

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Forum, held on 6th July 2011 at Bishops Tachbrook Primary School

Present: Chris Hartny Mills, Chair LAG Forum

29 other residents of the area or representatives of local organisations

The Forum event was opened by **Paul Tolley, Chair of the Local Action Group**, who welcomed all and addressed matters of housekeeping.

The formal business of the Forum was preceded by presentations from 7 current projects: **Into the wild, into the wonderful, Festival of the Harvest, Friendly Farmer, Arts on our Doorstep, All History is Here, Get Growing, Country Connections and Community Orchards.**

1. Overview of the agenda

The Chair welcomed all to the 2011 AGM and presented the agenda for the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Forum meeting, held on 24th June 2010, were received and **approved**.

3. LEADER – Overview & Update

Roger Allonby, DEFRA reported that LEADER continues to be a priority for DEFRA. He complimented the projects for their high quality and innovation. He mentioned austerity measures which led to budget cuts this year but added that he was delighted he had been able to return some of that money to CWV LEADER in recognition of the good work done by the PMT and LAG.

4. Progress of Central Warwickshire LEADER to date

Sally Gardner, Project Manager, gave a presentation describing the objectives and achievements of the programme to date (see annex for copy of the presentation).

5. Revisions to Local Development Strategy & LAG Terms of Reference

Rob Mulgrue, Vice-Chair of the Local Action Group, introduced himself then the proposed revisions to the Local Development Strategy (LDS), copies of which had been available at the meeting.

He explained that the LDS: sets out the objectives and three themes of the Programme (Community Arts projects and events, Community Growing, activities that link communities with the land-based industries); describes the social & economic context of the area; lays out procedures; defines the eligible area; describes types of eligible projects; sets out application & approval procedures. The one substantive



proposed change to the LDS would be made in section 4.1.2. and would seek to achieve balance across the outputs. This would mean prioritising arts and land-based projects as well as certain parishes that have not yet benefited from LEADER. Other changes to the LDS were to remove cohesion tables, remove inaccuracies and withdraw any references to specific projects. Finally it was proposed that section 4 of the LDS which refers to a percentage of outputs and spend over the life of the entire programme be removed and placed as annual figures in the Business Plan.

The Forum **approved** the revisions.

Paul Tolley then introduced proposed changes to the LAG Terms of Reference copies of which had been available at the meeting. Changes were shown in bold.

The Forum **approved** the changes.

6. Business Plan, 2011/12

Mark Morris, Warwickshire County Council, introduced the Business Plan for 2011/12, copies of which had been available at the meeting. The document set out the delivery mechanism, the application and appraisal process, the monitoring and evaluation procedures as well as the annual work programme and financial tables.

The Annual Business Plan was **approved**.

7. Independent Members of the Local Action Group

The following were elected/re-elected unopposed as independent members of the LAG for 2011/12:

Ian Bentlett

Andy Smith

Chris Firth

Rob Mulgrue

Carolyn Reilly

8. Organisational Membership of the Local Action Group

The Chair reminded the Forum that there is a vacancy for an arts representative on the LAG.

The formal business then being concluded, the Chair thanked all for attending and requested feedback.

