



Rural Development Strategy
Steering Group

OPEN MINUTES

Held at 13:30 on Thursday 28th May 2015
in the Chamber of Commerce, Stanley

These minutes are draft until confirmed at the next meeting of the Steering Group

Present	MLA Phyl Rendell	(PR)	Chair
	MLA Ian Hansen	(IH)	Deputy Portfolio Holder
	Vicki Jackson	(VJ)	Senior Public Policy Advisor
	Martin Slater	(MS)	General Manager, FIDC
	Siân Nightingale	(SN)	RDS Coordinator
	Ian Campbell	(IC)	Senior Agricultural Advisor
	Dot Gould	(DG)	West Falkland Representative
	Neil Judd	(NJ)	Camp Representative
	Ben Berntsen	(BB)	East Falkland Representative
By invitation:	Anne Wagner-Gras	(AWG)	Development Manager, FIDC
	Steve Butler	(SB)	Head of Environmental Planning
	Andrew Crighton	(AC)	Rural Energy Advisor
	Sue Faria		Minutes
Public & Press	None		

1. Apologies for absence & welcome to new members

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Louise Pole-Evans and Keith Padgett.
- 1.2 PR welcomed Andrew Crighton, the Rural Energy Advisor, to the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 PR, NJ and BB declared a general interest.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2015

- 3.1 The minutes were then confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2015

- 4.1 6.2 RDS Map of Camp – SN advised that she is working on updating the map with the designer and it is hoped to have a draft available for circulation and comment by the beginning of July 2015.
- 4.2 7.1 Incinerators – BB asked to note that the information provided at the last meeting was to inform the Steering Group what facilities were available.

5. RDS Coordinator Update

- 5.1 SN updated the Steering Group on the progress made with the RDS action plan.
- 5.2 Grant Schemes – SN advised that there is still funding available in all of the RDS grant schemes.
- 5.3 Rural Tax Reliefs – VJ advised that the Law and Regulation Directorate are currently working on draft legislation.
- 5.4 Training Scheme – SN commented that the first aid training held in May received very positive feedback and it hoped that similar sessions can be held in the future.
- 5.5 Ferry and Coastal Shipping Contract Review – following the recent RDS user survey, FIG have now appointed consultants to review the different options available as part of the detailed contract review being carried out by the Director of Central Services. SN advised that she has been asked to coordinate a Camp tour with public meetings planned at Port Howard, Fox Bay and Hill Cove. MS highlighted that this is a familiarisation tour for the consultants to improve their understanding of the current system and what the requirements are for the future.
- 5.6 Camp Airstrips – the FIGAS General Manager is reviewing the possibility of funding assistance as part of the FIGAS fleet review.

6. Rural Energy Update

- 6.1 AC gave the Steering Group an update on progress to date, including meetings with Stanley and Camp based stakeholders. AC has been employed to provide free and impartial advice to the rural community regarding their energy requirements and also review the Rural Energy Grant scheme.
- 6.2 In the 2015/2016 RDS budget there is £50,000 available for the rural energy review, which it was agreed could be spent as follows:
- £5,000 for local travel and subsistence;
 - £5,000 for local energy workshops;
 - £35,000 for research projects with rural partners;
 - £5,000 for purchasing resource data and research equipment.

- 6.3 The RDS Steering Group also agreed to carry over any unspent funds from the 2014/2015 budget to boost the research and equipment/ data budgets. AC
- 6.4 AC also advised that to gain a better understanding of the energy requirements, he had prepared an energy survey, which would also assist the review of the Rural Energy Grant scheme he will start working on shortly. The RDS Steering Group agreed to review the survey and provide any feedback to AC over the next week. AC/All
- 6.5 AC advised that he has ordered flow metres and weather station data loggers. However, he added that he has only ordered a small quantity to test and ensure they are appropriate for the requirements needed prior ordering a large quantity to ensure the equipment is suitable. Following discussion, it was agreed that AC would liaise with IC to discuss the Department of Agriculture's past experience with weather stations. AC/IC
- 6.6 The RDS Steering Group thanked AC for his work so far.

7. RDS Water Grant Scheme

- 7.1 SN advised the Steering group that following the water site surveys earlier this year, a review of the current grant scheme had taken place. As FLH have committed to improving the water quality in their settlements by installing UV filters, it would be sensible to have a joint approach for the different options.
- 7.2 NJ advised that depending on the technicalities of installing the UV filters, external expertise may be required to provide local training. SN commented that NJ had agreed to make FLH's experiences available to anyone who was interested in the filters (which could include open training/installation sessions).
- 7.3 The RDS Steering Group thanked NJ for this offer and agreed in principle to provide funding support to FLH if external expertise was required.
- 7.4 SN also commented that as there is a larger budget available in the Water Grant Scheme for 2015/2016 and the current limit of £1,000 may be insufficient to cover a reasonable proportion of the costs of installing the filters. SN proposed increasing the grant limit to £2,000. The RDS Steering Group approved the increase of the Developing Camp Water Systems Grant from £1,000 to £2,000, effective 1st July 2015. It was commented that the contact details on the grant scheme form needed updating. FIDC
- 7.5 SN advised that following the circulation of the water site survey reports, all recipients had agreed to share extracts of their reports if they could help others in similar situations. IC agreed for this information sharing to be coordinated by the Department of Agriculture.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 Following discussion, the RDS Steering Group agreed to discuss the IC

Fox Bay Master plan update in the open section of the meeting and to circulate the related paper with the minutes of the meeting. It has also been agreed to include the Fox Bay Old Manager's House verbal update in the open section of the meeting.

8.2 Fox Bay Master-plan Update

8.3 SB presented a paper on the feedback from the master plan workshop held at Fox Bay on 18th March 2015.

8.4 SB informed the Steering Group that there had been good attendance at the workshop and constructive feedback had been provided.

8.5 The RDS Steering Group discussed the feedback provided by SB and it was agreed that as there is currently no set plan for the development of Fox Bay, a working group would be set up to focus on the issue. Along with IH, SB and MS, it was agreed that a representative from the Fox Bay community would be beneficial. SN agreed to circulate the report to Fox Bay residents along with a letter inviting the community to nominate a representative for the working group.

IH/SN

8.6 Fox Bay Old Managers House Update

8.7 MS gave a verbal update to the RDS Steering Group on the progress on the proposal for refurbishment of the Old Manager's House. It was noted that due to the extent and condition of the asbestos in the building and the fact that the electrical and plumbing systems were unfit for purpose, the original budget envisaged by the RDS Steering Group is likely to be insufficient.

8.8 MS advised that following discussions with the Director of Central Services, it was agreed a paper outlining the situation and future options would be submitted to Executive Council (ExCo). This will include all of the research carried out to date and feedback provided by the Fox Bay community. The paper will be circulated to the RDSSG for comments prior to submission to ExCo.

MS

8.9 TV satellite dishes

8.10 DG noted she had been asked if there was any funding available for TV satellite dishes. PR commented that this was a matter for the department responsible. It was agreed that IH would investigate the issue.

DG/IH

8.11 Expression of thanks

8.12 As this was SN's last meeting as the RDS Coordinator, the Steering Group thanked SN for her hard work and focus and stated she had made a huge difference to the RDS which was a credit to her.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting of the RDS Steering Group will be held at 1:30 pm on Thursday 30th July 2015 in the Chamber of Commerce.