



Rural Development Programme for England
Local delivery in Norfolk & Suffolk

LAG Newsletter

November 2009

Full Steam Ahead for Rural Funding Programme

Congratulations to the Wells and Walsingham Light Railway on being the first project to receive funding under the Norfolk Coast and Broads Rural Development Programme.

The Garratt Boiler project has secured a grant of £38,300 to support the building of a new steam locomotive for the light railway. The new capacity created by this funding means more visitors will be able to enjoy the attraction of a steam train trip between Wells and Walsingham in future years and this will encourage higher levels of tourism-related expenditure in the area.

Owner and creator of the railway, Lt. Cmdr. Roy Francis commented "We are extremely pleased to be awarded this funding for our railway. Without an extra locomotive we have been turning people away because we haven't had enough seats during peak times. With this funding, we can run two steam locomotives, increasing our capacity to accommodate coach parties, and generate enough work and income to afford an apprentice engineer".



The new steam boiler and locomotive will be created over the next few months with the support of engineering students and one apprentice as part of their Performing Engineering Operations Part 2 course at the College of West Anglia in King's Lynn. Volunteers from the railway will also be learning new skills and supporting the project.

Three Year Rolling Delivery Plans Submitted

Thanks to all LAG members that attended our Annual Review Days and contributed to the writing of the Three Year Delivery Plans. These were submitted to EEDA at the end of October and will be rolled out in the New Year.

Projects in the Pipe Line

In total 14 projects across the three LAG areas have been approved to progress to the final stage of Business Case Development. These total £1.3 million in RDPE grant funding. We hope to have news of more approved grants by the end of the year.

Dates to Remember

Brecks LAG - 3.00pm on 21st January 2010 at BTO, Chapel Room, The Old Chapel, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU. Management meeting at 1.00pm unless otherwise advised.

Norfolk Coast & Broads LAG - 3.00pm on 18th January 2010 at Rossis Leisure Centre, Tungate Farm, Aylsham Road, North Walsham, NR28 0JQ. Management meeting at 1.00pm unless otherwise advised.

Waveney Valley LAG - 2.00pm on 27th January 2010 - Venue to be confirmed.

We Need Your Help

The RDP team are looking for photos of the LAG areas for use in our publicity materials.

Photos need to show the distinctiveness of the areas and include images such as farming, tourism and enterprise.



If you have photographs that you are happy for us to use please send to Lindsey Tyas at

ltyas@easton-college.ac.uk



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