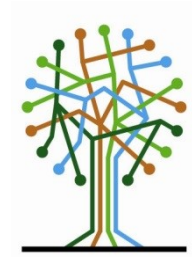


Cooperation Café Saturday 12th March 2016, Aviemore



Purpose

The Cooperation Café was a half-day session that provided Local Action Group (LAG) members and staff with the opportunity to explore and develop ideas for cooperation project proposals with colleagues from other areas in Scotland. A “cooperation project” can be described as a concrete activity with clearly identified deliverables producing benefits for all the LAG areas involved.

The main objectives of the Cooperation Café were to:

- Strengthen relationships between LAGs
- Share experiences related to the challenges and opportunities associated with collaborative endeavours
- Showcase innovative projects to inspire and catalyse new ideas
- Provide a space where LAGs can begin to design and initiate cooperation projects
- Match potential projects and partnerships

What happened?

Twenty four Local Action Group (LAG) and Local Area Partnership (LAP) representatives took part in a very participative process.

Each person was first invited to say who they were and mark on a map where they were based. This showed an excellent spread of representation from around Scotland, although not every area was covered.



Participants were then invited to put forward their ideas by answering the question:

What cooperation projects would allow us to make best use of our resources to serve our communities?

A total of nine ideas were proposed, with six of them being developed during the session.



The 'proposer' of each idea was asked to answer questions designed to build the idea into a potential proposal for a cooperation project:

- Round 1 - What is the purpose behind the idea?
- Round 2 - What do you still need to develop the idea?
- Round 3 - What am I learning about my project? / What are my next steps? / What help do I still need?

The other participants moved between proposals at the end of each round, providing everyone with the opportunity to contribute towards the development of three of the project ideas.



The session concluded by asking each of project proposers what they found helpful about the day and what their next steps are.



Project Ideas

The six ideas that were developed were:

Proposal	Purpose	Proposer(s)	Areas interested in cooperating
1. Developing Adventure Tourism in Remote Communities	Make use of natural resources available to take advantage of potential market interested in adventure tourism.	Sheila Tulloch, Shetland LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland Scottish Borders Shetland
2. Rural Enterprise Support	Provision of flexible support to small businesses and start-ups which meet their needs.	Jackie Brierton, Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER & Sam Masson, Cairngorms LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orkney Scottish Borders Shetland Forth Valley and Lomond Highland Rural Perth and Kinross Cairngorms
3. Youth Network	Engagement with young people to encourage their involvement with Local Action Groups.	Alice Mayne, Cairngorms LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moray Highland Tyne Esk North Aberdeenshire Orkney Scottish Borders Forth Valley and Lomond Cairngorms
4. Visitor Management of over-visited sites	Maintain sensitive natural environments, whilst widening access and enjoyment for all.	Jennifer MacPherson, Highland LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forth Valley and Lomond Cairngorms Orkney Fife Highland
5. Addressing Fuel Poverty	Reduce social exclusion and identify gaps and inequality of service provision.	Helen Houston, Highland LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forth Valley and Lomond Tyne Esk Highland
6. Map of strategic cycle routes and long distance paths	Help link communities by developing local, regional and national maps of cycle routes.	Bridget Clark, Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Aberdeenshire Highland Scottish Borders Cairngorms Rural Perth and Kinross Forth Valley and Lomond

There were even some live Tweets with potential partners in other countries during the session.

Further details of each potential project can be viewed at Annexes A-F, which provides the information captured by the proposer of each idea.

There were also three ideas for potential cooperation projects that were highlighted in the 'car park', for future discussion, but were not developed on the day:

- Combat isolation and loneliness in the elderly in rural communities
- Day of the Region Cairngorms Pilot – looking for Scottish and Transnational Partners
- Community development research programme with SRUC looking for partners



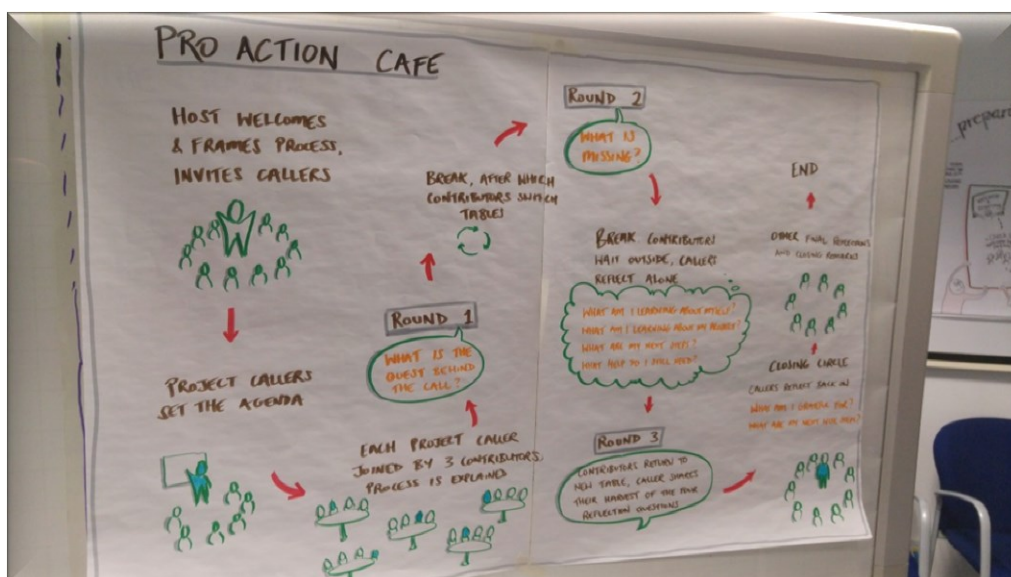
Next Steps

The project ideas will be shared on the 'cooperation offers' section of the [Scottish Rural Network website](#), in order to identify other potential project partners.

The Scottish Rural Network Support Unit will follow up with each of the project proposers to identify what support the SRN can offer to develop the project further and, where possible, enable it to progress to an application for funding.



The Scottish Rural Network is also considering using a similar process to help identify potential cooperation projects in the future



Acknowledgements

Seven volunteers were drawn from the Scottish Rural Network, the Scottish Government and Local Action Groups to ensure there was a broad spectrum of knowledge in designing, planning and delivering this very successful session. Thanks go to:

- Fiona Daschofsky from Highland LEADER;
- Neil Ramsay from Tyne Esk LEADER;
- Steve MacDonald from Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER;
- Don Morrison, Norette Ferns and Jody Fleck from the Scottish Rural Network Support Unit; and
- Vicky Dunlop from the Scottish Government LEADER Team



Annex A – Developing Adventure Tourism in Remote Communities

Proposer: Shelia Tulloch

Contact: sheila.tulloch@shetland.gov.uk

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

- Natural Resources
- Potential market/will travel North/will have money
- Young people
- Branding/skills/infrastructure
- Route map/pilot
- Orkney?
- Lochaber College

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

- Borders – expertise in mountain biking
- Diving/wrecks

Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

[not completed as proposer had to leave to travel back home]

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

Highland

Borders

Frances Gunn – Sutherland

Martin Culbertson – Fort William



Annex B – Rural Enterprise Support

Proposers: Jackie Brierton & Sam Masson

Contact: jackie.brierton@btinternet.com / sammasson@cairnngorms.co.uk

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

- Provide flexible support to small businesses and start-ups which meet their needs:
 - Peer to peer networks
 - One to one support
- Create self-sustaining networks of small businesses
- Increase confidence and sustainability
- Provide access to small grants in a simpler way/model
- Reduce isolation in rural businesses
- Increasing skills and skills development
- Encouraging women/youth/minority ethnic/SE into business
- Encouraging businesses into growth pipeline

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

- Identify partners i.e. CBPBG/FSB/Go Rural (Angus Area)
- What we include at this stage/what we don't
- Perhaps a two stage project
- Identify match funders – SG Entrepreneurship fund?
- Who will host?

Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

- It can be as small or as big as we wish
- No lack of interest
- Joint meeting with interested LAGS
- Perth & Kinross LAG to bring existing framework to the table

Share what we have written/thinking about:

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

Francesca Couperwhite – Orkney

Fiona McDougall – Scottish Borders

Sheila Tulloch - Shetland

Tony Teasdale – Forth Valley and Lomond

Donald MacDonald's (Aros Centre, Portree) - Skye LAP



Annex C – Youth Network

Proposer: Alice Mayne

Contact: alicemayne@cairnqorms.co.uk

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

- Engage with young people to involve with LAGS
- No rural kids in youth parliament
- Meetings are boring for young people
- Find ways of engaging young people and making it relevant
- Split demographic phases of young people – 17 – 25 and 25 – 40
- Transnational element could be a learning opportunity to better engage
- Young leave – no work/opportunity. Volunteering and initiatives focused to old people. No transport, low paid jobs/seasonal
- Beneficially/project implementation/decision making
- Transport app
- Non seasonal employment
- Childcare
- Housing
- Recreation
- Relevant activity - Austria Link
- Renfrewshire – Glasgow effect
- Engage young people to educate and empower to engage with Community Development/schools/young scot/youth parliament
- Social Enterprise academy – young leaders
- Scoring applications
- Rural Renfrewshire and me
- Diversity films
- HIE attitudes and motivations of young people
- School youth exchange programmes

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

- Engagement and quick wins
- Innovate to solve big issues
- Better links between LAGS and other initiatives
- Young involvement in community development
- Make opportunity relevant
- Youth LAG, Youth development trust, celebration film, mobile comms,
- Accredited involvement – schools, college, social enterprise academy
- Partner – Young Scot/Youth Parliament & Young enterprise/Schools/Skills development Scotland
- In scope – innovation group
- Out of scope - new projects to solve problems
- Mapping and research – Training, accreditation, involvement, engagement, pilots & LEADER experiments
- Transnational visit
- Identify ideas & areas for pilot projects and local leads
- Youth development trust
- SRN youth co-operation seminar to kick start - umbrella cooperation projects



Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

Learning -

- Could grow arms and legs – need to plan it carefully
- Focus on engagement and quick wins
- Could be Scotland wide

Next Steps –

- Create a working group
- Buy-in from LAGS
- Break down into steps and scope
- Identify partner's event
- Choose partners and groups need
- SRN conversation

Examples from elsewhere to feed into research

Steering group

Contact actors

Cairngorms group

Refine scope

Sense check

Research – SRUC Rural Policy in focus

Event ideas framing

Pilot and share

Evaluation

Ideas

Share what we have written/thinking about:

Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER – Active Youth project, issues raised, networking between areas & solutions on rural transport

Skills development Scotland

Aberdeenshire - Transnational Partners ERASMUS

Europarc/ARCH

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

Cairngorms

Moray – Alex Walker

Lochaber LAP

East Lothian

North Aberdeen

Orkney

Scottish Borders – Bartje and Simon

Forth Valley and Loch Lomond

Inner Moray Firth – South LAP



Annex D – Visitor Management of Over-visited Sites

Proposer: Jennifer MacPherson

Contact: jennifer.macpherson@hient.co.uk

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

- Widen access/enjoyment for all
- Traffic management/health & Safety
- Outwith season/extending economic benefit
- Enhance community life/business
- Maintain sensitive natural environments/non damaging/intrusive

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

- Identify lead for Skye
- Identify potential partners
- Distil criteria of project idea
- Research/learning journey

Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

- Learning - Exploring ideas with others generates innovation (thinking and solutions)
- Next steps – Share feedback with LAP members and get support to progress to proposal for LAG to consider
- Still need help to – identify examples/similar projects with potential partners and most importantly a lead body for Skye

Share what we have written/thinking about:

- Identify which bit is the cooperation
- Identify start point(what's already been done/underway)
- Examples from world heritage sites

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

- Forth Valley and Lomond
- Cairngorms
- Orkney
- Fife



Annex E – Addressing Fuel Poverty

Proposer: Helen Houston

Contact: development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

- Mapping
- Gaps in service provision
- Focus group – real challenges
- Local animateurs
- Reducing social exclusion
- Giving a voice
- Ability to see inequality of service and support with all partners

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

Wood-fuel Supply chain

Highland LNP fuel

Disseminate Information

Media Newsletter

Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

Is a valid project

Great interest – especially amongst those who are connected to the elderly

Speak to LAG for clarification

Communication strategy

Advertise in communities

Share what we have written/thinking about:

Speak to Bob Grant

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

Tony Teasdale – Forth Valley and Lomond

Anne Hastie – Tyne Esk

Skye LAP



Annex F – Map of strategic cycle routes and long distance paths

Proposer: Bridget Clark

Contact: slvrbn1113@gmail.com

Round 1 - Purpose/Need

Local/regional/national maps

Linking communities

Providing real-time info, identify priorities

Missing links

Cycle routes

Long distance paths

Public transport links

For planners, communities and LAGS information to plan or campaign for

Round 2 - What do we still need to develop the idea?

Land owner negotiations for responsible access

GIS technician in local areas

Local authority – levels of cycle routes, paths, trains bus routes, past projects and potential LAG projects

Lots of local initiatives but independent

Use by planner LAG priorities, communities

Round 3 - What am I learning about this project? What are my next steps? What help do I still need?

1. Draft papers and ideas for LAGS to consider

Definite interest from –

- North Aberdeenshire
- Nairn
- Borders

Possible Cairngorms, Perthshire and Lochaber

2. GIS technical support

Compatible nationally, ability to populate locally

Live/organic - can be updated

Can be printed

3. Costing/commissioning the projects

Share what we have written/thinking about: Round 3

- Draft paper for LAGS to consider
- GIS support for each LAG (ability to print PDF for planning etc)
- Costs – of GIS time, commissioning of LAGS process, ability to update, compatibility, populating information – from local knowledge and Local authority, Sustrans, Local members

F/LAGS interested in cooperating:

North Aberdeenshire

Nairn

Borders

Lochaber

Possibly Cairngorms and Perthshire

