



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

Appendix 1



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 June 2013 to 31st August 2013

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

The main task undertaken this quarter has involved catching up with the back-log of claims that required processing. As a result of the absence of a Finance and Monitoring Officer during the early part of the year, nil claims were submitted to the Welsh Government. This has resulted in up to 9 months worth of claims for some projects to be submitted for payment at the end of this quarter.

The RDP Evaluation Steering Group met in June to consider the first draft of the report produced by OldBell3. A number of comments and suggestions were made which has been fed back to OldBell3. The revised version will be discussed with the Rural Development Officer and Cadwyn Clwyd Manager early next month. It is hoped that the final version will be available for circulation during the next quarter.

The Flintshire Rural Partnership met on 25th June. There was a presentation from the Axis 3 Flintshire Rural Key Fund project and also a presentation on the natural and cultural heritage element of the Axis 4 Innovation Flintshire project.

• **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...5th September 2013

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 June 2013 to 31st August 2013

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

The demand for the bursaries within the last quarter has very high. A substantial amount of the Enterprise Officer's time was spent advising and assisting with applications.

The Bursary panel met on the 15th August, and appraised 19 applications. This was the highest number to be submitted to the panel in the history of the Enterprise Bursary. Of the 19 applications, 13 were approved. The following businesses will therefore receive funding to enable them to start trading:

Super Dog Centre
Bespoke Cakes
Fresh Fish Sales
Childcare for Autistic Children
Children's Nursery
Bookkeeping and Business Administration
Plastering Contractor
Trailer Maintenance & Cleaning
Oven Cleaning
Table top Games
Vintage Clothing
Dee-Licious Delights
Theatrical & Media Makeup Artist

This takes the number of bursaries awarded in Business Plan 2 to 58. The original target was 45, and this was increased to 60 through an enhancement to the scheme in March of this year.

The Enterprise Bursary was promoted at the Eisteddfod between the 3rd and the 11th of August. A picture of the stand can be seen below:

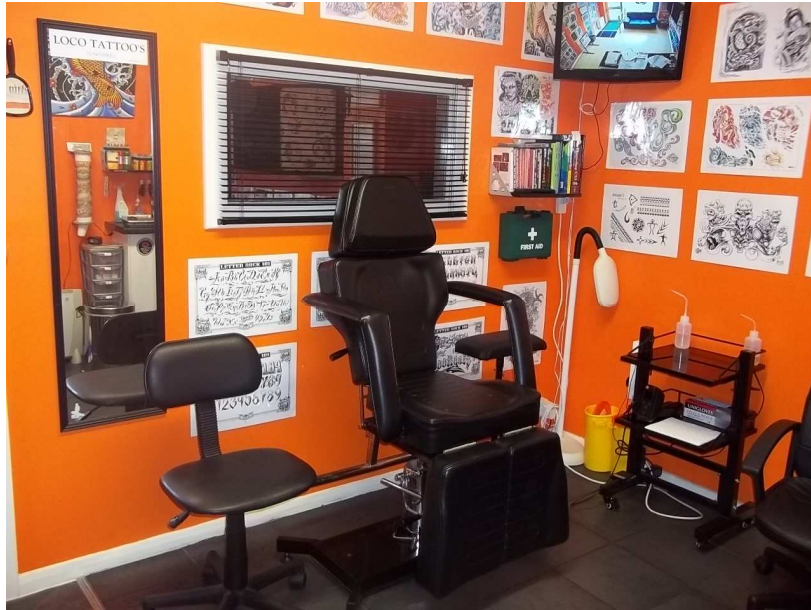


Capital asset visits were undertaken at the end of August. All assets inspected were in place, and it was a good opportunity to have a chat with the bursary recipients to see how their business was progressing. The following are three examples of businesses doing well:

Matthew Croxford, K9 Dog Training is extremely busy, with contracts to train army and police dogs in the UK and abroad.



Sean Jones who runs Loco Tattoo Studio in Holywell is fully booked until the end of October.



Victoria Edmund Powell, a child-minder from Caerwys is also fully booked.

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

Local enterprise is encouraged, through providing the means for individuals and groups to start their own businesses.

Better opportunities are provided to young people in the rural area, both by enabling them to start their own business, and as employees of businesses previously enabled to start their business through the provision of a bursary.

For example, Little Soldiers Day Care Nursery aims to employ 11 individuals on a permanent basis.

The area's economic base is diversified through the scheme as it allows businesses not currently found in the county, to start up. For example in the previous quarter, a bursary has been awarded to a Child-minder specialising in the care of autistic children. There isn't a specialist childcare provided of this type in Wales. Bursaries were also awarded to a dog care centre, a fresh fish supplier and to a business manufacturing table-top games. There were no existing businesses of this type within rural Flintshire.

As the bursary is available to unemployed individuals, it helps to alleviate social problems in the areas in which these individuals live.

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...9th September 2013

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 June 2013 to 31st August 2013

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

Mold/ Sychdyn - Northop/Flint Cycleway

Currently arranging for the promotional plaque, this has now been received from WG, to be erected on site. The scheme cost has been declared in the June claim quarter with the exception of one invoice which has recently been paid. This will be claimed in the September quarter.

Gronant Pegasus Scheme

The majority of works are now complete on site. Just awaiting an amended signal design from Siemens for the Pegasus Crossing. Some minor kerbing adjustment is required to allow the fitting of the signal box.

There are some disputes with the contractor regarding interim certificates; however a meeting will be taking place in September to try to resolve the issues. The interim certificates received to date will be included in the next claim.

Talacre

The scheme has now been designed and 3 costing options have been produced:

Option A – One section to be constructed using a limestone crush and run. The second section which traverses the perimeter of the Point of Ayr Colliery then onto the third section from Custom Lane along the old sea defence wall to the A548 to be constructed using tarmac. Initial estimation £332K

Option B – Two sections to be constructed using a limestone crush and run, the section traversing the perimeter of Point of Ayr Colliery to be constructed using Tarmac. Initial estimation £291K

Option C – The total route to be constructed using tarmac. Initial estimation £ 400K

Planning permission will need to be sought in September/October. To keep within the RDP budget Option B will be put forward in the application. However, if any further funding becomes available through the Regional Transport Fund (which would be increased levered funding) an amendment to the planning application will be made to either go for Option A or C, depending on how much extra funding may become available.

The Project Officer and the Design Engineer will be meeting with FCC Pollution Control to discuss the results of the Coal Report Search and discuss what sampling needs to be carried out on site before construction work starts. This will require the services of a

specialist company.

The Design Engineer is currently liaising with Delyn Metals regarding their planning application for a revised access to their site which may mean a minor change to the design of the route of the cycle path.

The FCC Ecologist is satisfied with the mitigation work and other works to be proposed. A specialist firm will be commissioned to carry out the planting scheme in the conservation areas, which will be paid by the project.

Footpath 64 & 69, Mostyn

Due to project costs no surfacing works will now take place on Public Footpath no. 69 but it will be signed and an information board will be erected at this location. The design work for Footpath 64 has been completed and the tender process took place in September. The tender has been awarded to GH Lewis at the tender cost of £47k. As the cost of works is less than £50K there will not be any need to have a legal contract drawn up and the work can be issued fairly quickly and the sums will be paid on invoice receipt before the end of the year. The Footpath Closure Order has been prepared which comes into effect on the 26th September, works are expected to start on the 6th October.

Project Costings

Discussions have taken place with the Lead Body, which has liaised with WG, on the possibility of submitting to WG later in the year NOCs and PAFs due to increased expenditure on the Mold/Flint Cycle Scheme and Gronant Scheme and possibly Talacre/Ffynnongroew if further funding becomes available through the Regional Transport Fund to implement a higher standard specification surface.

Progress with PIs

A questionnaire survey was distributed to County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors, MPs and AMs and business forums in June. Mold Town Council then advertised this in the Cittaslow newsletter which resulted in more people wishing to complete the questionnaire. 30 completed survey responses have been received which have now been analysed and charts produced to show results. Feedback will be provided back to the original consultees before the end of September.

The project officer is currently arranging the awareness raising event at the Clocktower, Mostyn on the 14th October 2013:

There will be a number of presentations and photographs and illustrations of the schemes will be made available on exhibition boards for people to view.

Invitations are being drafted to community councillors, county councillors, MPs, AMs, school governors, key organisations, stakeholders, land owners, WG representative and members of the Flintshire Rural Partnership.

Exhibition boards have been booked. Visual artist appointment on Friday 13th September to discuss materials for exhibition boards

Banners for inside/outside hall being looked into, refreshments have been costed, registration documents being designed, leaflets/posters have been designed to notify residents of event, other invitation letters have been drafted

A press release was issued for the Mold/Sychdyn – Northop/Flint cycleway

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

The Axis 3 projects continue to address the aims and objectives of the Strategy through the following activities undertaken this quarter:

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.

Scheme 1 - Implementation of a safe crossing and link to Gronant coast from the Sea Horse Ride offers enormous tourism potential. It also offers the potential to boost the economy in the area by attracting riders/ cyclists and walkers from as far as South Wales who may choose to stay in the caravan parks, B & B's and hotels. There is also the potential to boost the local economy due to the potential requirement for livery's, farrier's, saddlery and tack shops. The links onto the National Cycle Network also provide opportunities to access services and employment at Prestatyn.

Scheme 2 – Enhancing the public footpath which links the Maes Pennant Estate, Mostyn to the Dee coast aims to encourage the local residents to visit the Dee Estuary which is steeped in natural heritage and is an internationally important coastline. It also provides access onto the “All Wales Coastal Path”. The Dee Coast is managed by a park ranger who promotes the diversification and the rich heritage of the coast in this area.

Scheme 3 – Provision of this link will join up the coastal cycling network providing a sustainable transport corridor and access to tourism, employment and basic services in the rural coastal areas.

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... 11th September 2013

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 June 2013 to 31st August 2013

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

FLI.55(a) – Flintshire Community Key Fund

Projects Developed & Approved

During this period no projects have received funding through the Flintshire Rural Key Fund as the project is now fully committed.

Projects Completed

Pantymwyn Village Hall – Renovation

In the last quarter the Pantymwyn Village Hall – Renovation 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 replacing the Hall's existing external felt roof with a long lasting roofing material with improved insulation properties. The total cost of the project was £18,566.02, this includes the RDP contribution and the group's cash match funding element.



Before



After

Future Projects

There continues to be keen interest in the Flintshire Rural Key Fund from a range of organisations. However, the capital budget associated with the Flintshire Rural Key Fund has now been fully allocated. The Project Officer will continue to support and assist groups to progress projects already approved under the Flintshire Rural Key Fund to ensure successful completion of the project. Also, support will be given by the Key Fund Officer to assist groups in rural Flintshire to develop projects with similar aims to the Rural Key Fund and to help seek alternative sources of funding to enable such projects to be developed and realised.

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

Talacre and Gronant Streetscape & Access Improvements

Work Stream 1 - Overspill Car Parking Sites

- The draft legal terms and conditions for the Crofts Club and Bridlewood parking schemes have been completed. A planning application is currently being considered by the Flintshire Planning Authority for the Bridlewood parking scheme.
- Following a period of consultation on the remaining parking options available within Talacre (The Warren, Gamfa Wen versus the ditch along Station Road), the Council has decided to progress with a parking facility on the Warren (right hand side), at the end of Gamfa Wen, Talacre. This is the preferred option at this moment in time but is still subject to extensive permission and consents as it is located on SSSI land.
- Therefore, a package of three parking schemes is being presented to Flintshire's Cabinet in September to seek approval to implement these schemes.
- In the meantime all schemes are being progressed so that they would be ready to implement once approval is secured, i.e. ecology survey and further ground investigation are being undertaken as well as detailed designs and a draft licence are being compiled.

Work Stream 2 – Sense of Arrival/ Place

- CAMM Design has completed a programme of community workshops and awareness raising sessions within Talacre and Lower Gronant and the response has been very positive.
- Detailed designs have been completed on all four pieces of artwork following approval of the final designs.
- Planning approval and on-going arrangements for both the arrival features for Talacre and Lower Gronant have been finalised and the artists will commence fabrication in September for these pieces initially.
- Sites 3 and 4 located within Talacre centre have been subjected to further actions, i.e. removal of signage and ground investigation. These matters are being dealt with and a planning application will be submitted imminently along with Flood Defence Consent to Natural Resource Wales.

Work Stream 3 – Streetscape Improvements

- A review of the public toilets in Talacre continues to take place.
- A risk assessment has been completed on the lamp posts within Talacre with a view to erecting banners. The artist has been appointed to work with the community to produce suitable designs for these banners. A planning application will be submitted imminently.

Work Stream 4 – Signage

- Following initial assessment of three sign applications (Lower Gronant, Bridlewood and Talacre) approval in principle has been given by FCC Highways for the proposed content and locations. Detailed designs will be completed once the parking schemes have been approved and the terms and conditions agreed with the landowners.

Holywell Streetscape & Access Improvements

- Initial designs have been completed by FCC Engineers for improvements to the High Street.
- These proposals have been subject to consultation with the Town Partnership, Town Council and general public. This feedback will now help shape the

- proposals going forward.
- A steering group will be established for the next stages to include external representation, i.e. from the Town Partnership, Town Council or a business rep.
 - A report will be presented to Flintshire's Cabinet in September to seek approval to implement this scheme.

Mold Streetscape & Access Improvements

- Following consultation on the initial proposals for improvements to Daniel Owen Square various amendments have been made to the designs to ensure they meet the needs of key stakeholders as well as the general public.
- Issues with Welsh Water and the arrangements for the outdoor market have delayed finalising the designs but this is due to be completed imminently with the steering group.
- A planning application will be submitted in September for the improvements to Daniel Owen Square.
- A report will be presented to Flintshire's Cabinet in September to seek approval to implement this scheme.

Streetscape Improvement Grant Scheme

- One full application and one expression of interest have been considered this quarter, and both received approval.
- To date 14 EOIs and 4 full applications have been approved and the scheme is now fully committed. The grant scheme will now be closed.
- Works have been completed on two schemes in Holywell and works have commenced on two schemes in Mold.

- 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 Axis 3 Flintshire 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.

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...5th September 2013

Print name.....Sharon Barlow