

CABINET – 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RDP) FUNDING 2014-2020

APPENDIX 1

List of Acronyms

- WG - Welsh Government.
- RDP - Rural Development Plan. The title of the Welsh Government strategy and funding programme for the delivery of support to farmers and rural communities.
- LEADER - Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale meaning 'links between the rural economy and development actions'. The name of the locally delivered community based regeneration programme for rural areas within the RDP.
- LAG - Local Action Group. A local stakeholder group that serves as a steering group for the delivery of LEADER in each area.
- LDS - Local Development Strategy. The strategy and action plan document of each area for the purposes of the LEADER programme.

Examples from the current RDP LEADER in Caerphilly

Community

Developed a number of strong community led projects across the borough including the Pop-Up restaurant. The Pop-Up restaurant has developed from a pilot collaboration idea between the RDP and individual communities to a self sustaining income source for the Parish of Bedwelty and New Tredegar and the Upper Rhymney Valley Foodbank.

Food and Drink Network

We have created a food, drink and producers' network, bringing together a broad and varied range of local producers to support, develop, collaborate and consult on projects and ideas that support the local food and drink production sector. To date the food, drink and producers network have identified a number of opportunities to collectively develop their skills and with support from the RDP participated in a series of workshops tailored for local micro enterprises covering 'The Art of Display', 'The Customer Experience' and 'Your Business, Your Brand' and 'meet the boosting business competitiveness.

Publicity and Promotion

The RDP in Caerphilly has established a positive relationship with the local media including the South Wales Argus, Echo, Rhymney Valley Express, Campaign and Observer. We pride ourselves on innovative promotion and marketing at events such as Machen and Bedwelty agricultural shows, Nelson Ewe and Ram sales and the

Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, our presence establishing itself as a Caerphilly 'hub' for the county borough's competitors, exhibitors and visitors.

Arts and Craft

Created an ever growing network of artists and crafters from the County Borough's burgeoning creative community. Harnessing the wide variety of talent, we instrumental in the formation of an artist's co-operative and have developed the borough's first arts and crafts map and trail: 'Caerphilly Creatives', showcasing the talents of over 30 creatives, launched this year as part of an inaugural county wide Arts Trail Week which is likely to become an annual event.

Working Women

In partnership with Caerphilly Business Forum, this vibrant and successful cross-sector network has provided members with the opportunity to meet, work with like-minded women, share success stories, promote their business and make new contacts. Inspired the fact that many of the enterprises the RDP work with are owned or run by women, this innovative network has attracted such speakers as Dame Rosemarie Butler AM (Presiding Officer Welsh Assembly), Jacquie Williams, founder of Welsh Women Walking, the team from Kate Humble's 'Humble by Nature' as well as inspirational Caerphilly-based business women.

Hospitality Network

A network of café owners, Bed and Breakfast operators, public house owners and holiday let proprietors meet to discuss matters that affect the hospitality industry in the rural areas of Caerphilly. The RDP have delivered in partnership with the Caerphilly Tourism Association a project to provide the members of this network with stock publicity photo's to be used in publications and press releases to publicise their businesses.

Agri Network

In 2012 we established a network of local rural farmers and those involved in the agricultural community to consult on project ideas that support the local agricultural sector. The farming industry, due to its nature, is very often an isolated work environment. The Agricultural Network has given the farming community in Caerphilly an opportunity to meet on a regular basis and discuss ideas, have talks on a host of subjects including alternative energy and pest control and to request training sessions on several farm based disciplines that may possibly lead to diversification and creation of alternative income streams To date we have worked with our network to deliver:

- Training in rural skills (shearing, dry stone walling and hedge laying).
- A Caerphilly Rural Directory. This is a free directory designed to promote local services to the farming community. Over 60 businesses are included in the directory within the 10 sections of Abattoirs & Meat Processing; Associations, Organisations & Societies; Auctioneers and Livestock Markets; Business Services; Construction and Contractors; Forestry and Woodland; Machinery; Rural Services; Supplies and Veterinary Services.
- An investigation into the viability of biomass district heating for farmhouses located within Caerphilly County Borough using Whitehall Farm as a case study. This provides high-level technical and economic feasibility assessment including RHI payments to consider the most feasible options for both biomass district heating and individual biomass heating boilers.

Sustainable Energy

In 2011 two Sustainable Energy Officers joined the RDP Team. The main aim of their work has been to engage with farm households and rural businesses to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy and help them to adapt to climate change. The following are examples of successful projects the team have been involved with:

Energy Factsheets

The officers have created eleven factsheets providing information on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies aimed at a local, Caerphilly borough level. These are distributed to those attending events, or to those who have an initial query to the team.

Energy Surveys

The team offer free energy surveys with the aim of to offer impartial and independent advice to businesses and farms recommending how to become more energy efficient and provide information on viable renewable energy technologies. A report is provided that includes information, approximate costs and paybacks and signposts relevant grant information.

Farmhouse Energy Challenge

The team has completed two farmhouse energy challenges where farmhouse residents try and reduce their electricity consumption over a 4-week period with the assistance of advice and an in-home energy display. According to some estimates, households could see a reduction of between 5 and 15%. During the last challenge one farm household achieved a reduction in electricity use of 24%!

Fridge Freezer Competition

During September and October 2013 a competition was run to find Caerphilly's oldest fridge/freezer. The aim was to make people aware of the energy consumption of old inefficient refrigeration appliances and to encourage them to upgrade to more efficient versions. In total 121 residents entered the competition with the prize being a brand new energy efficient A++ fridge/freezer donated by Electrolux. The winning appliance was a 60 year old G.E.C fridge that has been now been donated to the Winding House.

Renewable energy advice

The Sustainable Energy Team has been working with farmers in the borough providing them with advice on renewable energy technologies. This help varies from completing desktop solar PV and wind studies (example Ty Isaf) to collaboration work (example Maes Yr Onn).

- Ty Isaf – Officers completed desktop wind and solar PV studies and information was also provided on owning outright or choosing a rent a roof solar PV company or ground rent option for a wind turbine. As a result of this assistance in September 2014 16 solar PV panels were installed on the owners south facing barn roof. She decided to pay for the panels herself, which will enable her to receive the feed-in tariff payments.
- Maes Yr Onn – The RDP Sustainable Energy team assisted the Davies family of Maes Yr Onn Farm who had gained planning permission to construct a farmhouse in a off grid location by putting together a partnership with the Davies family, Building Research Establishment (BRE) and SSE to help ensure compliance with all appropriate regulations including Planning, Building Regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3. They performed a handholding and facilitation role and acted as the key link between all those involved. Following completion of the build they are heavily

involved in the monitoring, training, education and awareness raising side of the project.

Climate Change Adaptation – Implications for Farms and Rural Businesses in Caerphilly

As a result of a wider Climate Change Adaptation Project being delivered by CCBC, the team worked with Netherwood Sustainable Futures to identify projected future climate changes, the implications for farms and rural businesses in Caerphilly and to identify actions that can be taken to mitigate and adapt to the effects. From this initial work officers created a set of factsheets to help provide generic information on how climate change will affect crops, livestock, soils, water, biodiversity and trees and what they can do to adapt. A pilot project with two farms/businesses was also completed with the aim of developing the methodology for producing climate change adaptation reports. Each report looked at how each site will be affected in regards e.g. livestock production, trees, soils, water/hydrology, biodiversity, crop production and business resilience by a changing climate and how they can adapt.