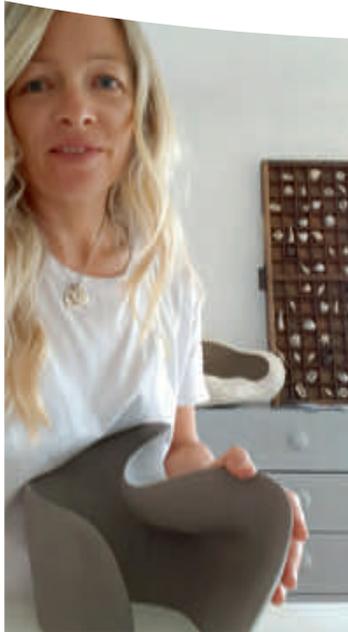


# The LEADER Programme

for Rural Peterborough and Rutland



**£1 Million Grant Funding for the Rural Economy**



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas.



## **A Note from the Chair of the Rural Peterborough and Rutland Local Action Group**

When LEADER grant funding of just over £1 million was allocated to support projects within the Rural Peterborough and Rutland area, I was still fairly new to the region.

Keen to become involved in a new area, I signed up to be part of the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG), which was responsible for monitoring the progress of the project and reviewing project applications for funding. I soon found myself at the inaugural meeting of the LAG on 24th July 2015 in the imposing Oakham Castle with 20 people around a big table. I sat listening to the complexities of the LEADER programme as it began in earnest. It was an interesting challenge for all of us to take on, but the outcomes we wanted to achieve have spurred us on from the start to stick at it, and I am so glad we did!

From the original 20, the LAG quickly thinned out to its current number of volunteers who took on the challenge, and to whom much credit must be given. We may have been overwhelmed at the start but we have shared laughter and frustration, and drawn on our diverse expertise and enthusiasm to deliver what I believe has been a very successful project.

As LEADER comes to an end, this booklet seeks to capture some of the programme's activities and achievements, as told by the beneficiaries, in Rural Peterborough and Rutland. It is now our hope that the two local authorities can build on this hard gained experience to encourage DEFRA and the Combined Authority to develop this important work further and bolstering our rural economy's future.

**Dennis Stanley** - Chair  
Rural Peterborough and Rutland Local Action Group

## Background of the LEADER Programme

In 2014, a partnership was formed between Opportunity Peterborough (OP), the economic development company for Peterborough, and Rutland County Council to put forward a bid for LEADER funding from the European Union. Led by OP, the bid was successful and secured just over £1 million of financial support to deliver the LEADER Programme in Rural Peterborough and Rutland.

The LEADER programme aimed to fund farmers, growers, foresters and other local rural businesses and rural community organisations to create jobs, develop rural businesses and support the rural economy.

The Local Action Group for Rural Peterborough and Rutland, which evaluated projects and approved funding, had the following mission statement:

*“To achieve a vibrant, sustainable and diverse rural economy that builds on the area’s wealth of natural, cultural and heritage assets and is characterised by a high quality of life, a varied landscape and has a sense of place and inclusive and connected communities.”*

Projects could bid for grants worth between £2,500 – £50,000, or in exceptional cases, up to £75,000.

To be eligible, projects had to meet at least one of the following priority criteria:

- Increase Farm Productivity**
- Support for Micro and Small Businesses (non-agricultural) and Farm Diversification**
- Boost Rural Tourism**
- Provide Rural Services**
- Provide Cultural and Heritage Activity**
- Increased Forestry Productivity**

At the time of going to print, the full £1 million worth of grant funding had been allocated across 27 projects that represent £2.5 million of total investment in the local economy. It is projected that these projects will create up to 40 jobs within the LEADER area for Rural Peterborough and Rutland.

## With special thanks to our Local Action Group members

Dennis Stanley (Chair)	
Stephen Briggs (Vice Chair)	Farmer, Farcet
Michelle Begy	Small Business Owner
Christopher Clark	Federation of Small Businesses
Henry Clark	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)
James Frieland	Rutland County Council
Tom Hennessy	Opportunity Peterborough
Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Simon Mutsaars	Citizens Advice Rutland (CAB)
Cllr John Nowell	Oakham Town Partnership
Hannah Padfield	National Farmers' Union (NFU)
Harriet Ranson	National Farmers' Union (NFU)
Justin Tilley	Natural England

With thanks to our LAG members, as of October 2019.

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## Support for Micro and Small Businesses (non-agricultural) and Farm Diversification

### New Pastures Stables

£57,600 for the construction of a brand new equestrian centre.



*"The grant for the covered arena has allowed us to teach in all weather and enabled an increase in the number of pupils. The facilities are now used on a regular basis by the local Riding for the Disabled Association and the Pony Club."*

Laura Horrell, New Pastures Stables

### Simmons Optometrist

£40,000 for an extension to the premises including an indoor ramp additional consultation areas, new frontage, modern display units and new digital systems for enhanced customer experience.



*"Thanks to the funding we've extended our premises so that we can see more patients, but still give them the time, space and care they've come to expect from us – we can already see the difference it will make to us going forward!"*

James Alexander, Director,  
Simmons Optometrist



## Support for Micro and Small Businesses (non-agricultural) and Farm Diversification

*Continued*

### **Ceramics by Katherine Staples**

£11,500 towards construction of a ceramics studio for work and classes, as well as purchase of ceramic kilns.

*"It's been so rewarding to get back into project work and I've been blown away with the support from the local community. Without this grant I would have really struggled to get my business off the ground so quickly."*

**Katherine Staples, Owner, Ceramics by Katherine Staples**

### **Kingfisher Chilli**

£3,900 for developing an automated production line for their home made spicy condiments.



*"Without the LEADER grant we wouldn't have been able to expand this quickly. We know there's a big market for Kingfisher Chilli products, but there's only so much we can keep doing by hand so it's a big relief to be having automated production. The grant has come at just the right time as there are lots of larger exhibitions we'd like to attend alongside showcasing our products at local markets and fayres."*

**Annette Williams, Director at Kingfisher Chilli**

## Support for Micro and Small Businesses (non-agricultural) and Farm Diversification

*Continued*

### Harvest Barn

£41,000 towards building a farm shop and educational centre at the farm.



*"We had been planning to open a shop for three years but financing was always a barrier. Without support from the LEADER programme I don't know how we'd have got this off the ground. It's been a dream to sell direct to customers. The soils here create fantastic produce – why would we want to give that to someone else?"*

**Lynn Briggs, Owner, Harvest Barn**

### Moor Farm

£71,100 towards the expansion of the existing farm shop and educational visitor centre.

*Project to begin in November 2019.*

## ■ Boost Rural Tourism

### **Cuckoo Farm Campsite & Rutland Organics**

£50,900 towards a campsite with electric points for campervans, showers and toilets with hot water, and a new access road.

£24,900 for the development of a farm shop and butchery equipment for Rutland Organics, plus a sheep handling system.



*“We want to give a really unique and engaging experience for visitors, that incorporates the farm into their stay; to see where their food comes from, better understand the food chain, and what life is like on an organic farm. Thanks to the LEADER grant we’ve been able to put the infrastructure in place for the campsite much sooner.”*

**Roland Taylor, Manager, Cuckoo Farm Partners**

### **White Hart in Ufford**

£49,900 towards an additional entrance to their function rooms and conversion of outbuildings into two bedrooms.



*“The LEADER funding has enabled us to grow the business by way of extra weddings and functions as it created a separate entrance to our function rooms and two more bedrooms including a Bridal Suite.”*

**Sue Olver, Owner, White Hart**

## Boost Rural Tourism

*Continued*

### Sacrewell Farm

£22,700 towards beehives, beekeeping equipment for a honey production centre, additional shower facilities for the campsite, covered outdoor spaces for volunteer-led events and a mobile forge for their blacksmith to use at shows across the country to promote the farm.



*"We're really proud of the role that the William Scott Abbott Trust at Sacrewell Farm plays in local agricultural education and are always looking to offer something new so we can help our visitors create even more great experiences together! Funding like LEADER are a huge boost to what we can offer."*

**Richard Hadfield, Strategic Projects Manager, The William Scott Abbott Trust at Sacrewell Farm**

## ■ Boost Rural Tourism

*Continued*

### **Rutland Sailability**

£23,400 towards a new rigid inflated boat and a launch and recovery vehicle to get boats in and out of the water.



*"Rutland Sailability attracts people from as far afield as Ireland, Scotland and Yorkshire. It doesn't matter what disability someone has, we will always find a way to get them onto the water. The addition of the Rigid Inflated Boat and launch and recovery vehicle has been a huge boost. This equipment means we can help even more people sail at any one time to develop their passion for the sport."*

**Sarah Forsyth, Rutland Sailability**

## ■ Boost Rural Tourism

*Continued*

### **The Paper Shop**

£71,500 towards the expansion and improvement to the current village shop, in Ailsworth, near Peterborough.

*Project to begin February 2020.*

### **Ferry Meadows Visitor Experience**

£48,600 for new interpretation signage to improve accessibility and the purchase of an electric boat.

*Project to begin in October 2019.*

### **Lynch Lake Kiosk at Ferry Meadows**

£44,800 contribution towards a building conversion of current building to create a single, multi-use space for new activities, such as running workshops, hosting local artists, and creating a new base for the park's volunteers and staff to engage with visitors.

*Project to begin in November 2019.*

### **MacCartney Family Trust**

£12,000 towards the conversion of part of a traditional brick barn into a holiday cottage.



*Project due to complete March 2020.*

## Boost Rural Tourism

*Continued*

### Fairchilds Holiday Lets

£75,000 towards the conversion of farm barns into luxury five-star holiday lets.

The farm is proud to play its part in the local community and also works with educators to improve understanding of farming and food production. By providing holiday lets, the farm can boost local tourism and diversify to secure its future.



*Project to complete by December 2019.*

## ■ Farm Productivity

### Pode Hole Farm

£43,000 towards a liquid fertiliser spreader.



*"The machine funded by the grant will complement our variable rate seed drill making the business more efficient and has allowed the company to expand."*

Harry Horrell, Partner, C Horrell Ltd

## ■ Farm Productivity

*Continued*

### Direct Drills

Combined total of £206,800 grant funding between three farms



*“The receipt of funds from the LEADER organisation facilitated the purchase of a direct drill by F.C.Morley and Sons. This represented a sea change for the business, moving away from a traditional cereal establishment techniques to a more sustainable approach.”*  
Andrew Morley, Owner, F. C. Morley and Sons



*“The funding is hugely significant for us because it will improve what we do in terms of soil management, allowing us to expand and potentially employ more people. This is good news for us and good news for Rutland because supporting local business benefits the whole local supply chain.”*

Simon Thompson, Director, Parker Farms

Tyler Farms in Rutland also received a grant towards the purchase of a direct drill.

## Provide Rural Services

### Northborough Village Hall

£29,100 towards an extension for a new meeting room.



*"Without a grant from the LEADER programme, this project would not have happened. The village hall is such a well-used space and we can now take on more bookings. We've already got five groups regularly using the new meeting room including parish council meetings, craft groups, even an art class!"*

Jessica Phillips, Northborough Community Association

## ■ Provide Rural Services

*Continued*

### **Maxey Village Hall**

£68,300 towards refurbishing the hall. This included extending and installing a new kitchen with a doorway into the second function room, energy efficient lighting and heating system, fire alarms, and surfacing of the car parks.



*"We've wanted to make improvements to the hall for quite a few years so we're absolutely delighted that it's become a reality. The kitchen had been a bit of a stumbling block for bookings in the past but thanks to the extension we can hire both rooms out for private use and give everyone separate access to the kitchen. The feedback that we have received from both our regular hires' and villagers has been tremendous which in turn has made all of our hard work worthwhile."*

**Mark Asplin, Chair of the Maxey Community Association**

## Provide Rural Services

*Continued*

### Langham Village Hall

£51,000 towards the upgrade of the hall's roof, including tiling, steelworks and ceilings to improve energy efficiency and increase usage.



*"The funding from LEADER has guaranteed the longer term future of a well-used and much loved community asset. As a direct result we will be able to substantially reduce our annual heating costs, and will ensure the continuation and expansion of a range of social, sporting and cultural activities and events."*

**Mike Cropper, Trustee, Langham Village Hall**

### Ashwell Village Hall

£72,600 towards the refurbishment and extension of the hall to make it compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). This will include remodelling the entrance hall, providing ramp access, and refurbishing the toilets.

*"Our project will make a huge difference to the existing fabric of the building and it is due to the LEADER programme that we have been able to embark on this work. When it is completed in 2020 it will provide a modern, fit for purpose facility."*

**Victoria Crosher, Trustee, Ashwell Village Hall**

Ashwell and Langham Village Halls will be working together to accommodate village activities across both halls as each is refurbished.

## ■ Increased Forestry Productivity

### **Quercus Woodcraft**

£4,600 grant towards a mobile sawmill and associated equipment including saw blades, trailer kit, tow board and a sharpening robot.



*"I am absolutely passionate about helping people get more value from wood and British timber is so versatile and durable. With a mobile sawmill I can create timber at a more affordable rate and go directly to a project or client without the additional infrastructure concerns of a traditional sawmill."*

Alistair Thompson, Owner, Quercus Woodcraft

### **Rutland Tree Care**

£3,200 for the purchase of a Hyva Kunckle Boom Crane for the removal of wood off site.

*Purchase to be completed November 2019.*

## ■ Provide Cultural and Heritage Activity

### Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue

£11,000 for resurfacing the car park and new signage with interpretive boards for visitors.



*"The Trust is starting a long term, 20 year project to restore one of the most beautiful woodland sites in the country and we are very grateful to receive financial support from LEADER to enable us to repair our car park and also install some new interpretive signage."*

Dr Patrick Candler, Chairman of The Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue Trust

## Closing Note

It is hoped that this booklet has given an insight into the Rural Peterborough and Rutland LEADER Programme.

The community based approach has given support to a wide range of projects in our LEADER area, the majority of which have never been in receipt of a grant before. This investment has in turn resulted in many benefits to the area from new jobs, sustaining key rural services, increased productivity to providing enhanced community facilities.

The programme has been wide ranging and unfortunately there are too many individuals and groups for us to name here, however, without their work, enthusiasm, and the doggedness of some, the project would not have achieved such success.

Throughout the programme, the Local Action Group (LAG) has spoken with, listened to, grilled and visited many of the applicants. We have been thoroughly impressed and excited by the depth of applicants' knowledge, and their excitement and enthusiasm for their projects. We congratulate them all and wish them every success.

Samantha Demaio and Sheila O'Brien from OP have worked to support both the applicants and the LAG throughout and stuck at a project that at times has not been easy. The members of the LAG, past and present, have given their time, energy and expertise freely, all done with a good sense of humour and many thanks must be given to them.

It is our hope that this approach can be built on in the future for the continued benefit of our rural communities.

**Dennis Stanley** - Chair

Rural Peterborough and Rutland Local Action Group



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