

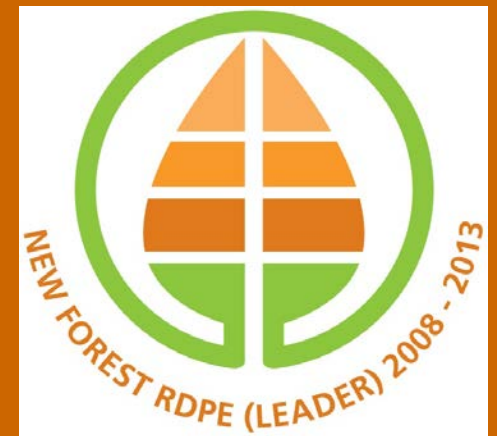
New Forest Local Action Group

RDPE (Leader) Grants

Sustaining the landscape of the New Forest

Sally Igra

Programme Manager





New Forest Local Action Group (LAG)

- RDPE (Leader) – EU initiative to provide rural communities with the funding to find ‘local solutions to local needs’.
- Delivered by the Local Action Group (LAG)– local people making decisions about grant awards and priorities for funding.
- The LAG had a budget of £1.4 million (2008 – 2013) to support New Forest rural businesses and communities.
- **The programme is now closed.**





New Forest LAG Priorities

- The priorities for the LAG were identified in 2007 by local people at stakeholder workshops. These were:
 - Farm diversification:
 - 16 projects funded
 - The forestry sector:
 - 21 projects funded
 - Micro-businesses linked to the land & local produce:
 - 12 projects funded
 - Community Facilities & Services:
 - 28 projects funded





What Didn't / Couldn't the LAG Fund?

We couldn't fund projects supporting 'primary agricultural production' i.e. farm machinery & livestock handling facilities.

- Why? Because the EU no longer provides direct subsidies to farmers

We didn't fund environmental education projects.

- Why? Because RDPE required this type of project to have an economic benefit for the applicant.

We didn't fund tourism projects which were not part of a farm diversification project.

- Why? Because at the time we bid for our funding there were other funds available for this sector.



New Forest LAG Achievements

- £1.4 million allocated to 78 different projects;
- 49 rural business benefitted from grants totalling almost £800,000; 86% supporting farming, commoning and forestry;
- Local communities received £604,000 to improve village facilities;
- Grants benefitted 232 rural businesses, helped create 23 new jobs & safeguard 190 jobs;
- Many grant recipients used local suppliers & contractors, helping to sustain other businesses within the supply chain.





Case Study: Support for Commoning

- Tom Hordle is a young Commoner who wanted to grow his part-time firewood business.
- A grant contributed 40% (£29,000) of the total cost of erecting a steel framed building – this provides space to season logs, so Tom can sell a high quality product, as well as keeping equipment secure.
- Since the building was completed the business has grown and now employs Tom full time.
- Sales of logs are increasing, there are many repeat orders and the customer base is growing.





Case Study: Farm Diversification

Pyesmead Farm, Plaitford – a livestock farm and B&B.

RDPE (Leader) grant of £60,000 supported 40% of the cost of converting 3 redundant farm buildings in to self catering holiday accommodation.





Case Study: Support for Local Producers

- Spice 'n' Easy makes chutneys & sauces - as far as possible using locally sourced raw ingredients.
- The business was run from home but the limits of space restricted possibilities for growth.
- A RDPE (Leader) grant of £1,900 funded 50% of the cost of equipping a small industrial unit.
- Spice 'n' Easy products have since received Guild of Fine Food Great Taste Awards and are now stocked in Fortnum & Mason in London.

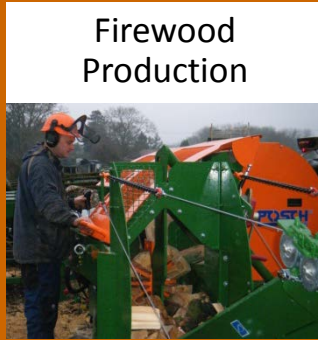




Case Study: Support for Forestry

- Well managed woodland benefits the landscape & wildlife - but there needs to be an economic incentive to do this.
- Many commoners supplement their incomes though forestry contracting & firewood sales.
- The LAGs priority for this sector was to support the development of businesses right through the supply chain.





Fuel-wood Production

Converting Timber

Grants adding value to forestry & woodland produce



Grants supporting the extraction & distribution of wood products



Grants supporting enhanced forestry & woodland management



Case Study: Support for Community Services

Bransgore Community First Responders use trained volunteers to attend medical emergencies until an ambulance arrives - for every minute lost in cases of cardiac arrest, the chances of pre-hospital survival reduce by between 10-14%.

In a year, they attend approx 250 emergencies – many in remote locations.

A RDPE (Leader) grant of £10,000 contributed to the cost of a new 4X4.

Since May 2013 the vehicle has been out on approx 60 emergency calls.

All were deemed to be a 'life at risk' call.





Case Study: Support for Community Facilities

The Perkins Youth Hall, Pilley, was built in 1927 but eventually the Youth Club was the only user.

Over the years some maintenance and minor repairs were undertaken but the facilities were old, there was no insulation and little heating.

A RDPE (Leader) grant of £14,629 provided 70% of the cost of renovation & repairs to the building.

In its first full year after the refurbishment, the hall hosted over 126 different 'sessions' as well as many individual events; helping to reduce pressure on other well used facilities in the area.





RDPE (Leader) – what next?

- Current RDPE funds are fully allocated & the programme ends December 2013.
- There will be another Rural Development Programme due to start in 2015– but we need your help & support to bid for funding in 2014.
- It is likely that farming, forestry & local producers will still be a priority but we need to know what other rural economy based activities and businesses should be priorities for support.



New Forest Local Action Group



Sally Igra
New Forest RDPE (Leader)
Programme Manager
New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
Lyndhurst
Hants SO43 7PA

Tel: 023 8028 5588

Email: sally.igra@nfdc.gov.uk

www.newforestleader.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON  @NewForestRDPE