



# Rural Development Programme for England

## Local Delivery in Norfolk & Suffolk

November 2010

### More projects are encouraged to apply to Local Action Groups in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Whilst healthy numbers of projects are in development we still need to see more good project ideas coming forward for funding. If you have a project idea all you need to do is visit our website and complete a simple Ideas Form. If you have any problems you can always Lindsey on 01603 748844 ext. 3.

If are in a position to promote the programmes to your clients, stakeholders or customers; you might be a member of a parish council, a network club or part of a farming co-operatative—please contact us for some promotional leaflets or postcards.

### Social Enterprise combining care of the land with care of the people receives funding

#### Doeke Dobma of Clinks Care Farm

The 143 acre Norfolk County farm offers therapeutic and work preparation placements for disadvantaged people from the Yarmouth and Waveney areas and individuals use their experience on the farm to help them recover from ill health, including mental health problems and prepare for the real world of work.

The funding of £50,000 has allowed us to start building a 'log cabin' to house a small office, toilets and kitchen/mess or training room. The kitchen will also allow us to run a community cook programme, process our produce through activities such as pickling and jam making and run a community cook programme. Without the log cabin it would have been difficult to develop as a care farm as our facilities are not suitable.

We always felt that the people involved in Waveney Valley LAG were really supportive of what we were trying to do from the beginning. Originally we were going to apply for a large grant. But we took on the tenancy of the farm on in October 2009 and needed the care farm to be up and running as soon as possible to ensure its financial viability as a county farm and social enterprise.

The support from our facilitator, Paul Mace, in making some difficult decisions regarding the LEADER grant was invaluable. To speed up the process we discussed applying for a small grant that would only finance the log cabin, rather than a large grant which would have financed various things at the care farm. In the end we decided to apply for a small grant of £50,000 and secured other funding for other aspects of the care farm.

Doeke Dobma, Farm manger and Director at Clinks Care Farm Ltd says "We knew that care farming was part of the Waveney Valley LAG Local Development Plan and we are delighted that through the RDPE grant that we are able to spread the word of care farming in our rural community, offering hope and structure in people's troubled lives"

**If you have a project idea and think that it may be eligible for funding, visit our website [www.ruralhub.info/lag](http://www.ruralhub.info/lag), where you will find details about how to apply.**



*Farm helpers' working on the land after induction and training - Participants have the opportunity to take part in all aspects of farm work such as animal husbandry, using machinery, working in the market garden, maintenance and conservation.*





## A day in the life of a RDPE Facilitator

### Paul Mace - Waveney Valley

No two days in this job are ever the same. The work place landscape is constantly changing and a colleague accurately describes the job as like being on a "rollercoaster".

My role is varied and I am currently facilitating on around 40 projects at different stages of their life cycles. The day may consist of a project visit to a farm to help an applicant understand the forms and processes of the programme; establishing an applicant's capabilities and assessing them as individuals early on is important and shapes the future facilitation of a project. I predominantly work out of a satellite office in my patch and most of the day will consist of helping applicants by phone and e-mail. The best days include a funded project launch; knowing that I have made a difference and helped not just an individual business but my own local rural economy to evolve, sends me home happy.



## European grant benefits Equine Tourism Scheme



RDPE funding has meant that proprietor Sharon Dawson of Bardwell Manor Equestrian Centre has been able to expand her business and encourage holiday makers to holiday with their horse.

The grant, which will fund half of the £10,000 project, has allowed the business to install electricity points for visitors to camp on site in their own horseboxes and to build a shower block for visitors to the site. Visiting horses are able to graze in their own paddock adjacent to the camping area or if preferred can be stabled.

Sharon explains, 'through obtaining the funding we have been able to go ahead and actually make the project happen, although sometimes challenging at times we have received tremendous help and guidance through the Brecks facilitator Steve Howard'.

The project as it not only promotes environmentally sensitive tourism but also brings new visitors to the area allowing them to discover the sights of the area in a green and sustainable manner.



**So if you have a project idea and think that it may be eligible for funding, visit our website [www.ruralhub.info/lag](http://www.ruralhub.info/lag), where you will find details about how to apply.**



## RDPE Facilitators in Norfolk & Suffolk

### The Brecks - Steve Howard

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### The Rural Enterprise Hub

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