



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

AXIS 3 & AXIS 4 OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES 2007 - 2013

QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The purpose of the Quarterly Report is to provide a project level progress update and qualitative assessment of how Axis 3 and Axis 4 activities delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during previous quarter are contributing to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership's Local Development Strategy.

A Quarterly Report must be completed for each project electronically and a signed hard copy sent together with the claim form within **20 working days** of the quarter ending.

The Welsh Government will consider the latest Quarterly Report submitted by the Local Partnership in order to make a payment. Failure to submit the Quarterly Report within 20 working days of the quarter ending may result in the Welsh Government withholding payments.

The Quarterly Report may be distributed to other Local Partnerships, departments within the Welsh Government and the Programme Monitoring Committee.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Lead Body/Partnership Costs

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.17

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003165

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- **Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter**

The main issue this quarter is that there has not been a Finance & Monitoring Officer working as part of the Lead Body. One of the officers is still on maternity leave and the other officer has been on long term sick and has since given their notice to resign from their position. The Rural Development Officer has therefore taken on this role in addition to their other duties and will continue to do so until the other Finance & Monitoring Officer returns from maternity leave in May.

In early December the Rural Development Officer conducted a number of asset monitoring visits with the Monitoring Officer for the Welsh Government - Rural Programmes. This involved monitoring a sample of projects supported under Business Plan 1, namely the Realising the Potential of Tourism project and the Sense of Place project. All assets were still in place and being used for the purposes that were initially intended.

The Flintshire Rural Partnership held a quarterly meeting on 18th December 2012. There was a presentation from the Linking Flintshire's Communities project.

The Rural Development Officer and the Axis 4 Coordinator from Cadwyn Clwyd conducted a joint presentation to the Flintshire Regeneration Partnership on the 6th December. The presentation involved a progress report on the programme as a whole and an update on the developments of the new programme.

In February feedback was received by the Welsh Government on the Axis 3 N+2 applications. This comprised comments from both an initial check and then a thorough appraisal. The majority of queries related to financial matters and the Rural Development Officer submitted the revised finances. At the end of February notification was received from the Welsh Government that the extension and the enhancement for all the Axis 3 projects and Lead Body costs had been approved.

- **Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy**

The aim of the Flintshire Rural Partnership is to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural Flintshire by developing and implementing appropriate regeneration initiatives. The Partnership will strive to create a prosperous local economy and an improved quality of life for the people living, working and visiting the area.

The strategic objectives of the Rural Development Strategy for Flintshire (2007 - 2013) are as follows:

- To encourage local enterprise and initiative,
- To enhance the skills of the local workforce, including better opportunities for the young people in the rural area,
- To modernise and diversify the area's economic base,
- To support the development of sustainable rural communities,
- To benefit areas of need and alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area,
- To improve access to, and the provision of, basic services to the rural communities,
- To enhance the local environmental image of the area and to appreciate the rural heritage,
- To promote and strengthen tourism, culture and crafts in the rural hinterland, and
- To improve community awareness and participation in the area's future.

All activity undertaken this quarter still contributes to the aims and objectives of the Rural Development Strategy. The Business Plan 2 projects aim to tackle a wide range of issues including: encouraging local enterprise and initiative, improving linkages to enhance the access to basic services and facilities and improving the built environment of rural towns and villages.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature..... Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Flintshire Enterprise Bursary

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.52

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003513

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

• **Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter**

During the last quarter, 3 bursary applications were approved. In the January meeting, the panel requested additional information on one application, and this application was later approved by e-mail. Therefore a total of 35 bursaries have been approved to date.

Enquiries and submissions were very low during the quarter. Discussions with other agencies disclosed the fact that business related enquiries always fall before and after Christmas.

The Enterprise Officer, together with the Finance and Monitoring Officer for the Lead Body and the Monitoring Officer for the Welsh Government - Rural Programmes undertook capital asset visits during the quarter. Although time consuming, it was a great opportunity to speak to the bursary recipients about their businesses.

A great deal of time was spent in the last quarter, requesting match-funding, evidence of trading and the other forms needed to claim outputs for the project from bursary recipients.

• **Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy**

The Enterprise Project continues to encourage local enterprise and initiative by enabling people to start their own business.

This provides better opportunities for the young people starting their own business and also young people who may be employed by the new businesses.

The three applicants who were awarded a bursary in the last quarter were unemployed. Assisting them into self-employment and to come off benefits helps to alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area.

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For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature.....Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Linking Flintshire's Communities

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.54

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003530

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter

Mold/ Sychdyn - Northop/Flint Cycleway

Still awaiting a promotion plaque from the Welsh Government to erect on the site.

Gronant Pegasus Scheme

The implementation of this scheme has not gone to schedule but tenders have now been invited from 6 contractors on the list. The works should be complete on site by May 13th. It is likely the claim for this scheme will be made at the end of Sept 2013.

Talacre

The ecology report is now complete and indicates that a number of mitigation measures will be required on site. The project officer convened a meeting between the landowners (BHP and Environment Agency), RSPB, CCW, FCC Ecologist, Rights of Way and Legal to explore 3 different parts of the route. Discussions focused on the following:

- appropriate screening measures due to winter roosting birds;
- tenant farmer negotiations regarding the tenancy agreement;
- design issues at the entrance from Colliery Road.
- it is a Ramsar site;
- access issues for the Environment Agency to undertake flood alleviation works;
- there is badger sett on site, and
- landownership clarification and negotiations.

The Environment Agency suggested that an application for flood defence consent be issued for the whole route. FCC will apply for flood defence consent after planning permission. There are still a lot of meetings and discussions to be held. The window for the work to be carried out on site is May to August – likely to be 2014. A request has been made for a Valuer to be appointed to negotiate the easement between FCC and the landowners.

Footpath 64 & 69, Mostyn

Designs work for FP 64 is now complete. This will not go out to tender until the design work for FP 69 is finalised as they will be progressed as one scheme for cost effectiveness. Negotiations with Network Rail (landowner) have been ongoing for months regarding the enhancement of FP 69. Still need to agree what surface should be laid on the route. There is also an ongoing issue with mud being carried across the path by cattle. The adjacent fields are very boggy, particularly by the gates where the cattle congregate before crossing. The most the Highway Authority can do is get the tenant farmer to clear the mud after the cattle crosses. Negotiations are ongoing.

- Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy

The three schemes being developed in the last quarter will provide sustainable access to the Coast and to Tourism sites from rural villages in areas of social deprivation.

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For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature..... Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Flintshire Village Enhancements

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.55

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003541

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter

FLI.55(a) – Flintshire Community Key Fund

Projects developed and approved:

During the quarter, no projects have received funding through the Flintshire Rural Key Fund, however projects have been developed in the last quarter which will be presented to the Steering Group in the near future.

Projects completed:

Nannerch Memorial Hall – Renovations

In the last quarter the Nannerch Memorial Hall - Renovations Project was completed. The project provided funding for the construction of an extension to the rear of the building to provide much needed storage. This has helped existing user groups and has also increased the halls usability and flexibility. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,994.

Halkyn Parish Hall – Improvements

In the last quarter the Halkyn Parish Hall – Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding for the development and enhancement of community facilities for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. This included improvement to the main hall flooring, provision of user friendly tables, energy efficiency measures, ICT facilities and the renovation of the hall meeting room. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £20,613.50.

Pentre Halkyn Village Hall – Renovation

In the last quarter the Pentre Halkyn Village Hall - Renovation Project was completed. The project provided funding to replace the old felt roof with a long lasting waterproof membrane with improved insulation. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £20,735.88

Cilcain Village Hall - Internal Improvements

In the last quarter the Cilcain Village Hall – Internal Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding for the improvement to the heating and the insulation of the building and the electrical services. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,999.

Treuddyn Village Hall - Roof Renovation

In the last quarter the Treuddyn Village Hall – Roof Renovation Project was completed. The project provided funding for the renovation of the roof. The project replaced the old felt roof with a long lasting waterproof membrane with improved insulation. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £21,670.

Brynford Church - Community Space

In the last quarter the Brynford Church – Community Space Project was completed. The project provided funding for the provision of a community space developed at the rear of the church providing new facilities within the building, which included the toilet, kitchen and meeting room facilities and a hearing loop system. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,999.

Holywell Art & Craft Mill - Facility Improvements

In the last quarter the Holywell Art & Craft Mill – Facility Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding to improve the facilities decoration, ventilation and storage. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £10,966.

Rhydymwyn Football Club – Community Room Improvements

In the last quarter the Rhydymwyn Football Club – Community Room Improvements project was completed. The project provided funding to improve facilities within the community room of the club for the benefit of the community. As such, the project supported the fitting of triple glazed windows. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £4,318.

Future Projects:

There continues to be keen interest in the Flintshire Rural Key Fund from a range of organisations and it is envisaged that a number grant proposals will be presented to the Steering Group for assessment in the near future.

FLI.55 (b) – Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements

Talacre and Gronant Streetscape & Access Improvements

Work Stream 1 - Overspill Car Parking Sites

- Ramboll has now completed its commission on exploring the feasibility of overspill parking in Talacre; detailed designs have been completed on 2 sites: Bridlewood Riding Centre and Crofts Club. Proposed designs have been completed on the Warren, Gamfa Wen following ground investigation. An assessment is awaited on the possibility of using the ditch as off street parking in Talacre.

Work Stream 2 – Sense of Arrival/ Place

- 5 tenders were received on the 25th January and 4 interviews were held on 4th February to appoint an artist for the public art commission to create a better sense of place by designing, fabricating and installing arrival and place making features.
- The inception meeting has taken place with the Artwork Committee and a programme of work has been agreed with community consultation taking place in the coming weeks.

Work Stream 3 – Streetscape Improvements

- FCC Engineers have been requests to explore the feasibility of the 2 small sections of pavement improvements in both Talacre and Lower Gronant. Outline plans and costs due back by the end of March.
- Following an initial quote for the enhancement of the public toilets, a review of the specified works is being undertaken with the aim of bringing down the cost. This project will then be tendered locally with building contractors.

- Initial discussions have taken place to explore the possibility of lamp post banners in Talacre. A meeting with all relevant parties is to take place in the coming weeks. Additional funding to complement this work has been secured through Cadwyn Clwyd to appoint an artist to work with the community and design and produce the banners; the TVSE project will just fund the assessment and installation of the necessary post brackets.

Work Stream 4 – Signage

- A signage proposal has been considered by FCC Highways and signage applications are now being submitted for Gronant and Bridlewood signs. These will be subject to an initial assessment to determine whether such signs are feasible in this location and for the proposed content.

Holywell Streetscape & Access Improvements

- FCC Engineers have commenced the feasibility of the public realm improvement concept for Holywell High Street. The commission includes feasibility, consultation and detailed designs and is programmed to be completed in June 2013.

Mold Streetscape & Access Improvements

- Harrison Design Consultancy was appointed to complete the feasibility, consultation and detailed design of the re-design of Daniel Owen Square.
- Consultation sessions were held in early January with stakeholders and officers of the Council.
- Initial designs are being presented next week following assessments and feasibility. A couple of options will be chosen and further consultation will take place in March/ April.

Streetscape Improvement Grant Scheme

- One grants panel took place during the quarter – 26th February which considered 1 full application and 2 EOIs.
- To date 13 EOIs and 3 full applications have been approved and the scheme is now fully committed.
- Works has commenced on 2 of the 3 schemes awarded grant assistance and are due to be completed in March.

- Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy

FLI.55(a) – Flintshire Community Key Fund

Within the last quarter the activities listed above have taken place with advice and assistance from the Rural Key Fund Project Officer. The activities have broadly met the strategic objectives of the Partnership, as they supported the development of sustainable rural communities, benefitted areas of need and alleviated social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area and improved access to, and the provision of, basic services within the rural communities of Flintshire.

FLI.55 (b) – Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements

The Axis 3 projects continue to address the aims and objectives of the Strategy through

the following activities undertaken this quarter:

To promote and strengthen tourism, culture and crafts in the rural hinterland

- Improvements being planned in main tourism hubs – Talacre / Gronant, Mold and Holywell.
- Visitor facilities being considered alongside rather than as part of the project in Holywell.

To enhance the local environmental image of the area and to appreciate the rural heritage,

- Streetscape improvements being planned in Mold, Holywell and Talacre / Gronant.
- Exhibition facilities being considered alongside rather than as part of the project in Holywell.

To benefit areas of need and alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area,

- The improvements planned for Talacre / Gronant will benefit the residents in this Communities First area.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature.....Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow