



News Release

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For Immediate Release

£3.8 million Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Funding Launch

The new LEADER Rural Perth and Kinross funding programme has launched, with around £3.8 million of EU and Scottish Government funding to be invested in the local area over the next five years, bringing a boost to communities and the rural economy.

Over 130 individuals, businesses and organisations were welcomed to the Bankfoot Community Church Centre by the Chair of the Local Action Group, Jackie Brierton. Project Co-ordinator, Steve MacDonald explained the new programme and everyone enjoyed presentations from the Rural Parliament's Amanda Burgauer and from previous LEADER Projects and organisations.

Amanda Burgauer from The Rural Parliament stated "Creating sustainable rural communities is essential for the future of Scottish rural affairs. I am sure, with the strength of the new Local Action Group, this Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER

Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Programme
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programme will build on the £1.35million invested in 80 projects in the previous 2008-2013 round. The increased allocation for rural initiatives in the area should make a substantial difference to the 94,000 people living and working here. It provides further development opportunities for communities throughout the area and will now include micro-enterprises and small businesses, as well as support for farm diversification and young people initiatives.”

Jackie Brierton said: “This funding award is a huge opportunity to put rural Perthshire on the map, and to encourage creative community projects, assist more small businesses and social enterprises to achieve sustainability and job creation, and to leave a lasting legacy into the next decade. Even more importantly, we want to create better connectivity, strong networks and healthy collaborations across the private, public and third sectors – breaking down some of the artificial barriers which can exist between community-based activity and public and private sector organisations.

“The Action Group members have invested considerable time identifying the priorities for rural Perth and Kinross which are set out in the Local Development Strategy for the programme.

“Implementing the strategy is now the priority, and local communities and enterprises are being encouraged to attend planned workshops and events throughout the area to find out about project funding opportunities and to help the LAG deliver on its objectives. Group members are seeking project ideas supporting the Local Development Strategy themes which can be found on the new programme website www.PKLeader.org.

She continued, “Anyone can apply for the funding providing they meet the programme objectives and submit expressions of interest through the website. We would particularly welcome collaborative applications, where communities and businesses have joined forces and brought their projects and ideas together.”

Everyone was encouraged to stay up-to-date with the Programme via e-mail ruralleader@pkc.gov.uk. Facebook, Twitter @P_KLeader, #PKLeader and participate in the workshops that will be promoted through these channels.

For more information about the Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Programme please contact Steve MacDonald or Sharon Rice-Jones at ruralleader@pkc.gov.uk or telephone 01738 477963.

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