

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Minutes of the FiPL Local Assessment Panel (LAP) held at 10am on Tuesday 13 December on Teams.

Present

Pieter Montyn (Chairman)
Stephen Johnson
Richard Cowser
Angus Sprackling
Romy Jackson

Officers

Steven Pick Sarah Chatfield Michelle Rossiter

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received Kate Bull, Jen Walters and Ann Briggs.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1. There were none.

3.0 MINUTES

- 3.1 Following a few minor amendments, the minutes of the LAP Meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022 at Eames Farm were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

5.0 NEW APPLICATIONS

CH024 Manhood Farmers Cluster Group (MFCG)

- 5.1 As requested by the LAP at the meeting on 28 November 2022, the applicant had submitted a revised application for consideration. The application had been split into two parts and this meeting was consider Part 1. This part was to consider funding to set up and establish the Cluster group. An application for Part 2 was to be submitted once Part 1 has been

completed and reviewed. The LAP was keen to consider the ability of the project to impact positively on the AONB.

Application one for this FIPL Financial Year to March 2023

- 5.2 The Applicant submitted the following plan for items that in their view could be delivered and claimed by mid-March 2023.

Establishment of the best legal framework for this group

- 5.3 This part was to consult with one of the Directors of the Arun to Adur Farmer's Group to discover the options they had considered for a legal framework, to consult with accountant / Adviser, and discuss with the MFCG and agree on best route to take.

(Quoted cost - Facilitator – 1 day - £420)

- 5.4 Members agreed it was important to establish a legal framework for the group and it was noted that it would be easier for the MFCG to apply to other funding streams once the group had a separate Legal Entity.
- 5.5 The Members approved this part – Grant awarded £420.

Set up of legal framework

- 5.6 The appointed accountant to go through the set-up process. *(Accountant - £350, cost of set-up - £450 – total £800).*
- 5.7 Members agreed to this part in principle subject to receipt of a quote from the accountant for the set-up costs.
- 5.8 The Members approved this part – Grant awarded £800 subject to satisfactory quotes for Accountant's fees being obtained.

Establishment of a logo

- 5.9 This part was to discuss with the group and design a simple logo for use with website, signs and publicity.
- (Quoted cost Facilitator – 1 day - £420)*
- 5.10 The Members approved this part – Grant awarded £420 subject to a satisfactory quote for design if required.

Website Creation – initial stages as practicable.

- 5.11 For the website creation, it was noted the first stage was for the Cluster Group to agree on what capabilities the website should include. The group would then outsource the website creation to a preferred website designer. The website designer should then complete website to be active by March 31st 2023.

(Quoted cost - Facilitator – 1 day- £420. Website designer - £1500 – TOTAL £1,920)

- 5.12 A Member queried whether Colin Hedley would outsource the website design. This was confirmed and all agreed that the LAP would need a quote from the designer for the design part of the works (only one being required as the cost was likely to be less than £5,000).
- 5.13 Members approved this part – Grant Awarded £1,920 subject to a quote being received from a website designer.

A written mission statement of the goals and aims of the Cluster.

- 5.14 At a post-Christmas meeting of the farmers, it is proposed that the MFCG would discuss and agree the basis on how the Group will function, its approach on key aspects such as increasing membership, and how to encapsulate this within a simple and concise farmer's agreement as used in other cluster groups.

(Quoted cost - Facilitator four hours in total - £240).

- 5.15 Members agreed that the Cluster Group needs to agree a purpose with aims to build an East-West Wildlife Corridor and to link with the aims of the Chichester Harbour Management Plan. It was also agreed that the plan need to emphasize plans to expand the cluster group within the AONB.
- 5.16 Members approved this part – Grant awarded £240.

Landmapping – preliminary work and background checks.

- 5.17 This section was to prepare base maps for each farm ahead of field surveying (to be conducted in late spring / summer), research Government's MAGIC website and for each holding prepare a table of the key environmental factors affecting the farm and a map of the recognised priority habitats on and in the locality of each farm. The surveys would all be included within the Conservation Plans to be completed within the Phase 2 bid and would help inform the group on environmental priorities and opportunities, both individually and across the cluster.

(Quoted cost - 2.5 hours per farm x six farms = 15 hours @ £60 / hour = £900)

- 5.18 The Farming Officer reported that this section comprised computer-based preparation to be undertaken by Colin Hedley and his team. This would encompass the preparatory work for the field surveys that would take place in the summer.
- 5.19 The members approved this part – Grant Awarded £900.

General facilitation of the Group for the first quarter of 2023.

- 5.20 This section was for the general administration of the Group for the first quarter of 2023.
- (Quoted cost - 2 days of facilitator's time for general work between Jan and March - £840)*
- 5.21 Members noted that any time spent would need to be invoiced and receipted before it could be claimed by the Applicant.
- 5.22 The members approved this part – grant awarded £840.

Training – Two training days on Grey Partridge, Hedgelaying and / or Water Vole Conservation.

- 5.23 The cost for this proposed training was based on 1 day for trainer to prepare and deliver training and 1 day for facilitator to organise, liaise with trainer, prepare risk assessment and attend the event; a total of four days.

(Quoted cost - Two training events – 4 days at £420 / day = £1680)

- 5.24 Sarah Chatfield commented that it might be better to wait until the second part of the Cluster Group Application to consider training projects, to allow for the group to be established first. A member commented that it was often difficult in practice to get the training right in the first instance and that it might be beneficial for the MFCG to get some training underway soon and then for the MFCG to refine and repeat the training, once more farmers were involved in the Group.
- 5.25 Members agreed that quotes should be obtained for the provision of the training days. It was noted that if the quote was lower than the award granted, then only the lower amount could be claimed.

- 5.26 The Members approved this part – Grant awarded - £1,680 subject to a satisfactory quote for the training being obtained.

Bird Boxes

- 5.27 It was proposed that large nesting boxes for Barn Owls and Kestrels would be erected according to the WB3 CSS specification and payment of £100 / box. Four boxes per farm.

(Quoted cost Bird boxes – Four boxes per farm at CSS rate for WB3 of £100 = £2400)

- 5.28 A member queried why the MFCG were planning on putting in bird boxes for Barn Owls and Kestrels when its remit focussed on Grey Partridges and Lapwings. Another member replied that lots of wildlife would be attracted to the area by the facilities for Grey Partridges and he therefore thought it was appropriate to put in boxes for Barn Owls. He promised to pass on details of the local Barn Owl Group to the Applicant, who would be able to advise on the siting of the bird boxes. The Farming Officer confirmed that any award would need to be based on the CS rates of support for bird boxes.

- 5.29 Members approved this part – award granted £2,400.

Hedge laying

- 5.30 This part was for the laying of 50 metres of hedgerow. (Location to be decided as a result of the training course) – based on CSS rates.

(Quoted cost - Hedgelaying – 50 metres @ £12.80 / metre (CSS rates BN5 & BN10) = £640)

- 5.31 The Farming Officer reported that the rates of hedge laying were based on the CS Rates of support. It was agreed that more detail was required, and members requested a map showing the proposed location of the new hedgerow.
- 5.32 Members approved this part– award granted £640 subject to a satisfactory plan of the proposed hedge planting being provided.

Decision on all parts of the Application CH024

- 5.33 Members considered all the application parts as detailed above and unanimously agreed to support the whole application subject to:
- Quotes being obtained for external fees - website and logo design, accountancy fees and training costs.
 - Further information being provided as requested – location map for hedgerow planting.
- 5.34 The intervention rate was agreed at 100%

5.35 Members agreed the scoring for the project as follows:

Project Outcomes (40%)	Value for Money (20%)	Sustainability (20%)	Delivery (20%)	Total Score	Score after weighting
8	8	9	8	36	

Note Members awarded a 9 for Sustainability due to a variation in views from the LAP.

5.36 Members approved the project – Award granted **£10,260** subject to the receipt of the additional information as detailed in the above.

5.37 It was agreed that the Onward Agreement would only be sent out to the applicant following receipt of satisfactory information as requested.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting was noted as follows:

Monday 23rd January 2023

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 11.10am

SignedChairman

Date