

£10,000 grant towards a firewood processor.

The processor was in operation by January 2017. On a site visit in February, the applicant demonstrated the capacity of the processor and noted that it has allowed him to increase production in less time with greater safety. First report due: 30/11/2017.

### **Supporting Papers:**

11.f. Appendix A: Projects by stages

11.f. Appendix B: Targets vs actuals

11.f. Appendix C: Applications mapped

**James Webb, Cotswolds LEADER Programme Manager**