

COTSWOLDS LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Summary: To present an update on the progress of the LEADER Programme

Recommendation: That the update report be noted.

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

General Items

1. LAG Resignation

Carol Garfield, Vice Chair is resigning from the LAG Executive. Her last meeting will be 29/11/2017.

2. LEADER Handbook

We now have a new draft of the updated LEADER Handbook version 5 that. 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 – see Appendix. A.

4. Promotion

- 14/12/2017 – JW presenting at the Fairford & Lechlade Business Club.
- New look LEADER page on the new Cotswolds Conservation Board new website.

5. Countryside Productivity grants

There are 4 large grant funds available under the Countryside Productivity Fund - see Annex. B

Projects

Appendix. C. Projects by Stages & Appendix. D. Targets vs Actuals accompanies this section.

6. 29th November 2017 LAG Executive mtg

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

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

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £20,800 towards a Slurry Separator
- Example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg8FCebcGHY&t=187s>
- 24/10/2017 - RPA have confirmed Eligibility of all Items.
- Appraiser: Carl Woodward. Started 30/10/2017 and due 08/11/2017.

GS & CJ Tomlinson, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

- Farm Productivity. No jobs created.
- £8,900 towards an ADF Milking System (Cluster Flush)
- Example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eh4iQq8lqU>
- Appraiser: Colin Downey. Started 31/10/2017 and due 08/10/2017. On advice of RPA, query over linked businesses passed onto appraiser.
- 01/11/2017 – Appraiser unable to progress because of uncertainty over linked businesses, which could affect eligibility. Query referred back to RPA.

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

- www.walkerslogs.co.uk
- Micro Enterprise. 3 jobs created.
- £50,000 towards a new firewood processor.
- Example video: <https://vimeo.com/217460146>).
- ECR commenced 30/10/2017 Awaiting RD Check and information from Applicant (update Quote, Tenancy signatures, few answers – due 21/11/2017)
- Appraiser not confirmed – possibly Colin Downey.

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>
- 20/10/2017 – waiting on final signed version with amends to address and timescales. Final E&C checks and then move to appraisal.
- Appraiser: Liz Hodges.

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 Ruminant Collars).
- Cow Watch brochure http://www.eli-innovation.com.au/uploads/2/7/1/4/27140759/alta_cowwatch_brochure_australia_lr.pdf
- 23/10/2017 - feedback provided to agent & applicant. Requested a full and final submission within 10 working days i.e. by 03/11/2017.
- Appraiser not confirmed.

7. 10th January 2018 LAG Executive mtg

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

B Wilczak: Capreolus Distillery, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

- www.capreolusdistillery.co.uk
- Micro Enterprise. 1 job created.
- £10,568.86 towards distillery equipment and upgrading electric supplies.
- 26/10/2017 – Applicant asked for evidence of match funding and revised cash flow, project milestones, project outputs, financial accounts and quotes.
- Appraiser not confirmed.

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.
- Issues identified with Quotes and Appendix Spreadsheet even before ECR commenced and advised to Agent (12/10/2017 MP). Agent has provided a revised appendices and explanation for quotes but the quotes provided are still not clear and there are issues with the Appendices. Has been advised to resubmit updated application forms with either new simplified quotes or clearly marked/annotated quotes, taking into account the changes to project timeframes as this application will not be ready to be presented to LAG Exec on 29/11. Quotes and forms due by 14/11/2017
- Appraiser not confirmed.

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

- www.tree-access.co.uk
- Forestry Productivity. 1 job created.
- £9,840 towards forestry equipment.
- 25/10/2017 – Final application submitted.
- 27/10/2017 – Request for additional information on the quotes, which is critical to the progression of the application.

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.
- Work on eligibility and completeness checks highlighted a number of issues. The application has missing cash flow Forecast and output sheets. There is a discrepancy with the project cost figures and some of the quotes do not meet the required standard.
- Feedback provided to the applicant on 04/08/2017. The applicant has now instructed an agent to complete the application on her behalf.
- Appraiser not confirmed.

8. Full applications in development (not yet submitted)

<p>A Stevens: Standish Court Farm, Standish, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Productivity. No jobs created. Due 09/10/2017.• £28,000 towards a Zero-Till Direct Drill.• Feedback on 1st draft application provided to the applicant on 02/08/2017.• 27/10/2017 – Tel call with applicant who will submit application in November.
<p>G Alan: Wotton Under Edge Swimming Pool, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.wottonpool.co.uk• Rural Services. No jobs created. Due 12/10/2017.• £9,000 towards new reception and changing rooms.• Feedback on 1st draft application provided to the applicant on 08/09/2017.• 25/10/2017 – emails with applicant and request for submission in November.
<p>R McCulloch: Bledington Community Shop Ltd, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.bledington.com/groups/bledington-shop-and-café• Micro Enterprise. No jobs created. Due 31/10/2017.• £30,320 towards Shop/ Café Development.• Update received in August that they are still working on sourcing additional funding and the planning application submission for design revisions had been delayed, so deadline for LEADER application submission was extended.
<p>R Emmerson: Prime Grade Organic Lamb, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Productivity. No jobs created. Due 01/11/2017.• £5,400 towards Sheep Handling Equipment.
<p>T Moore: Bathurst Estate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.cirencesterpark.co.uk• Forestry Productivity. 0.5 jobs created. Due 03/11/2017.• £19,200 towards forestry equipment, FA has increased since EOI now requesting £29,380 due to underestimating tractor costs. The preferred supplier does not appear the cheapest for any items of equipment so this is being addressed in the feedback.• Feedback on 1st draft application provided to the agent on 06/09/2017.
<p>Cirencester Town Council, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture & Heritage. No jobs created. Due 13/11/2017.• £14,000 towards interpretation at the Amphitheatre site.• PM visited the project site on 15th August and met with the Applicants' representative.• Feedback provided on 1st draft on 23/10/2017.
<p>Tim Bowles: Farm Camp Bath Ltd, Winsley, Bradford on Avon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.thefarmcamp.co.uk• Tourism. 1 job created. Due 03/12/2017.• £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)

<p>T R George: Down Farm, Slad, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Productivity. 1.4FTE jobs created. Due 04/12/2017. • £24,660 towards a specialist drying system that will utilise and dry the existing waste stream of wood shavings from the cleaned-out horse stables, to be used as a fuel source to feed the on-site biomass boiler. Grant funding is only for the specialist drying system and not for the boiler.
<p>J Woolcock: Blaythorne's Farm, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Productivity. No jobs created. Due 31/12/2017. • £36,000 towards a Zero-Till Direct Drill.
<p>GS & CJ Tomlinson, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Productivity. No jobs created. Due 31/12/2017. • £5,682.09 towards a fixed cattle handling system
<p>Village Hall: Naunton Village Hall, Naunton, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Services. No jobs created. Due 31/12/2017. • £37,200 towards a kitchen extension and new meeting room.
<p>D Seatter: Little Explorers Early Learners: Down Ampney, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Services. 2.5-3 FTE jobs created. Due 31/12/2017. • £9,120 towards establishing a community-led preschool reinvigorating an existing portacabin. • 30/10/2017 – Feedback on draft application provided to applicant.
<p>Sir Henry Elwes: Colesbourne Gardens LLP, Colesbourne Park, Colesbourne, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.colesbournegardens.org.uk • Tourism. 1 FTE jobs created. Due 31/12/2017. • £35,600 towards create coach parking for 4x 12m coaches, widen the access road to accommodate the coaches and enlarge the tearooms by 50%. Increasing the number of visitors to the gardens to view the 300 different varieties of snowdrops in Spring and also open the arboretum containing 300 trees from around the world, including 9 Champion Trees during September to October.
<p>D White: Scrubditch Care Farm, Naunton, Gloucestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk • Micro Enterprise. RPA have confirmed this falls under Farm Diversification. 2 FTE jobs created. Due 08/01/2018. • £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.
<p>C Mercer: Chairman's Dome Retreat, Slad, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Tourism. 1.2 jobs created. Due 12/01/2018. • £21,600 towards a new glamping site.

Arlingham Parish Council, Gloucestershire.

- Tourism. No jobs. **Due 26/01/2018.**
- £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.

Cotswold Seeds, Gloucestershire.

- www.cotswoldseeds.com
- Micro Enterprise. 4 FTE jobs created. **Due 27/02/2018.**
- £98,700 towards a Food & Farming Education Centre.

9. Contracted projects = 11 with a total value of £324,801 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 (approved)

£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

£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

£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

£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

£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 3rd 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

£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

£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:

- Appendix. A. RPA Stats
- Appendix. B. Countryside Productivity Fund
- Appendix. C. Projects by Stages
- Appendix. D. Targets vs Actuals

James Webb, Cotswolds LEADER Programme Manager