

Set up meeting of JT/NW/RT/MW whenshe's here DEc

Notes of FCS/CVDG Funding Meeting 24.11.06 at FCS Hamilton office

Present:

Niall Thomson	Chairman Carron Valley Development Group
Angela [REDACTED]	Treasurer & Fundraiser Carron Valley Development Group
Nicky Whitaker	Funding Officer FCS
Rena Tarwinska	District Forester FCS

Points:

- 1) NW surprised that under existing SLFD/CVDG setup, trailbuilding contract is with CVDG, but the invoices are made out to SLFD. *RT explained after the meeting this been looked at as part of a routine audit. No comment was made in auditors' report.*
- 2) RT & NW emphasised that although it was positive that Alan Stevenson now accepted the development of CV had some merit, that alone was not enough to secure the support of FCS. RT asked CVDG to trust that Michael Wall knew how to achieve the optimum outcome for all.
- 3) Size of CVDG proposed project £1.8M. NW said too ambitious to be accepted by FES Management Board, and there was no chance of getting it approved. NT said CVDG feel strongly that it should be considered as a whole, so that the Board can appreciate the opportunities CV offers. Then break into feasible stages.

Funding sources

- 4) NW said European funding in short supply, since south Scotland now only has a very small pot of money.
- 5) Big Lottery an option, but need big community buy-in to be successful. CV has no geographical community (v few people live nearby), but huge number live within 45mins travel. Project would need measures to assist those with no access, with numbers and type of people aimed at eg x events where free access to mountainbikes; schools events etc. AW said 3 schools and Scout groups are using trails. AW has already spoken to Big Lottery, and been told in principle the project ticks the right boxes. NW said she herself must speak to Big Lottery to check what level of support they are willing to offer. She expressed concern that funders getting confusing messages by being contacted by different organisation about FCS projects. FCS may have different priorities to put to Big Lottery.
- 6) NW asked if any approach to Scottish Enterprise. AW said no.
- 7) AW said that funders were now approaching CVDG offering money. So far:

Leader+	£15k
Landfill Tax (private operator)	£50k
Heritage Lottery (Your Heritage)	£50k for multi-user heritage trail at lochside
Awards for All	£10k

- 8) NW said that FCS cannot provide the 10% match funding required for Landfill money.
- 9) NW flagged up possible Trusts to apply to: Gannochy, Robertson, and Esmee Fairbairn.
- 10) Sports Scotland is itself Lottery funded. Does not recognise mtb, so any project would need to link to Cycle Touring Club (CTC). CTC just looking for a velodrome, so interest unlikely.

Maintenance

- 11) NW stressed the onerous maintenance & liability FCS is taking on with mtb trails. FC Safety Officer for GB says FC should not allow any more construction at all. FC now assuming 5% or even 10% of build cost for maintenance. NT questioned this figure, and asked to see how it was derived. Quality of build at CV will mean lower maint costs than for existing FC trails. NW said it was more than just staying the same. Trails had to be refreshed every couple of years as riders got bored with them. Charging users may not be an option, as funding may not allow for.
- 12) NW said FCS cannot take sponsorship for maintenance, only for additional/extra work. Explained that as govt dept, FCS is bound by strict rules, designed more for eg Health Service, but applicable to all depts.
- 13) NW asked about record keeping eg for Leader+ (as Euro money) documentation must be kept for 15yrs. AW confirmed she aware. NW strongly recommended keeping at least two complete sets of documentation, kept securely at separate locations.

CV Project

- 13) NT asked when the felling would start & finish on mtb trails. RT to confirm dates. *(RT emailed CVDG webmaster same day & copied to NT and Andy Gallacher.)* NT & AW suggested a board at CV carpark, similar to those found at ski resorts, showing which sections open/closed.
- 14) NT asked when the PID would be written, whether it would be for the whole proposal, and when the FEMB meetings are held. CVDG are concerned that the opportunity to build in 07 will be lost if funding applications are not made very soon. RT said it was more important to make sure the project as a whole was properly prepared, than secure immediate funding for 07 trails. She indicated she would make a start in December, but it would be part of Jeremy Thompson's role to prepare it in detail. NW confirmed there are meetings every month of the FEMB.
- 15) RT thanked all for attending & that notes of meeting will follow.