

LEADER Consultation Workshops ~ Jan. 15th - 30th

Consultation workshops with Rural Resource Development staff, will take place around the County in January, all with an 8pm start, at Teagasc offices, as follows:

Kilrush - Tuesday 15th (Teagasc office)

Ennistymon - Wednesday 16th (Teagasc office)

Scarriff - Tuesday 22nd (Teagasc office)

Sixmilebridge - Wednesday 23rd (The Old Courthouse)

Ennis - Tuesday 30th (Teagasc office).

For enquiries contact **Gerard Kennedy** or **Gloria Callinan** at **RRD** on **061-361144**, info@rrd.ie or www.rrd.ie

We look forward to meeting you at one of the above locations.

The Purpose of LEADER in Co. Clare

LEADER's main aim is to identify key problems that limit the development of rural areas and to develop innovative solutions which contribute to meaningful and sustainable change for rural communities and the rural natural environment. Our aim is not only to address economic needs, but equally to respond to ideas which will enhance the environmental, social and cultural riches of the county. Individuals, businesses, communities and voluntary groups will be assisted to create innovative projects in rural areas.

We place a strong emphasis on voluntary and community development through support for local decision-making and local action. Our first objective is:

- * To promote more effective and sustainable participation in local development by the voluntary and community sector

The development of the natural resources of the county in a way that not only protects but also enhances the environment is an important priority. Thus our second objective is:

- * To promote sustainable development of our resources based on a more harmonious and balanced relationship with the natural environment

Support for innovative projects or new approaches to providing solutions to problems in rural areas by both individuals and groups will receive special attention under LEADER. Our third objective is:

- * To promote more innovative solutions to the economic and social problems of rural areas

Who Can Benefit From LEADER?

The target areas which we will support under the new programme include:

Individuals

Community Groups

Voluntary / Development Groups

Rural Business

The Natural Environment

Priority Areas for Action

In order to ensure maximum benefit for the county as a whole under the new initiative, RRD will design and implement the following programmes of activity:

Community Development Programme

This programme will mainly focus on developing community resources that enhance the participation or involvement of people in the development of their own communities. We will offer educational, research and technical assistance that supports communities taking action. We will assist the formation of networks and partnerships aimed at supporting community development and will become involved in promoting and supporting community projects that enhance the quality of life in the local area.

Environmental Programme

The actions we anticipate under this programme include supporting an environmentally sustainable approach to natural resource development in the county and assisting the establishment of natural resource projects from farm, forestry and marine sources, including food enterprises. We will also offer support to innovative initiatives which enhance and protect our natural and built environment. In addition, we will assist "green" projects such as waste management and renewable energy initiatives.

Economic and Social Development Programme

This programme will help to develop local resources using innovative ideas to address economic and social needs. We will support innovative projects under the headings of Rural/Agri-Tourism, Information Technology, Small Enterprise, Crafts, Culture and Social Development.

In order to assist with the implementation and evaluation of these programmes specialist Advisory Groups with broad-based representation will be established for the areas of Community Development, Environment, Information Technology and Local Economic Development.

Rural Resource Development - LEADER in County Clare

<http://www.rrd.ie/>

Irish LEADER Network

<http://www.irishleadernetwork.org/>