

**Midlothian Community Learning Partnership  
Community Radio Project  
Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Notes from 2<sup>nd</sup> open meeting to discuss creating a station in Midlothian.

**Present**

- Kath Laing
- Neil Laidlaw
- Phillipa Bateman
- Sean Callendar
- John Ritchie
- Anne Stewart Kmicha
- Heather Dunn
- Susan Hunter
- Bob Proudfoot
- Lesley Kelly
- Karen McGowan
- Babs McCool
- Gordon Clayton

**Apologies**

- C Prior
- C Hutchings
- F Kmicha
- J Gould
- L Reid
- A Watson
- A Florence

Gordon Clayton welcomed new members and proposed that for the initial meetings that he would take chair until the group wanted to appoint someone within the group.

**Notes on previous meeting covered most of the point raised**

The notes had been sent to all those who attended, and posted on Midlothian on-line web-site. A number of people had made contact indicating interest.

**Feedback**

Babs McCool provided an update on National Development including the potential for funding from trusts and interestingly the Arts Council. There had been a lobby from Commercial Radio to stop community Radio coming into being or to at least reduce income from advertising. John Ritchie had a letter of support from federation of Community Councils and reported that 2 members had worked for BBC, one on the technical side of masts etc. John also mentioned the Sky Freeview launch and agreed to investigate the feasibility of using that as a vehicle for Community Radio. The Chamber of Commerce was also interested in the development especially if schools were involved. It was agreed that High Schools could be invited to provide programming and that Donald Mackay could raise this with Secondary Heads.

## **Funding**

Lesley Kelly, Funding Officer from M.V.A spoke to the attached handout. There was considerable discussion as to the best approach, Lesley mentioned that while the project may meet the criteria for a grant, funders are not always able to meet demands. It was agreed that the group should take up the offer of Newbattle CL Association (a registered charity) as the body to apply for initial funding. The start-up costs would be 20-30k with the computer & specialist scheduling software already available through long-term loan from Education Division. It was realised that a funding package involving numerous sources would be required. AA debate about a consultant versus a development worker took place. A sub-group was formed to meet with Lesley outwith the meeting. Phillipa, Sean & Heather agreed to take part. Bob Proudfoot advocated the need for one person to lead but the alternative (at this stage) was to bundle tasks together. Sylvia Northcote might also be interested.

John Ritchie & Susan Hunter agreed to look at scheduling so that we could paint a clear picture of what our output could be. Sean agreed to lead at looking at obtaining funding to create audio programmes i.e. homefront, that could either be broadcast or put on CD ROM. Neil & Kath were also interested in programming and the involvement of people with disability or older people.

## **Equipment**

The Clyde package was just under £20k. The company is setting up an exhibition on Friday 11th June. Several members agreed to attend on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June Travel Inn Morrison Street Edinburgh.

## **Premises**

The group had an opportunity to view the building occupied by the Yoshin Judo Club; the club are due vacate the premises at the end of June. The premises would have to be checked over and upgraded to make them sound proof. While other work may be necessary, the hut is large enough for the purpose and when augmented with access to the community centre may well be the most suitable base available. The building is owned by the Council's Education Division.

## **Route Map**

The annual window for applying for a full licence is likely to be Aug-Nov each year. While acknowledging that a mix of web-casting and restricted licences or the Sky option are unsatisfactory, they were a means of proving to Of COM and funders that the group were capable of fulfilling the obligations of a licence i.e. social gain and reasonable quality of output.

## **Performing rights/Mechanical Rights**

Most access radio stations are paying around £500 p.a. for each. Robin Morton had fed back to John that PRS were uncertain about charges and the expansion of Community Radio may bring higher charges. There was an incentive to encourage young local bands to provide original music.

**Planning Permission**

The hut would not require planning permission but the aerial mast would. There is a need to get technical advice on sitting of masts and whether a relay system would be required.

**Training**

Clyde may be able to offer evening training on the computer/software. It was suggested that this could be advertised to High School students. There is the possibility of NOF funding to work with teenagers to produce programmes which could either go out over P.A or through a web-site.

**Future Meetings**

Full group Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7.15pm in Newbattle CL Centre Gardiner Place, Newtongrange.

**Sub-Groups**

Would meet in the interim to get the project moving on several fronts.

## **LESLEY KELLY'S INPUT (COMMENTS)**

### **COMMUNITY RADIO: FUNDING ISSUES**

#### **WHAT ARE WE SEEKING FUNDING FOR?**

Do we want funding for:

- Feasibility Study
- Development Project
- Start up costs (approx. £20k and have £5k already)
- Staffing costs
- Premises costs
- Training costs
- Training

#### **WHO WILL APPLY?**

Need a committee, with a formal constitution and a bank account. Charitable status would also be useful. (Newbattle CLA).

In the meantime, another organisation could apply on behalf of the group.

#### **WHAT WILL FUNDERS FUND?**

Varies between founders, but as a basic rule factors want to fund projects, not organisations. This means that it might be easier to find funding to produce individual programmes, than on-going costs such as workers, rent etc. Most funders do not like to be the sole funder of a project, so it is likely that we will need a 'funding package'.

#### **WHY WOULD FUNDERS BE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT?**

Arts  
Community planning  
Disability  
Employment opportunities and skills development  
Heritage  
Volunteer development  
Young people

#### **WHICH FUNDERS MIGHT BE INTERESTED?**

#### **START UP COSTS**

- Awards for all (Arts/Heritage/disadvantage) £5k
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust 'Bridging the Gap' £5k

## **INTERESTED FUNDERS CON'T:**

### **Community Fund**

Funding is targeted on tackling disadvantage, with grants of up to £250000

Current priorities:

Disabled people and their carers, or

- People who live in area effected by social and economic change - urban and rural, or
- Black and minority ethnic communities and refugees or
- People living in the designated fair share areas which have had lowest levels of lottery funding (not Midlothian)

### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

To qualify for a grant your project must either:

- Conserve and enhance our diverse heritage, or
- Encourage communities to identify, look after and celebrate their heritage.

The project must also:

- Increase opportunities for learning about heritage; and
- Open up heritage resources and sites to the widest possible audiences.

Also have a Young Roots programme.

### **Scottish Arts Council**

Have a range of priorities based on different branches of the arts, but also including audience development, young people etc. Also have an equipment small grant fund (5k)

### **Robertson Trust**

Large, Scottish general needs funder.

Ave. grant: £5-6000 per year

### **Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland**

Large, Scottish general needs funder.

Ave grants £6000 for one-off and £20000 over three years.

### **Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

Currently in a period of transition, with current funding rounds ending in March 2005. Hoping to return to multi-annual funding from 2005 onwards. Priority areas are Mayfield/Easthouses and Woodburn, and project would need to significantly benefit these areas to get large scale funding (restricted at moment but possible).

### **European Funding**

We might be able to make a case that individuals (16+) will be gaining skills that move them closer to the labour market. There is European funding targeted on Mayfield/Easthouses, Gorebridge and Woodburn that we could tap into (ERDF). There is also funding available for the rural areas of Midlothian (Leader Gorebridge Fala etc).

**Voluntary Action Fund**

Funding for involving volunteers. The funding criteria for this is not yet available, (average no of volunteers 70-60-50 could be a way of funding a volunteer dev programme.