

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STEERING GROUP**

**MEETING HELD in the SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIAL CLUB, FOX BAY EAST  
5.00PM CAMP TIME  
ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

### **Attendees**

- Hon. Mike Summers (MS) MLA, RDS Portfolio holder (Chairperson)
- Hon. Ian Hansen (IH) MLA, RDS Portfolio holder
- Keith Padgett (KP) Chief Executive, FIG
- Jamie Fotheringham (JF) Head of Policy, FIG
- Andrew Pollard (AP) SAA DoA
- Mike Evans (ME) West Falkland Representative
- Nuala Knight (NK) RDS PC
- Michael Betts (MBetts) Project Manager, FIDC

The following individuals attended the meeting for the agenda item relating to health and education.

- David Jenkins (DJ) Director of Health and Education
- Tom Hill (TH) Head teacher, Infant Junior School and Camp Education

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Marc Boucher and Ted Jones. Michael Betts attended the meeting in place of Marc Boucher (GM FIDC).

MS introduced the members of the Steering Group and the two invited guests, David Jenkins and Tom Hill.

### **2. Review of notes from last meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

There were no comments.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **Water**

Craig Paice had provided a written update in response to his actions from the last meeting. The response is copied below.

**Action for 12<sup>th</sup> April:** *Craig Paice was to follow up his discussions with Marc Short, Quarry Manager, PWD.*

*PWD currently have two drilling rigs, a new one and an older one. The old rig could possibly be made available (with a possible charge). It weighs approximate 10 tons, though movement off road would be restrictive due to the compressor that goes with it not being able to go off road. There is a hose from the compressor to driller but it is only 10 meters long, though longer hoses can be purchased to increase the range.*

*The rig can drill 25 meters comfortably if in vertical position and possibly up to about 40 meters at a push with a 105mm diameter.*

*The new rig weighs approximately 16 tons, so off road mobility would be very limited.*

*Marc thought that a drill rig should be specifically designed for this operation. Away from Falklands you would need all the relevant health and safety certificates and would need a ticket to operate the drill, though in the Falklands there is more flexibility with health & safety regulations.*

*He anticipated that if a specialised rig was bought it might cost on the region of £100,000+ for a second hand one. Operators of the rig would either need to go away on an operating course or we could bring an instructor down to the Falklands. The latter is usually more useful as more people can be trained.*

*Drill "bits" to drill the rock in the Falklands would cost in excess of £1,000 as some of FIG "bits" for drilling 115mm diameter cost £750 and it is envisaged that boreholes may well require a drilling 200mm diameter.*

*The rock in the Falklands can contain small deposits of Quartzite and this can wear a "bit" away in 12m, or even after an hour of drilling.*

*Thanks to Mark for the above information*

**Action for 12<sup>th</sup> April:** CP to find out how much water Falkland Gold and Minerals found whilst drilling.

*Sam Cockwell is looking into it. A response will be forwarded to the Steering Group in due course.*

**Action for 12<sup>th</sup> April:** CP to speak to Stephen Luxton to find out if there are reports in their archive which could be useful or relevant re levels and depths of water found whilst drilling.

*I asked Stephen but he didn't really have any idea as it is pretty complicated to drill a borehole to X meters to find water as it all depends on the subsurface geology/porosity/permeability.*

*He also commented there would be quite a few old boreholes around from FGML days but only in particular areas and they may have been backfilled.*

*He did point out that because of geology of the Falklands; just digging a hole isn't a guarantee that you will hit water. He used the example of where the road to Chartres turns off there are two deep quarries (borrow pits) from when White Rock built the road. They are only a couple of hundred yards apart, but one is always full of water, and one is always empty, doesn't matter what time of year it is.*

It was recognised that the results of a "water survey" would be useful in understanding the nature and scale of the water issues in Camp. The DoA has drafted a questionnaire for agricultural businesses. This questionnaire will be edited and also used to assess domestic water problems as well as the water problems of non-agricultural businesses in Camp.

### **Import Substitution Programme**

Michael Betts outlined changes that were agreed between FIDC, the DoA and the Policy Unit which aim to make the scheme more attractive to applicants. These are to:

- i. Reduce the minimum total value of an application from £10,000 to £500;
- ii. Increase assistance and involvement from the Department of Agriculture during the application process;
- iii. Adjust the loan and grant application process to fairly reflect the risk of the funding;

- iv. Include a 'Buyer List' in the ISP;
- v. Possibly open up eligibility of ISP to Stanley based businesses and individuals.

MB added that group applications are welcome.

AP said that lowering the minimum funding level of the program might encourage a greater number of "hobbyists" to apply and there might therefore be a bigger danger of people using funds for domestic gardens and not for commercial gardens.

#### **4. Health and medical services provision in Camp**

MS welcomed DJ and TH to the meeting.

DJ began by outlining the role of the health department. He commented that whilst the health service has to date been well managed the health model needs to change to meet current and future challenges. He added that as technology improves so do the clinical skills required. There are, for example, an increasing number of roles being able to be undertaken by nurse practitioners.

Primary healthcare refers to the jobs normally undertaken by GPs. Many of these jobs can now be done by specially trained nurses. DJ said there are opportunities for tele-medicine which could provide a 24 hours specialist service; this would increase the number and type of specialists to which the Falklands had access.

DJ then moved on to education. DJ said that schools are now concentrating on more holistic assessment of education provision and not just on academic results. DJ noted that there are different elements to schooling, there is a) the social element and b) there is the ability to work academically with peers. There are new mechanisms for getting the best from FI children. One such mechanism is the use of an IT educational platform called "Moodle".

The "Moodle" system is an interactive computer system which allows users at either ends to see and hear each other e.g. a school teacher and pupil or a doctor and patient. In terms of health the Moodle system could allow patients to get a) a faster response and b) access to specialist advice.

DJ said that the Moodle system could be used to improve many aspects of Camp life be health, education or training but before any changes could be made, we had to be clear about the requirements.

**Action:** NK to try to assess the needs of the community, in terms of health, education and training and relay that information back to DJ

The floor was handed to TH who expanded on DJ's comments on Camp education. TH explained that the Moodle system should allow a child in Camp to see and interact with their teacher much more effectively.

A related initiative which camp education has implemented is the "educational modems". These modems are owned by the school and the internet or MBs associated with them are paid for by the school. They are simply plugged into the sockets in pupil's homes. This removes pressure on home internet packages

and the associated cost. The school has also ensured that there is a lap top available in each of the pupils home.

The chosen system has to be user friendly and given that some of the users are very young, the system needs to be uncomplicated. This technical hurdle remains unresolved.

The final system may or may not be Moodle but in terms of timescales, it is hoped that a system will be in place by 2013.

TH noted that other services could be provided through the system e.g. face to face meetings with the SCB bank manager who has already shown some interest in the provision of this service.

DJ added that the system could also be used for "lifelong learning" which is the provision of training for adults.

TH said that there are 6 children at the Goose Green School and there would be 6 kids going to Port Howard school next year. He said Myles and Critta were working hard to get the new school in PH finished. North Arm would continue to have a full time school. Fox Bay School has a teacher for 4 of every 6 weeks.

MS asked that given the drastic shortage of labour in Camp, was there any potential for employing Learning Assistant's for the periods where a teacher is not at the school? This would release labour (mums and dads that home school children) and would provide additional employment.

DJ noted that this be possible but would require a policy change within FIG. DJ said that before any decisions were made, that the requirements of the school and the community had to be clear.

MS used the ISP as an example of the need for additional labour. He suggested that the ISP was not likely to be a success if it is built on "spare labour" within existing farming businesses given the evidence that this labour does not exist.

TH suggested that in the context of Fox Bay that the economic benefits might be easily assessed e.g. if the provision of a teacher for a further 2 weeks allowed pupils parents to work when otherwise they wouldn't- this might demonstrate sufficient need for the extra teaching time. He added that North Arm felt that the availability of a school in North Arm was a key resource when attracting and retaining workers.

DJ asked whether there was a need for something along the lines of a resource centre which could provide health, education, life-long learning etc.

DJ asked rhetorically what the requirements of Fox Bay were and, suggested that the "need" for services be assessed before ways to address that "need" were reviewed.

IH asked if the West could have a full time practise nurse. DJ responded that it might be possible to provide 24 hour access to one and added that there might be case for increasing the number of doctor's visits to Camp.

**Action:** NK to try to distil the requirements for adult training or “life-long learning” in Camp.

NK is to consider the case for securing an additional two weeks of teaching at Fox Bay.

5. **Any Other Business**

NK: In addition to “Matters Arising” the minutes, actions from previous minutes needed to be brought forward, so that delivery on actions could be monitored.

AP: Stated that Camp required youngsters. The DoA has one apprentice in the scheme currently with three more coming through. AP said that the DoA is struggling to find host farms for these apprentices. AP said that many are only 16 years old and therefore don’t have driving licenses and given their age require some “parental care”. In addition, AP said many are inexperienced and therefore aren’t able to offer host farms a great deal of experience and skill at the beginning of their term. AP suggested that Beckside Farm could be used to begin training young apprentices. AP said that additional housing would be useful to give the host farmer and the apprentice a break from each other.

AP: Asked whether the RDS could provide some core funding to the RBA to facilitate more regular meetings. There was general agreement that the RBA is an important organisation and that there might be times when the RDS buys services from the RBA (with the RBA being a delivery partner) but it was felt that core funded was inappropriate at this stage. It was further acknowledged that the RDS should support grass root organisations such as the RBA.

ME: Asked whether Fitzroy could be used as the location for an agricultural college as a way of addressing labour issues but also securing a future for young people in agriculture. The proposal would provide opportunities for young people to gain skills such as indexing, selection processes etc.

AP: Said he thought that Beckside Farm would be a better location for a college given its proximity to Stanley.

6. **Date of next meeting**

This will be on the East and in Camp.

**Post Meeting Note:** The next meeting will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May at Goose Green.

Nuala Knight  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## Appendix 1: Actions carried forward from previous meetings

5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

- **Action:** JF to redraft REZ paper to reflect comments from the Steering Group.
- **Action:** JF to continue work on an “RDS Immigration system” which would facilitate foreign investment and increase immigration into Camp.
- **Action:** NK to draft a development plan for Fox Bay and Fitzroy outlining proposals for new water sources and new housing developments.

12<sup>th</sup> April 2012

- **Action:** WL to organise DoA session to address “water” issue during Farmers Week.
- **Action:** NK to issue a questionnaire to assess opinions on water provision in Camp.
- **Action:** NK to discuss this with retailers such as Lifestyles. NK to also contact Paul Barnes as he may have a contact for sourcing low cost alkathene pipe.
- **Action:** WL was tasked with speaking to Neil Judd and Peter Johnson to assess how problems are addressed in drier climates.
- **Action:** WL was also tasked with contacting Jim Gerrish to discuss water solutions for livestock and crops.
- **Action:** CP to find out how much water Falkland Gold and Minerals found whilst drilling.
- **Action:** CP to speak to Stephen Luxton to find out if there are reports in their archive which could be useful or relevant regarding levels and depths of water found whilst drilling.
- **Action:** WL to include a water session within the DoA contributions at Farmers Week.