

News Release

Issue Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Contact: Communications Assistant Linzie Carson (01224) 664611

Enterprising LEADER Projects to benefit local communities

Twelve new LEADER projects have been approved by the Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (LAG), bringing the total number of projects now approved to 102 with total funds committed to date of over £3.3million.

Four projects approved under the Rural Aberdeenshire Broadband Initiative will pilot two technologies to enhance broadband in Kinmuck, Boyndie, Ballogie and Arbuthnott.

Welcoming the initiative, LAG Chairperson Belinda Miller, said: "The broadband projects will not only improve internet connectivity for four rural communities, but will support economic development through enhanced broadband for local businesses within these communities. This initiative aligns closely to Aberdeenshire LEADER's strategic objective for a progressive rural economy."

Projects approved in Round 10 include works to improve community halls to meet modern day needs, improvements to a community run caravan park at Inverbervie, a promotional motor event at Turriff to highlight driving safety measures, a local heritage project undertaken in Kincardine and Mearns and a community wildlife garden created at Gartly School near Huntly.

The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland has secured LEADER funding from five LAG areas in the North of Scotland to control the spread of American mink, which can severely impact on the biodiversity of river systems. This strategic project will create jobs for project officers and involve local volunteering groups. This project will help to sustain Scotland's rural tourism's key fishing industry which generates significant income in the local economy.

Vicky Thomson, Rural LEADER Co-ordinator said: "As with previous applications, LEADER is attracting a wide range of projects from throughout Aberdeenshire, comprising both revenue and marketing projects. Other capital projects include improving the infrastructure of some of our village halls, which are key social hubs in local communities."

New applications for Round 11 of LEADER have been received and will be assessed by the Local Action Group at a meeting on March 14, 2011. The closing date for Round 12 applications is April 26, 2011.

Details of all approved projects to date and information on the application process are available on the Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER website:

www.aberdeenshireleader.org

News Release

Rural Aberdeenshire Broadband Initiative - Quotes

Project	LEADER Award
Kinmuck Area Broadband Project	£51,638
Quote	
Simon James, Director, Caleycom Limited	
<p>Caleycom is delighted and grateful to have been awarded assistance from Aberdeenshire LEADER for the Kinmuck Area Broadband Project. This Project represents a significant proportion of the funds required to roll out high speed Internet access to Kinmuck and a large part of the surrounding area. High speed wireless Internet access will deliver many very tangible benefits to the Community, utilising proven technologies to deliver broadband services. The Project is a major step forward for the rural area around Kinmuck and it shall help support a more sustainable future for the Community. This Project would simply not be possible without LEADER support.</p>	

Project	LEADER Award
Boyndie Broadband Service	£68,591
Quote	
Duncan Leece, Vice Chairman, Whitehills & District Community Council	
<p>Whitehills and District Community Council is absolutely delighted, and very grateful, to receive the offer of LEADER funding to address the lack of Broadband availability in Boyndie. We intend to top it up with money from our windfarm income. Lack of Broadband has been a huge problem for almost a hundred local households and businesses, who found themselves unable to access modern services and information sources we all now take for granted. The problem was getting worse each year, and the community has been working very hard for several years to find a solution. We were out of ideas, until the LEADER opportunity arose, and it will now fund what we hope will prove a radically better service. We would ask any Boyndie residents to contact us via Boyndie Visitor Centre, for more details.</p>	

Project	LEADER Award
Broadband – Ballogie Community	£30,083
Quote	
Malcolm Nicol, Ballogie Estate Enterprises	
<p>For both social and economic reasons good internet connections are an essential lifeline for rural communities. LEADER funding will ensure that remoter areas in Aberdeenshire such as Ballogie can be part of global technological advances. Without this funding we would not be able to afford the capital costs involved in obtaining reliable landline broadband.</p>	

News Release

Project	LEADER Award
Arbuthnott Community Broadband Challenge	£45,353
Quote	
Isabella Williamson, Secretary, Arbuthnott Community Association	
<p>We are delighted and very excited that the community of Arbuthnott has been awarded LEADER funding under the Rural Aberdeenshire Broadband Initiative. This is a fantastic opportunity to address the long term problems experienced with Broadband in the area and the social benefit to the whole community in having an enhanced Broadband capacity will be invaluable.</p>	

Total LEADER Award for Rural Aberdeenshire Broadband Initiative	£195,665
--	-----------------

Round 10 Quotes

Project	LEADER Award
Strategic Mink Control in Northern Scotland	£63,029
Quote	
Chris Horrill, Project Development Manager, Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland:	
<p>Invasive non native species (INNS) damage our environment, the economy and the way we live. American mink is an aggressive invasive species that has been found to be a significant opportunistic predator of a wide range of native and game species of biological, ecological and economic importance in Scotland. As such mink threatens a number of the resources upon which the local economies in northern Scotland are based for example angling, shooting and nature based tourism. LEADER funding has enabled the partnership of a broad range of stakeholders to implement this project, the largest single INNS mainland control project in the UK and Europe, to help protect Scotland's native biodiversity. The partnership consists of the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, University of Aberdeen, Scottish Wildlife Trust and a number of locally based organisations and individual volunteers.</p>	

Project	LEADER Award
Revitalisation of Millbank Hall (Phase 1)	£35,149
Quote	
Sylvia Henry, Secretary, Millbank Hall Community Association:	
<p>The Management Group of Millbank Hall Community Association, Sauchen are absolutely delighted to receive an award of £35,159 from the LEADER fund. This, along with other funding, will make an immense difference to our funds situation.</p> <p>This massive boost will allow us to undertake the much needed revitalisation of</p>	

News Release

Millbank Hall in 2011. The installation of a new kitchen and serving area, a new re-designed toilet area with disabled toilets and rewiring throughout the building will help to bring the Hall up to modern day standards.

Thanks to LEADER funds these works can go ahead in 2011. This will be a great step forward for Millbank Hall. We are excited about getting started soon.

Project	LEADER Award
Inverbervie Community Caravan Park Improvements	£83,195
Quote	
Alick Smith, Chairman, Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Caravan Park Ltd:	
The committee of the Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Caravan Park Ltd are pleased to announce the award of £83,195 towards the total project cost of £206,000 to provide practical facilities to all persons visiting our caravan site whether residential or touring.	
This award will enable the committee to proceed with securing the additional funding required to enable the project to commence.	
We are grateful to the LEADER Programme for the award and the team's assistance throughout the process and cannot thank them enough.	

Project	LEADER Award
Turriff Motorfest 2011	£16,232
Quote	
Carolyn Maniukiewicz, Co-ordinator at Turriff and District and Director of Ideas In Partnership:	
We are absolutely delighted to accept the award on behalf of Turriff and District Ltd. The motorfest is an event that is welcomed by the whole community on a variety of levels, those being to encourage safe driving and the love of driving and also to create a sustainable event that will bring economic benefit to Turriff and the surrounding catchment areas.	
The event is also one that has captured the imagination of young and old alike as whether you are interested in classic cars or modified cars your pride in your motor vehicle is the same.	

Project	LEADER Award
Monymusk Village Hall Development	£97,511
Quote	
Peter Grant, Project Co-ordinator, Monymusk Village Hall Committee:	

News Release

The Monymusk Village Hall Committee is delighted to have been awarded £97k of funding from LEADER towards its development proposals for the Village Hall. The award of this funding is fantastic news. As a direct result, we will now be able to commence work to improving the facilities for current and prospective users, whilst reducing energy costs. After several years of fantastic community fundraising, with the contribution from LEADER, 2011 is going to be an exciting year as our plans are brought to reality to improve facilities and to secure the long term sustainability of the Hall.

Project	LEADER Award
A Mearns Heritage: 1980-2013 (Forest View Centre)	£20,961
Quote	
Claire Will, Manager, Forest View Centre:	
We are delighted to have been awarded LEADER funding for The Mearns Heritage Project. This means that we will be able to take the Project to the coastal and rural communities of the Mearns, and involve people with learning disabilities, along with community and heritage groups. Without this funding the Project could not have gone ahead, and we are grateful for all the support and guidance during the application process. This is a great Christmas present for our service users, who will form the Project Team, and will contribute to building new Heritage knowledge and research.	

Project	LEADER Award
STBF Bothy & Shore Street Development Feasibility Study	£5,000
Quote	
Roger Goodyear, Chairman, Scottish Traditional Boat Festival	
The award just made to the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival has made possible the undertaking of a vitally important feasibility study. This will explore major projects at the Salmon Bothy and Shore Street buildings in Portsoy with the potential for significant opportunities for employment in tourism and educational programmes, all of which will be of importance for the future strength of the community.	

Project	LEADER Award
Gartly School Wildlife Garden	£4,500
Quote	
Ann-Marie Freeman, Chair, Gartly Parent Partnership:	
The students, staff and parents of Gartly School would like to thank the Aberdeenshire LEADER Programme for their generous support of our project. The £4,500 of funding provided by LEADER, together with other funding we have sourced, will enable us to build a wildlife garden and outdoor classroom in the	

News Release

grounds of Gartly School. The garden will be a place of learning, fun and relaxation for the school and local community and sees the fruition of a long held dream. Thank you for making those dreams come true.

Total LEADER Award for Round 10	£325,577
--	-----------------

ENDS

Contact: Communications Assistant Linzie Carson

Email: linzie.carson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01224) 664611

Fax: (01224) 665204

Notes to Editors

LEADER is an innovative rural development programme which aims to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural communities through locally driven rural development initiatives and projects.

LEADER is funded by the Scottish Government and the European Commission with match funding from public bodies and the project groups. The Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER Programme was launched in June 2008.

The Local Action Group (LAG) was awarded LEADER funds of £4.52 million to deliver its strategy in Aberdeenshire rural areas and communities with populations of less than 5,000.

The LAG has a membership of 14 partner organisations, 50% from the public sector and 50% from the private sector. More than 50% of the organisations represented on the LAG are also members of Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership.

Vicky Thomson

LEADER Co-ordinator

Tel: 01467 628383

Vicky.thomson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Anne MacLennan

LEADER Administrator

Tel: 01467 628299

anne.maclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Website: www.aberdeenshireleader.org

Endnotes