COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

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Board Meeting 22

Minutes

Date: Date: 3rd December 2025 **Time**: 2-3.30pm **Venue**: MS Teams

Attendees:

- Cllr Lennox - East Ayrshire Council
- Cllr Kyle - East Ayrshire Council
- Lyndsey Kinnes – Operations Manager Strathclyde and Ayrshire, NatureScot
- Ed Forrest – Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
- Stephen McCarron - 9CCG
- Rea Smith – 9CCG
- Simon Lees - Evaluation Consultant.

Apologies:

- Aly Conquer – Chair
- Anneke Freel - EALT
- Ed Turner – FLS
- Mark Smillie - Director of Corporate Services, Green Action Trust
- Jim Murdoch – H&ASP
- Brian Walkington - EAC

Officers in Attendance:

- Colin MacDonald – CCLP Project Supervisor, East Ayrshire Council
- Colin McKee – Heritage Projects Co-ordinator, East Ayrshire Council

Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

Aly could not get child cover so Colin MacD chaired and welcomed everyone. Apologies listed as above.

Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed and approved. Proposed by Cllr Lennox and seconded by Stephen McCarron.

Item 3 – Actions and Matter Arising

From 23rd July 2025

Action 1: Colin MacD to send out link to free online version of the Lost Villages book Memory, Mining and Heritage: Voices from East Ayrshire. (Complete)

Item 4: Evaluation report

Simon Lees gave a presentation on the first 3 chapters of the draft evaluation report. Over all the CCLP has meet and in some cases exceeded its original intentions.

Ed Forrest aske that the effect of Covid restrictions impacted the start of the CCLP and lead to a little loss of momentum after a delayed launch. Simon to mention this in the reports conclusion, effectively delivering a 5yr project in 4 years.

Colin McKee pointed out that there was a lot of good material in the report and the effect of covid as well as the Doon Valley active travel route being cut short has contributed to the outputs and spend.

Cllr Lennox said that having joined the Board about halfway through it took some time to up to speed and grips with the CCLP scope and concept. Expressed concern in the geographic scope of the project influence on villages in ward 7 that were not included. Colin MacD explained about the boundary discussion that was had with NLHF and the this will be captured in the report.

Next steps:

Simon to complete draft report by 10th Dec and final report by 12th December.

Report to be finalised by 19th December

Item 5: Legacy Plan

Colin MacD presented the draft Legacy Plan (including the Management and Maintenance schedule).

Ed Forrest said to make sure that the delivery partners were aware of the Plan and how to access the fund.

Stephen McCarron – with regards to the future match funding via the 9CCG that 2 developers have committed/ring fenced funds toward CCLP activity in the future. How ever there will be a delay in receiving it due to delays in the wind farm developments. The money may well come in time for 2030 when the currant M&M funds will end.

Action 1: Partners to send any comments on the Legacy Plan to Colin MacD by 12th December when the plan will be finalised and sent to partners.

Item 6: Project Supervisors report

Colin MacD went through the report that was submitted.

Item 7: Finance

Colin MacDonald did a presentation on projected spend and under spend.

Total projected spend to November 2025 was £4,733,678 (cash and non cash). Total predicted spend July to Dember 2025 is £621,989 so total predicted spend £5,355,667. That leads to a predicted to total underspend of £1,058,619.

The predicted draw down of NLHF grant is £1,830,442, which is £390,058 less than what was awarded (£2,220,500).

Simon Lees pointed out that compared to other Landscape Partnerships our intervention rate (39.25%) was very low, usually it can be up to 75%. From NLHF point of view it was a low risk project as a lot of the match funding was secured by the partners as well as EAC contribution to the project. So reputationally it was not disastrous.

Colin McKee mentioned that we had approached NLHF a number of times to see if they would increase the intervention rate so we could draw down more funding but they were not will to do so.

Item 8: Risk Register and health and Safety

Colin MacDonald went through the Risk Register. Some of the red will be down graded to orange and green.

Item 9: AOB/ Partners updates

Colin MacDonald thanked members of the Board for their participation and contribution to the CCLP Board over the 5yrs delivery phase.

Colin McKee thanked Colin MacD for all the hard work put into delivery of the CCLP from development to delivery. Colin MacD acknowledged the input of the CCLP team who helped over the 5 years, Caraolann, Cynthia and Kate, as well as Colin McKee and Brian Walkington.

Cllr Lennox said thank you to the CCLP team (Colin^2!) for providing guidance and assistance to the Board and the elected members through the 5 years.

Lyndsey Kinnes also thanked the CCLP team for all the work and updates to the Board. NatureScot has merged SSIs in the Doon Valley and the information can be viewed at https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8629 Doon - Valley Wetlands SSSI information. Colin MacDonald also feed in to the NatureScot consultation on Nature Restoration at a Landscape Scale (see Nature Restoration at Landscape Scale | NatureScot)

Ed Forrest thanked the CCLP team on behalf of the Biosphere and that they continue to build and expand on the CCLP work. Working with the 9CCG to deliver activity.

Item 10: Meeting Dates for the Year

None