

## LAG NEWSLETTER 2

### PROGRESS & DEVELOPMENTS

NRBAS submitted the first of the three year rolling delivery plans for each of the LAGs at the end of January. Thank you if you submitted an initial project idea in time for inclusion in these plans, as that has communicated to EEDA the early interest in the Leader Approach in Norfolk and Suffolk and the types of projects coming forward so far.

While the end of January was a deadline for the first delivery plan, there is no deadline for submitting project ideas which may be sent in at any time during the life of RDPE (until 2013) – although of course we are keen to hear from you sooner rather than later, while there are still plenty of funds for the LAGs to allocate.

We have updated the Initial Ideas forms on the website to show additional information such as the maximum grant rates set by the EU for each measure. While it is unlikely that many projects will receive funding at the maximum rate, it does give an indication of how rates vary between measures.

We have also written guidelines for applicants which outline the criteria we will take into account in order to assess eligibility and to prioritise project ideas for development. A copy of these guidelines will be sent to all those who put forward an idea.

In the meantime, whether you have already submitted an idea or are considering doing so, if you would like to discuss your ideas informally, please contact the following:

Brecks LAG

Rosemary Hoskins 01440 783713 or 07767 250825, [ecologie@aol.com](mailto:ecologie@aol.com)

Waveney Valley LAG

Paul Seggons, 01728 724335 or 07989745047, [paulseggons@aol.com](mailto:paulseggons@aol.com)

Norfolk Coast & Broads LAG

Rosemary Hoskins 01440 783713 or 07767 250825, [ecologie@aol.com](mailto:ecologie@aol.com)

or Richard Rampton 01603 731 241 or 07717 290 315, [richard.rampton@ruraladvice.co.uk](mailto:richard.rampton@ruraladvice.co.uk)



### YOUR WORKING GROUPS NEED YOU

Working Groups are the mechanism for LAGs to work on the priority issues identified in the first Delivery Plans, in particular for considering the sort of projects they would like to see and identifying who might work on them. These small groups will be made up of specialists with an understanding of and passion for their topic. They do not need to be LAG members and the distinction between private, public and voluntary sectors is not important within these groups.





February 2009

Each LAG has identified three thematic working groups. Meetings have been arranged in March to brief group members on identifying strategic priorities and the issues which will need to be considered when developing project ideas.

All three working groups within a LAG will be briefed together about the ways to optimise chances of receiving funding for a project idea and then each of the working groups will meet in parallel. For this reason it will only be practicable to sign up for one working group at this stage.

Please sign up for the working group which best fits your interests (see below) and/or feel free to nominate someone who you feel would be valuable in this role (please ask them first if they are willing to be involved) by emailing Binny Lenihan, [blenihan@easton-college.ac.uk](mailto:blenihan@easton-college.ac.uk).

### **Working Groups:**

#### **Brecks:**

**Natural Resources** (conserving natural resources, particularly water and energy )

**Adding Local Value** (developing supply chains in local food and wood products )

**Developing Sustainable Tourism** (long-term sustainability for tourism in the Brecks )

The objectives of supporting farm-based diversification, improving technical and managerial skills and identifying opportunities from the Thetford Growth Point agenda will cut across these working groups and, as appropriate, will be integrated into projects developed by them.

#### **Norfolk Coast & Broads:**

**Growing Sustainable Businesses** (farm diversification; development of micro-enterprises, especially those making sustainable use of the natural environment )

**Developing Efficiencies and Adding Value** (e.g. efficient use of water and energy; adding value to local supply chains of sustainably-produced food and wood )

**Tourism and Heritage - Developing Best Practice** (encouraging tourism activities, conservation and upgrading of rural heritage )

Each working group will integrate into their activities the cross-cutting themes of protection of biodiversity, preserving local distinctiveness and mitigation of climate change.

#### **Waveney Valley**

**Developing a clear identity for promoting the Waveney Valley** (particularly involving tourism projects and heritage projects )

**Increase added value and supply chain opportunities** (linking together businesses producing, processing, packaging, promoting and selling food and other rural products ) .

**Support for micro-business creation and development** (developing projects for supporting micro-enterprises to link rural areas and market towns )

Establishing and promoting the identity of the Waveney Valley is seen as the overarching theme for this area, providing opportunities for businesses to link into and to exploit.

### **Upcoming Meetings - Dates to Remember**

The initial Working Group meeting dates are

**Norfolk Coast & Broads**    **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** 2.30-5pm

Norfolk Coast Partnership, The Old Courthouse, Baron's Close, Fakenham NR21 8BE

**Waveney Valley**                    **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** 2.30-5pm

BOCM Pauls, Tucks Mill, Burston Pavilion, Burston, Diss IP22 5TJ

**Brecks**                                    **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** 2.30-5pm

British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU.

**You are invited: RSVP: [blenihan@easton-college.ac.uk](mailto:blenihan@easton-college.ac.uk)**



*Preparing Farms and Rural Businesses for the Future*

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