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Spring growth for new LEADER Projects in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (LAG) has approved nearly £212,000 of funding for local groups under the latest round of the LEADER programme.

The LAG met in St Ninian's & Forglen Church in Turriff on March 15 to consider Round 7 applications.

A total of 72 LEADER projects have now been approved in Aberdeenshire, with overall grant of £2.1 million committed towards total project costs of £7.7million.

The LEADER projects that received a share of £211,882 from Round 7 are:

Project	LEADER Award
Insch Institute Sports Hall	£67,200
Aboyne Into Martignas Exchange	£4,987
Making the Most of Aden Country Park	£37,386
CLAN in the Community	£52,990
Wildlife Crime Education Officer	£38,400
Monymusk Hall Development: Scoping Study	£2,644
Haddo Widening Participation - Foundation Phase	£4,000
Options Appraisal of Boyndie Kirk	£4,275
Total	£211,882

Councillor Peter Argyle, chairman of Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee said: "One of the most positive aspects of LEADER is the high level of buy-in from partners in projects. Match funding is being confirmed from a wide range of public and private sources.

"This adds value to the LEADER budget and demonstrates real partnership working between the groups and organisations that are supporting projects that deliver community benefit."

Councillor Jill Webster, vice chair of the committee said: "It is great to see that local groups are making use of the funding available to help their community; when these resources are available it is important that people make use of them.

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“This funding can open so many doors for projects and communities and I hope that round 8 will be just as successful.”

LAG Chairman, James Knowles, said: “Yet again, we have seen a wide array of LEADER projects coming forward including feasibility studies, a new build of a community sports hall at Insch, a co-operation project between Aberdeenshire and Moray for a specialist wildlife crime education officer and projects relating to community health and wellbeing.”

New proposals for future projects are currently being worked on and the closing date for Round 8 applications is Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Details of all approved projects to date and information on the application process can be found at: www.aberdeenshireleader.org

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Notes to Editors

Insch Institute Sports Hall - LEADER grant £67,200

The project relates to the construction of a Community Sports Hall adjacent to the Insch Institute. The project will provide much needed new facilities which will enable a comprehensive programme of youth training. Insch Hospital will also benefit from availability of the new indoor facility. The project is well supported by various community groups in the Insch area including Active Schools Initiative.

Aboyne into Martignas Exchange - LEADER grant £4,987

The project will undertake a programme of events to showcase the Aboyne area to a delegation from Martignas sur Jalle in France. This will develop strong links between the two communities and will lead to the signing of a formal Twinning Agreement in August 2010. The proposal will stimulate tourism and create valuable educational links and economic benefits for the area.

Making the Most of Aden Country Park - LEADER grant £37,386

The project aims to develop a five-year strategic plan for Aden Country Park to increase use and ensure sustainability of the facility. An Officer will be employed for an 18 month period to carry out consultation in the community and with visitors to establish what priorities the community wish to focus on in development of Aden Country Park.

CLAN in the Community - LEADER grant £52,990

CLAN provides support for cancer patients and their families through counselling and complementary therapies. The project will employ 3 local co-ordinators to provide cancer support services to the rural communities of Aberdeenshire. Suitable venues will be

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identified to deliver the unique service to clients. There is wide ranging support for the service which is additional and complementary to NHS care.

Wildlife Crime Education Officer - LEADER grant £37,800

This is a joint application with Moray LEADER to promote community and educational awareness of wildlife crime. The project will create a new 3-year post of Wildlife Crime Education Officer to deliver a range of awareness raising and prevention priorities to school pupils, encouraging respect and pride in the environment. The Officer will also work with Landowners and Land Managers. North East Grampian Police are pioneers in this area and the post, which is a first for Scotland, may be considered for roll-out across Scotland following this project.

Monymusk Hall Development: Scoping Study - LEADER grant £2,644

The project relates to a professional study to carry out an appraisal of development works in Monymusk Hall. The study aims to identify total project costs for future funding applications towards capital costs of developing the Hall. The study will consider improving energy efficiency and also major building works to expand storage space and add a disabled toilet. The project will ensure that any measures undertaken in the future will be cost effective and will ensure the long term sustainability of the Hall.

Haddo Widening Participation – Foundation Phase - LEADER grant £4,000

The project relates to the employment of an Officer over a 5 month period to promote the wider use of resources at Haddo in terms of cultural arts. A key element will be the establishment of the Haddo Foundation which will focus on ways of widening the participation of opportunities for Haddo. The project will work towards developing a business plan for the Haddo Foundation and will be a pre-cursor to the action plan for the future.

North East Scotland Preservation Trust - LEADER grant £4,275

The project will undertake an options appraisal on the category B listed Boyndie Kirk to determine what future use could be made of the building. Originally a Parish Church, the building was converted into an art gallery but was badly damaged by fire in 2000 and has been unoccupied since then. Community consultation will be carried out to establish the preferred use for the building in the future. There are various options for potential community use.

Endsnotes