



County Kildare
LEADER PARTNERSHIP

Jigginstown Commercial Centre, Old
Limerick Road, Naas, County
Kildare, W91 A2XE
Tel: 045 895450
Email: info@countykildarelp.ie
Website: www.countykildarelp.ie

2nd March, 2017

Dear Sir/Madame,

The Rural Development/LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is now moving into an operation phase in County Kildare. The new programme is quite different from previous LEADER programmes and there is a completely new set of procedures for the processing of all applications, including the following:

- **County Kildare Leader Partnership** is now designated as the **Implementing Partner** for the new Programme.
- **The Kildare LCDC** (Local Community Development Committee) **is now the decision-making body** in respect of the new LEADER programme. The LCDC is an independent committee established under Kildare County Council. This is a new procedure and is different from previous LEADER Programmes. Kildare LCDC will provide direction and oversight to the programme and will be the final decision maker on all project applications.
- **Kildare County Council** is now responsible for the overall financial aspects of the programme.
- There is now a **two stage process** for potential grant applications. The first stage is what is now being referred to as an Expression of Interest stage and the second is the full Application stage. This is also a new procedure and is different from previous LEADER programmes.
- The new LEADER programme 2014-2020 requires that a minimum of 40% of project funding is approved in time specific / **targeted calls for proposals**. This is a more competitive and targeted approach and projects will be assessed closely against the strategic actions of the Local Development Strategy for County Kildare.

Company Registration No: 450048
Charitable Status No: 17981
Cill Dara Ar Aghaidh Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta trading as:
County Kildare LEADER Partnership

Directors: Paul Croghan, Dermot O'Donnell, Sean Flannery, Tom Cross, Leo Mather, David Henshaw, Anne Coffey, Patricia O'Brien, David Walsh, Ned Loughlin, Dr. Hilary Tierney



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



'The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas.'



- **Targeted calls for proposals are time specific** and all projects under a particular category must be processed, evaluated and decisions made on a collective basis. There is no first come first served option under targeted calls for proposals.
- **For 2017, the LCDC has agreed that all projects will be processed on a targeted period call for proposals basis.**

Based on the Local Development Strategy approved for County Kildare, the following sectors are being targeted for action in 2017, as follows:

Quarter 1

- To support the growth of Kildare's tourism sector by improving and expanding on the quality and range of products on offer, particularly within hub/cluster destination development.
- Build the capacity of Kildare's tourism sector.
Preliminary 2017 Allocation: €206,114.00
Grants will be in the order of €5,000.00 to €50,000.00
Commence process for targeted calls for proposals in February 2017

Quarter 2

- Research and capacity building for LEADER type enterprises
- To support and expand LEADER type micro/SME and Social Enterprise in Kildare
Preliminary 2017 Allocation: €280,076.00
- Increase employment through renewable energy businesses and build greater awareness and capacities in this area of renewables.
Preliminary 2017 Allocation: €70,000.00
Commence process for targeted calls for proposals in April 2017

Quarter 3

- Support for community infrastructure and activities in areas of greatest need.
- Capacity building and technical support for hard to reach communities
Preliminary 2017 Allocation: €100,000.00
- Develop and enhance youth facilities and amenities and build the capacity of young people
Preliminary 2017 Allocation: €201,300.00
Commence process for targeted calls for proposals in September 2017

Quarter 4

For Quarter 4, the following themes will be the subject of targeted calls for proposals:

- Rural Towns – preliminary 2017 allocation €60,921.00
- Broadband – preliminary 2017 allocation €23,214.00
- Water Resources – preliminary 2017 allocation €20,000.00
- Protection of Biodiversity – preliminary 2017 allocation €120,000.00

The date for calls for proposals for Quarter 4 will be announced in due course.

The first call for Expressions of Interest is for Rural Tourism Projects.

Information Sessions on this call for Expressions of Interest and the Rural Development Programme will take place as follows:

Thursday 2nd March at 8.00pm in The Acre Project Community Centre, Maynooth Road, Celbridge

Tuesday 7th March at 8.00pm in McAuley Place Community Centre, Sallins Road, Naas

Tuesday 14th March at 8.00pm in County Kildare LEADER Partnership Office, Jigginstown Commercial Centre, Newbridge Road, Naas

Wednesday, 15th March at 8.00pm in the Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

We will be communicating further with those project enquiries we currently have on our database in respect of the sectors identified for each quarter in 2017.

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

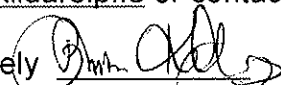
All applicants must complete an Expression of Interest Form (EOI) for each project. If your Expression of Interest form is deemed eligible in principle, you will then be given an application form and invited to submit your application for LEADER funding.

Stage 2: Application Stage

EOIs deemed eligible will be invited to submit a full application and we will work with eligible potential applications to guide them through the process. Invitation to application stage does not mean that you will be awarded grant aid as it is a competitive process.

I attach the Expression of Interest form which can also be downloaded from www.countykildarelp.ie or contact our office on 045-895450 / leader@countykildarelp.ie

Yours sincerely



Brian Kelly

Project Development Officer