

Green & Blue Futures – Partner Meeting

Date: 18th – 19th April 2013

Venue: EFT Farm Delsamme Place de Strépy, 2 7110 Strépy-Bracquenies

Notes from the Meeting

Attendees were;

Canal & River Trust (CRT)	UK	Chris Barnett
Canal & River Trust (CRT)	UK	Chris Bailey
Province of West Flanders	BE	Jasper Dugardeyn
Province of Hainaut	BE	Stephane Ramu
Province of Hainaut	BE	Julia Bailly
Province of Hainaut	BE	Fredderic Della Libera
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Ann Ryan
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Valerie Connolly
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Labhaoise McKenna
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Alan Walsh
Reuissir en Sambre	FR	Thierry Herbet
Reuissir en Sambre	FR	Lucile Vanderberghe
The Waterways Trust Scotland	UK	Karen Moore
The Waterways Trust Scotland	UK	Alan Forrester
Canal Connections	UK	Chris Radelaar
Canal Connections	UK	Alan Bolton
Wallonia Regional Authority	BE	Annabel Thise
PH & V Mons	BE	Dominic de Coster
La Navelle Gazette	BE	Marina Meunier

Introductions - No apologies were received.

Update on activities undertaken by the partners

Hainaut (see presentation)

Action 5 / 3 pilots

- Charleroi (from scratch)
- Delsamme (going well)
- Forestaille (going well)

WP3 Social outcomes / Training skills required. Structures for the enterprises etc.

Scotland Waterway Trust

HLF approach successful, so now can move G&BF budgets. 14 week programmes on skills development, cultural heritage / natural and built heritage. (A complete description of Activities was given).

Courses taking place at Edinburgh and Falkirk; Edinburgh – major landscaping, entrance to canal improvements. Falkirk – Excavating lock flight so real physical work.

First intake on way (recruiting now). Canal College with University College course (tourism). Leads to Certificate of Work Readiness (which is a good template for G&BF)

Communications

Radio Scotland interviewed Karen/Alan. Articles in Falkirk / Edinburgh Herald plus Newsletters.

CBai updated partners on validation of “accredited training”.

South Tipperary County Council (STCC)

See Presentation

Action 2 – WP2 & WP4

Stakeholder groups working well / work to involve Community Groups going on. Courses of Fourteen weeks taking place and 4 x per year.

West Flanders

- 1) Nature maintenance.
- 2) Maintenance of provincial green spaces (willow cutting, coppicing, etc.)
Labour intensive so ideal for Social Economy to deliver (doing this links very well to activities in G&BF)
- 3) ‘Seed from here’ (local seeds better adapts to local climate) so setting up network to understand local seeds / horticulture issues.
- 4) School / learning for disadvantaged, less able students – not widely used, so larger concentration on the plants from seeds initiative. Looking for how to favour these schools instead of ‘normal’ market.
- 5) A real interest and focus on volunteer (after Lichfield meeting, so good). Now waiting to make more ‘professional’ use of volunteers – Frog crossings is an early initiative. Volunteers use buckets to help them across the roads. Sounds an unlikely thing but it has led to contests between communities league table etc. Amphibian in greater numbers now as well now so good environmental / ecological benefits.
- 6) Green maintenance in neighbourhoods.

Sambre

Spirulene study – tenders out for various bits of this work, but starting late April. Meanwhile using time to set up structure and carry out communication activities.

Stephane asked about Action 5 – joint working between Sambre / Hainaut and how to do this. It was agreed that they should organise meetings between the two Organisations and agree joint working methods and what could come from these.

Scottish Canals

An update from Karen.

Appointing a Social Economic Officer so this should help with their input / involvement in G&BF

Helix development was explained and the setting up of social enterprises in the site forming the Social Enterprise Zone.

Scotland to host SG meeting (in June 14) around the formal launch of the site and partners will then be able to see live examples of these enterprises..

Canal & River Trust (CRT)

Update on G&BF activities in the UK (CVLPP update etc) and the volunteering work plus the route to achieving accredited training that participants will receive. Discussion around the benefits for other partners introducing such schemes and G&BF development of a European standard qualification (CRT/CWT/Scot Canals to lead on this)

Canal Connections Update about their work (with disadvantaged and outside of usual schooling students)– Agreed to formally approach JTS about adding them to the project

Link to National policies – yes. STEM agenda etc.

Partner Pilot Outcome Assessment

Pilot project outcome assessment – short presentations from partners as to how they plan to monitor & evaluate the results of their pilot actions

Hainaut – Hainaut showed 'Evaluation criteria used by the European Commission'.

Q. CBai – typical types of Evaluation/monitoring (independent of the project). Statistical based?

Scotland Waterways Trust – Outcome rather than output based. Impact project has had on a number of people (and size of that).

Outcome monitoring – Cbar needs Template for Indicators reporting.

Evaluation Template / STCC's Ireland example was explained and was good example of the sort of thing we need.

Agreed action - Karen to evaluate use of software package / Julia to send to Karen.

Other Items / General discussions

Brighton Study – discussion about the findings and information we can use from this to form our later work on the evaluation and framework

South Tipperary County Council – Cannot send to locals due to single exempt local user.

SEETF – Report – a lot done on this already.

Networking & Social Enterprise – Flickr / Linked in – various groups already using in other projects.

Communications Delivery - CBai to set up meetings with Volunteer Managers to source volunteers/students to help out. Sub group meeting will set/agree layout of content of the website to host outputs from the project and to publicise our work..

Training & Skills need of Beneficiary Group

Hainaut presentation - *Training & skills needs of beneficiaries groups and how they might be delivered*

Discussions about this topic and G&BF building on it.

Information from Karen and Labhaoise

Q. What is the situation in your Region?

Achievement/ pride

Lifelong learning

Cbai / VC / AR – C&G Certificate for volunteers who want it. On two levels linked to NVQ's:

- 1) Knowledge
- 2) Practical Application

AR suggestion. Use Irelands Module for a Social Economy Agency to advise e.g. RDA for Social Economy Group.

Discussion about the school teaching sector "promotion sociale"

Skills development etc - Sub Group will look at this SWT,STCC and Hainaut. This group will Come up with suggestions for the Common modules. Stephane will consolidate and report back in October.

CB Finance, Administration and Communications Report

CLAIM 1

Good 1st Claim – well received by JTS and FLC generally happy with quality of claim detail

Re-imburement underway and s/b made next week or so.

3 partners claimed,1 missed but close. STCC FLC issues.

CLAIM 2

All but Scotland in. V good..

Issues / Questions about the OLF?! Should turn out to be a good system – but usual teething troubles

After this Claim CB will provide a forecast / up to date Financial review so we can plan ahead (and be thinking about poss probs, budget changes needed etc)

CLAIM 3

Claim period; 1st Jan to 30th June 2013

To LP by 31st Aug 2013

To JTS by 31st Oct 2013

Just a reminder of the things to concentrate on

- Staff Rates
- Procurement
- Timesheets / Weekends & hols etc / Signatures (More detail on Timesheets)
- Exchange Rates (use of stated figs on receipts etc)
- Costs claimed Fit with Application
- T&A / set rates for Organisations
- Be careful with Budget Lines
- Remember NET costs - not inclusive of VAT

ACTIVITY REPORTING

Use the tabs on the Progress Reports and fill in your report for the period (LONG Report for April, SHORT Report for Oct)

Attach to OLF or send/e-mail additional Activity stuff (very important later on)

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE / ISSUES

Little bit behind – apologies but we'll get up to speed soon. However, we do have;

- Communications Plan
- Logo (leading to Branding)
- Newsletter templates

Need to deliver

- Website and promotion – Website needs to be external facing, so find a simple extranet to host project documentation etc (Discuss)
- Banners / Brochure (Discuss) what do partners feel will be useful?
- Contact lists (and build up of this) Need to build up a circulation list from our target audiences (Discuss)

SET OUT THE KEY ITEMS TO BE AWARE OF IN CLAIMS (IN DETAIL)

17H00 - Visit of Old canal site in Strepny (by bus)

19th April 2013

The “Forestaille” farm, rue Forestaille 12, 6540 Lobbes

The next day saw a visit to Hainaut's second site at Ferme Forestaille

Julia B presentation 'Green & Blue' – Belgium

Debate around unemployment benefits, issue in various countries.

Future Meetings

The next meeting was to be the SG Meeting and Conference in Tipperary in October 2013