



Regenerate NPT: Project Closure Report

Project Organisation: European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP)

Project Name: Planning for Commons Support

Project Start Date: 21.12.2021

Project End Date: 31.01.2022

Date of Report: 31.01.2022

Attached Documents List: Costed proposal final version (Report attached)

There is a mandatory requirement to complete this document at Project Closure. The purpose of the report is to provide a project level document evidencing how well the project has performed against the original Business Plan delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during the lifetime of the project, and how it has contributed to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership's Local Development Strategy. Project performance against the planned/approved costs, delivery timescales and Key Performance indicators will also be detailed. **Please try and keep within the maximum word count.**

1. Background: (briefly detail the background to the Project – 250 max)	
<p>The <i>Planning for Commons Support</i> project builds on certain elements within the work of the Regional Co-operation project <i>Developing Shared Visions for Common Land*</i> with planned workshops in Neath Port Talbot with National and Regional stakeholders. The aim of the workshops were to address perceived barriers identified and to support the common lands to progress and adopt the new proposed payment model.</p> <p>The project will create budgets and outline work plans for taking the approach developed in that project while at the same time carrying on the wider discussion of the approach with stakeholders.</p> <p>The cooperation project developed a results-based approach to supporting the sustainable management of common land, and considered in some detail its elements (scorecards to recognize level of delivery of sustainable land management outcomes; payment rationale to convert that into a financial reward; suite of funding for complementary action; issues of delivery – project team, role of advisors etc.).</p> <p>* A 6 LAG cooperation project (NPT, Swansea, Powys, Cwm a Mynydd, Rural Action Cwm Tâf and Torfaen)</p>	
2. Project Outcomes as per application	Was this achieved? What supporting evidence is there of achievement? If not achieved, why not?
Develop refined costed proposals for field testing, trial and rollout, which will be presented to Welsh Government.	Yes. Report provided and published online

3. Strategic Achievements: (outline what the project has achieved in terms of alignment with LEADER Themes and Priorities and any contribution to national strategies - 300 max)	
Theme: 1	Priority: Vibrant, Green and Enterprising
<p>The project has taken forward the output of the 6-LAG cooperation project which itself developed an approach to supporting the management of common land which was sustainable and dynamic and has the potential to contribute substantially to both vibrant farm enterprises and the restoration and appropriate management of habitats and species. It did this by for the first time estimating the trialling and roll-out cost of the approach and setting out a broad work plan for each. It then rose awareness of the work by discussions, presentations at events and a project webinar. The latter was posted on Youtube and it and the project report were highlighted in Facebook posts.</p>	
4. With regards to your comments at application stage, how have you managed this project in terms of sustainability? (What plans have been put in place to maintain the project once it is completed? 400 words max)	
<p>The future of the project lies in the hands of policy makers and engaged stakeholders. The report and link to the webinar was shared with WG civil servants, key NRW staff, farming union representatives, all of the opposition parties in the Senedd, RSPB, Nature Friendly Farming Network and the commoners with whom we engaged from the initial cooperation project (covering 6 LAG areas). The opportunity to speak to the Meithrin Mynydd group in the Brecon Beacons National Park was taken up – the group brings together Park and NRW staff and graziers as well as people from other interested organisations. As a result we were invited to discussions with the secretary and chair of a well-organised grazings association, and separately to a meeting with a grazier who is an FUW vice-president and a leading member of NFU. NPT commoners with whom the initial project had engaged were invited to attend the project webinar. We also held face to face meetings with the Nature-Friendly Farming Network and RSPB. During the project we had email exchanges with members of the Plaid Cymru agriculture and environment team. On the last day of the project, we had a very interesting and useful online discussion with the Conservative agriculture spokesman. Unfortunately, while the Minister was meant to meet us during the project lifetime, courtesy of Jane Dodds MS, this meeting was postponed to a future date unknown by the Minister. (We only evidence a sub-set of these meetings)</p>	
5. Project Beneficiaries:	
<p>The direct beneficiary was the applicant. Indirect beneficiaries are intended to be WG policy; graziers' livelihoods and Welsh habitats and species.</p>	
6. Cross Cutting Themes: If relevant, briefly describe how your project contributed to the following themes:	
Equal Opportunities:	
Not really relevant	
Sustainable Development including Economic, Environmental and Social	
<p>Highly relevant – the core of the approach is to unite the three aspects of sustainable development when it comes to common land, making the delivery of environmental outcomes central to the business rationale of commoning and thereby making sustainable commoning practice socially acceptable to both farmers themselves and wider society.</p>	
Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion	
<p>Relevant to the extent that implementing the approach would strengthen the income of marginal farms and bring commoners, a rather politically marginal group, into the centre of policy making</p>	

7. Conclusion Summary: Please provide a summary on the project's performance, identifying any key issues that need to be addressed:				
a) Summary				
The results-based approach can be rolled out for an approximate annual cost of £43 million. It needs to be trialled thoroughly and that will cost just over £500,000. These costs are comparable to the levels of expenditure focussed on common land in the current funding regime and recognise the extremely high importance of common land for the delivery of sustainable land management outcomes going forward. All of the key actors were made aware of the work and discussions were held with many of them.				
b) Key Issues				
A number of key issues emerged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government's apparent inaction on the question of common land and SMS, despite the lessons of history pointing to that being a high risk strategy - NRW's seeming inability to coordinate a response to (or to make use of) the work in its approach to future policy inputs - Farming unions' wish to retain as much of the status quo as possible, along with their perception of a lack of direction in Govt meaning that they are not going to push this or any other approach until they have to, but with the risk that it is then too late for Govt to do the careful preparatory work necessary <p>In summary, it is not clear who, at a senior level, feels that this approach meets their needs at present, nor how to get to the point where this changes.</p>				
c) What went well?				
Everything, apart from the Minister cancelling her visit.				
d) What didn't go well?				
It would have been nice to feel some progress or high level engagement in WG (and NRW) also locally in NPT.				
e) What could have been done differently?				
Nothing, given the timescale and ongoing Covid restrictions.				
8. TO BE COMPLETED BY LEAD BODY:				
Project Performance – Financial & Indicator Achievements: (detailed performance against approved timescales and budget expectation, including reasons for all variances)				
a) Performance indicator achievement against targets approved: Final position:				
PI Reference	Approved Target	Total Achieved	Justification for underachievement	How has achievement been evidenced
LD.CL.006	Number of Information dissemination actions/promotional and/or marketing activities to raise awareness of the LDS			
	3	5		4 postings on https://www.facebook.com/Payments-for-results-on-common-land-Talu-am-ganlyniadau-ar-dir-comin-102034428385828 1 video on

				https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RwHrOy41ts
LD.CL.00 7	Number of stakeholders engaged			
	3	10		See pdf/powerpoint presentation – screenshots of online meetings
LD.C.L00 8	Number of Participants supported			
	3	7		See pdf/powerpoint presentation – screenshots of online meetings
b) Pilot Activities/Projects: Outlining all of the stages and activities, including the timelines. To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project x X				
c) Feasibility Studies: To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project x X				

d) Project Closure Financial Position against original approved: (following final claim)				
Timescales	Original Approved		Adjusted Approved	Final Closure Date
	From	To		
	21.12.2021	31.01.2022		31.01.2022
e) Summary of Financial Performance				
	Original Approved		Adjusted Approved	Final Claim
Total Project Costs	£4,537.50			£4,534.02
RDP Funding	£3,630			£3,627.22
Levered Funding	£907.50			£906.80
Intervention Rates	% RDP	80%		80%
	% Match	20%		20%
	Cost Heading		Justification for under/overspend	
Under/overspend				

9. Handover contact details: For post project monitoring and evaluation activities, Welsh Government will require contact details of staff who may be able to provide assistance.	
Name: Gwyn Jones	Designation: Manager (EFNCP)
Email: dgl_jones@yahoo.co.uk	Telephone: 07884116048
Website address: http://www.efncp.org	
Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Payments-for-results-on-common-land-Talu-am-ganlyniadau-ar-dir-comin-102034428385828/	
Document Retention Procedures: Documents (which includes all evidence relating to your project) must be retained in a suitable format for a period of 10 years following the end of the current LEADER programme – this means at least until 2031.	



Signed:

Date: 31/01/2022

(Project Lead)

Signed:

P.P. Bethan Blackmore

Date: 14/02/2022

(RDP Manager – Lead Body)

Post Project Activities by the Local Partnerships and Local Action Group:

Define what activities need to be undertaken by the Lead Body after the project has been closed include any post project follow up actions which may need to be undertaken following project closure:

Completed PCR to be forwarded to LAG & WRN