
RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

**MEETING HELD in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ON Thursday 13th December 2012
AT 1.30-2.45PM**

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of this Group.

Present: Hon Mr M Summers MLA (MS) RDS portfolio holder & Chairman
Mr Marc Boucher (MPB) General Manager, FIDC
Mrs Nuala Knight (NK) RDS Coordinator

Minutes: Susana Faria

Public & Press: None

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Keith Padgett, Jamie Fotheringham, Ian Hansen MLA, Andrew Pollard, Mike Evans and Ted Jones.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2012

3.1 Not discussed due to the lack of members in attendance.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes held

4.1 Not discussed due to the lack of members in attendance.

5. Short term housing provision in the Fox Bay REZ Paper 12/12-007

5.1 It was agreed to make an offer on an existing property. (REDACTED)

6. Key Worker- Mechanics post, updated proposal Paper 12/12-008

6.1 The recommendations were approved.

6.2 **ACTION:** NK to submit an advert to the Penguin News to make potential applicants aware of the upcoming opportunity. At this stage the advert will aim to generate interest and invite expressions of interest rather than applications for the post.

7. RDS Coordinator Update Paper 12/12-009

7.1 The 18 projects contained within the Action Plan were reviewed and a verbal update was provided by the RDS Coordinator. The Project Plan numbers listed below relate to the projects as listed in the RDS Action Plan.

7.2

Project plan	Project	Update & Actions
1	Key Worker Scheme	Expressions of interest are to be invited to make public aware of the upcoming opportunity. ACTION
2	Adding value to wool products	Project cancelled and replaced by the Cap Dev. Fund and the Livestock Fencing projects.
3	Rural Enterprise Zones (REZ) fiscal incentives	JF took this to a GPC meeting in Nov. Expected to go to EXCO in Jan. ACTION
4	Camp interpretation Boards	No movement- simple project. No hurdles anticipated.
5	Farmers Market	RDS has a minor role, funding unlikely to be spent.
6	Lifelong Learning Centres	No movement.
7	Community empowerment training	Paper to be circulated to Steering Group before consultant's brief is advertised.
8	Agricultural Apprentice Assessor Verifier Training	More difficult than anticipated. Project may need modified.
9	Rural Enterprise Zone Training Grant Scheme	Linked to REZ paper. NK prepare a paper for January EXCO and a paper for next budget session. ACTION
10	Identification of Rural Enterprise Zones (REZs)	West REZ identified. East REZ to be identified.
11	Fox Bay Community Development Group	Established. On-going.
12	Improvement of Camp Health Services	RDS post holder to set up a meeting in the New Year with new CMO (when in post) David Jenkins, Keith Padgett, Mike Summers and Marc Boucher to identify some project objectives re. health and to agree a plan of action. ACTION
13	Rural Enterprise Zone housing development	An offer will be made on an existing property.
14	Rural Enterprise Zone	On-going.

	improvements	
15	Rural Enterprise Zone Water system	Timetabled to start in February with Mark Jones (Fox Bay Village Agent) as project manager. ACTION
16	Improvements to access to water in Camp	Scheme opened. To be advertised in Penguin News. ACTION
17	Power/Renewable energy	Users meeting to be organised to determine key limitations of existing scheme and to consider reformatting the scheme. ACTION
18	Environmental stewardship scheme	NK to talk to Clare Cockwell about potential of partnership in areas of mutual interest. ACTION

7.2 MB reported that efforts to recruit maternity cover have been unsuccessful to date. MB reported that he has made direct contact with several individuals in an effort to secure someone for the post.

ACTION: It was agreed that the post should be advertised again.

8. Structure of the RDS 4 year Plan Paper 12/12-010

8.1 The paper on the structure of the 4 year plan was discussed. It was agreed that the plan should concentrate on schemes and programs rather than detailed projects given the likelihood of change in local priorities, challenges and the economic situation.

8.2 It was agreed that a paper should be submitted to Executive Council to transfer responsibility for managing the Action Plan and the projects contained within it to the Steering Group. This would allow the Steering Group to amend or replace projects in the Action Plan without prior approval of Executive Council.

ACTION:

8.3 In terms of schemes, the East Falkland REZ will be a key element of the 4 year plan. It was recognised that the RDS Action Plan for 2012-2013 was focused somewhat on the West Falkland REZ and that effort would need to be exercised to ensure other geographical areas were also dealt with i.e. East Falkland and the needs of the Outer Islands. The East Falkland REZ might be sited in Goose Green or Fitzroy.

ACTION: Mike Summers to talk to Owen Summers about how a village agent/RDS development manager might tie in with the existing management of settlement, utilities etc.

9. AOB

9.1 Outer islands- diggers

9.2 It was felt that all of the potential avenues had not been exhausted and that there was still the possibility for the private sector to provide machinery to facilitate development on the islands.

ACTION: NK to investigate options more fully by talking to the private sector in the first instance to look at the possibility of establishing some kind of "islands hire scheme" where plant and equipment could be made available to Islands residents/businesses.

9.3 Water scheme

It had been suggested by a member of the public that the maximum available grant from the water scheme may not provide sufficient incentive to potential applicants. The costs of replacing a 14,000 litre water tank for instance, may cost in the region of £5,000. This was noted and it was agreed that the maximum available for projects would be assessed on a case by case basis and that if demand for the scheme exceeded the total budget available, the budget would be re-examined.

ACTION: NK to advertise the water scheme in Penguin news & email. Although the scheme was set at £1K the RDSSG are prepared to consider more in circumstances applications will be considered on case to case basis.

10. AOB

10.1 It was agreed that NK should prioritise the following items during the last 4 weeks of work prior to her maternity leave:

- Developing the Key Worker scheme and advertising it
- Progressing the housing project
- Developing the 4 year plan

There being no further business the meeting closed 14:45

Actions carried forward from previous meetings:

31st May 2012 (Goose Green)

1. **Action:** NK and MJ to try to assess interest and re-establish the North Camp Community Hall Working Group if support is found.
2. **Action:** AP to circulate a positioning paper on the agricultural apprenticeships/agri college idea including reference to costs of the current scheme and the possibility of a parallel option for more focused FI based practical/vocational agricultural training.
3. **Action:** MB to discuss the potential of tourism lodges and tourism development with SD

18th July 2012

4. **ACTION:** KP to discuss how to incorporate health into the RDS with David Jenkins.
5. **ACTION:** ME and TJ to assess support addressing problems with the 2m system in Camp.
6. **ACTION:** KP to investigate where the responsibility for managing the 2m masts/system lies.
7. **ACTION:** NK to contact Darren Christie to assess whether the FIG website has an "employment" section

12th September

8. **ACTION:** NK to work with Mark Jones on the extended use of the FB road gang cabins

29th October

- ACTION:** There appears to be a need to identify a suitable alternative for the failing part of the TV satellite dishes in the first instance. It was agreed that the RDS would not have a role importing or selling these parts, as this is an opportunity for someone in the private sector. MJ to speak to Dick Sawle about the particulars of the part and to find out if an alternative is being sourced and more generally what is being done to address the problem.
9. **ACTION:** KP to find out where responsibility lies for the costs of spare parts and maintenance of the 2 metre repeaters and masts system.

10. **ACTION:** It was agreed that the problem of accessing plant and machinery on Outer islands was relevant and that alternative options should be sought. NK to feed this discussion back to Islanders and to assess whether there might be alternative solutions.
11. **ACTION:** The Steering Group agreed that whilst a livestock trailer was not be the solution to the problem of moving livestock from Outer islands to the abattoir effectively, that the problem was relevant and a solution should be pursued. AP to work with the Outer Islands residents to try to find a solution which helps to address the differing problems of livestock transport from the islands.