

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Minutes of the FiPL Local Assessment Panel (LAP) held at 5.30pm on Monday 13 June 2022 at Eames Farm, Thorney Island.

Present

Pieter Montyn (Chairman)

Ann Briggs

Angus Sprackling

Jack Bentall

Stephen Johnson

Officers

Michelle Rossiter

Steven Pick

Richard Austin

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting, including Steven, Michelle, and Stephen, for their first LAP.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Romy Jackson, Sam Wilson, Kate Bull, Richard Cowser, Jen Walters, and Sarah Chatfield.
- 1.3 Richard Austin was deputising for Sarah Chatfield.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 MINUTES

- 3.1 The minutes of the LAP Meeting held on 28th March 2022 at Eames Farm were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Funding update for the FiPL Programme

Steven Pick gave members an update on the finances of the FiPL programme. Members noted that the remaining budget for allocation for Year 2 (2022/23), following the deduction of Year 1 projects transferred to Year 2, was £55,887.

Members were also advised that a total of £83,626 would be available for the delivery of projects in Year 3.

Richard Austin commented that if the entire Year 2 budget is allocated it may be possible to apply to Defra for some further funding.

4.2 Presentation of Completed Year 1 Projects

Steven gave a presentation with photographs recapping on the Year 1 FiPL Projects. It was noted that 12 Applications were approved in Year 1 and 9 were completed. A total of 3 projects had to be transferred to Year 2 due to delays in machinery delivery dates. Steven reported that the Hay Rake and Fertilizer spreader had recently been delivered in mid-June and the No Till Drill was hopefully due in October 2022.

Richard reported that the Coastal Grazing Study was now complete and would be circulated to the LAP for discussion at the next meeting.

4.3 Summary of changes to Year 2 FiPL Documents.

Steven advised members that there was a slight change in the layout of the FiPL Application Form. Section 3 had been broken down into smaller boxes for completion. In addition, the Climate, Nature, People and Place of the Programme Outcomes section that had formerly been a tick box, now required the applicant to provide more detail. The funding page had also been replaced by a separate Annex A. This annex gave an opportunity for the applicant to provide a detailed breakdown of the project costings and to include details of three quotations obtained where required.

4.4 Expanded FiPL Eligibility Area

Steven showed members a map of the extended FiPL eligibility area shown coloured orange on the map. A member queried what had determined the new boundaries. Richard advised he had talked to Defra about the finite number of eligible farms within the boundary of the AONB. Defra had agreed that the boundary could be extended provided the FiPL projects in the new area had a direct positive impact on the Chichester Harbour AONB and delivered the AONB Management Plan. The boundary extended to the South Downs National Park in the north and to the edge of the Chichester District Council area to the east and followed principally the farmland and water courses to the west.

4.5 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for Year 2

Richard thanked Pieter Montyn and Ann Briggs for their work as Chairman and Vice Chairman in Year 1. He said that LAP members would be contacted a month before the next meeting in September to provide nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for Year 2. Members would be asked to respond within a two-week period and the elections would be on the next agenda.

5. NEW APPLICATIONS

CH012 Northney Farm, Wildlife boxes and Educational Video

5.1 The applicants attended to give a presentation to the LAP. The presentation included the farm location and designations, diversification, educational visits to the farm and wildlife. They highlighted the importance of the Educational Farm Visits for local schools and the benefits that a new updated video about the workings and history of the farm, would provide. They also explained their plans to engage local scout groups to help with the erection and monitoring of the new wildlife boxes to increase bird and bat nesting areas and improve biodiversity.

Mary, Stan and Tim Pike then left the meeting.

5.2 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	6	8	8	30	7.6

5.3 The intervention rate was agreed at 80% for the film and CS rates (WB1,2, and 3) for the wildlife boxes. The panel were advised that the applicant was funding the rest of the project.

5.4 The members approved the project. Grant request **£5,646**

CH016 Stoke Fruit Farm – Personnel Trailer

5.5 The applicant did not attend to give a presentation to the LAP. This application was for a personnel trailer to assist with farm visits and travel to and from the sunflower beds. Although to LAP appreciated the educational intention of the applicant, it was noted that the trailer would not be able to accommodate wheelchairs. In the context of FiPL being public money, the LAP unanimously felt they could not support the purchase of a trailer that could be perceived as discriminatory. The LAP also noted the projected income from the trailer and queried the estimated maintenance costs. A Panel member said it would have been helpful if the applicant had attended to explain the project and the answer questions arising. Consequently, it was resolved to defer the application so that the applicant could a) clarify the business case; and b) explore the possibility of purchasing a more inclusive trailer. Since the project was deferred, it was not scored.

CH017 Manor Farm – GPS Fertilizer Spreader

5.6 The applicant did not attend to give a presentation to the LAP. This application was for the purchase of a GPS Fertilizer spreader with headland management and variable rate technology to allow a more precise application of Phosphorous, Potassium, Sulphur and Nitrogen. By applying just what was

needed by the plants, the potential for leaching of excess nutrients into the nearby watercourses in and around the harbour would be reduced. A member commented that the main positive impact of this machine would be around the headlands and on land close to water courses. Members agreed that the reduction to nitrates flowing into the harbour was a real benefit and requested monitoring and records of fertilizer applications going forward.

5.7 Members agreed the scoring for the project as follows:

Outcomes (40%)	Value for Money (20%)	Sustainability (20%)	Delivery (20%)	Total Score	Score after weighting
8	6	8	8	30	7.6

5.8 The intervention rate of 40% was agreed.

5.9 Members approved the project. Grant request **£10,424**.

5.10 The LAP said they may not fund other GPS Fertilizer Spreaders in the future, since there are a range of outputs and outcomes with FiPL.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Provisional meeting dates for the rest of the year were put forward as follows and Steven advised members would shortly be sent an email to access availability:

Monday 19th September 2022

Monday 21st or 28th November 2022

Monday 23rd January 2023

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7.09pm.

SignedChairman

Date