

MEASURE 3.2

Support for Business Creation and Development

This measure aims to create employment opportunities through promoting entrepreneurship and developing economic support in rural areas. It will do this by providing assistance to micro enterprises which already exist or to those who want to set up a new micro-enterprise in a non-agricultural sector.

| Grant Rate | Maximum Grant Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 50% Private Sector | £50,000 |
| 75% Social Economy Enterprise | £50,000 |

THE GLASS STUDIO

Applicant: Karl Harron

Location: Loughries, Co. Down

Email: info@theglasstudioireland.com **Web:** www.theglasstudioireland.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Down Rural Area Partnership

Karl Harron has been running 'The Glass Studio' in Loughries, Co. Down for 19 years. He runs a range of workshops in Tiffany glass painting, traditional glass painting and glass fusing techniques. Karl runs glass fusing Master Classes on an international basis, to date in Scotland, Switzerland and Norway, and identified

an opportunity through the Northern Ireland Development Programme to run these classes from his studio. He applied for funding to purchase a larger kiln, kiln shelves, moulds and an electricity supply connection. Karl now intends to employ a seasonal worker to assist him.



HEAVENLY TASTY ORGANICS LTD

Applicant: Shauna McCarney

Location: Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

Email: shauna@heavenlytastyorganics.com **Web:** www.heavenlytastyorganics.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: South West Action for Rural Development (SWARD)

The idea for Heavenly Tasty Organics Ltd, came soon after Shauna McCarney started weaning her baby son almost 6 years ago. Like all new mothers, she wanted to provide the best for her baby, so she tried to make all her own organic baby food from scratch. When her second child came along this proved to be a real challenge. Shauna found it extremely difficult to find the time to prepare fresh organic baby food, whilst juggling two young children. Even though at that time, she was a full-time mum, there still just didn't seem to be enough hours in the day!

Shauna scoured the shops for pure, fresh, nutritious, and tasty baby food, just like the food she made at home, but it just wasn't available anywhere. Adding to her frustration all the baby foods were, 'on-the-shelf' jars, which were dated for years in some cases.

Three years ago Shauna found out her children had multiple food allergies, ranging from severe nut and egg allergies, to dairy intolerance, and this finally spurred her on to respond to the gap in the market and launch Heavenly Tasty Organics Ltd.

The business operates from the Food Incubation Centre at Loughry College



company now produces fresh frozen, organic fruit and vegetable purees, for use when weaning babies from 4 months onto solid foods.

The product is presented in a 250g (approx) re-sealable pouch, with each pack containing 10 heart-shaped ice cube sized portions.

GORTNAHEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Applicant: Gortnahey Community Association

Location: Dungiven, Co. Derry

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Assisting Rural Communities north west (ARC north west)

Gortnahey Community Association has been a central part of the community in rural Dungiven for many years. Following consultation with the community, the development of the gym was identified as a need and an additional facility which could be made available in the

community centre. Funding was awarded through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme to convert a unit in the community centre into a gym for use by the local community, purchase gym equipment and market the facility.



ARDCLINIS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTRE

Applicant: Anne Bowen - Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure

Location: Cushendall, Co. Antrim

Email: info@ardclinis.com **Web:** www.ardclinis.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: North East Region (NER)

Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure, established in 1991, was the first commercial outdoor activity facility in Northern Ireland and is now a thriving company delivering teambuilding, multiactivity and skill-based courses to a wide variety of participants. Based near Cushendall in the heart of the Glens of Antrim, the business was finding that they were spending

a considerable amount of time taking groups to various venues for participation in activities. As well as reducing the time the group could spend on outdoor pursuits, this was also adding considerably to the operating costs of the business. Anne was awarded planning permission to change the use of the building into a centre for environmental



studies and outdoor pursuits. The building and landscaping were undertaken with the utmost respect for the environment to ensure that the alterations would blend harmoniously into the landscape. The centre is now fully operational and activities which can

be undertaken on the grounds include; zip lining, archery, rock wall climbing and orienteering. These new facilities will ensure that Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure can continue to offer professional, bespoke and fresh programmes of events for all participants.

WASTE SYSTEMS LTD

Applicant: Waste Systems Ltd

Location: Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone

Email: info@wastesystems.eu

Web: www.wastesystems.eu

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: ARC north west



Patrick Ward from Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone established Waste Systems Ltd to develop and manufacture equipment which separates waste and other bulk solids using air pressure and suction techniques. Patrick heard about the Northern Ireland Development Programme and applied

to purchase equipment to increase the efficiency of production of waste recycling equipment. His innovation has recently been recognised by Minister Arlene Foster who awarded him with the Propel Company of the Year award in conjunction with Invest Northern Ireland's Propel Awards.

L M PICTURE FRAMING

Applicant: L M Picture Framing

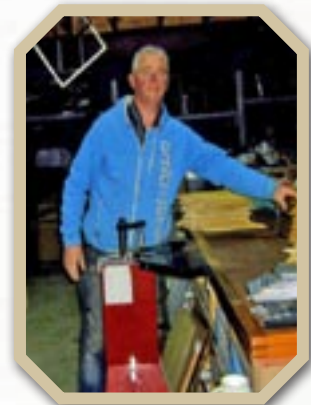
Location: Co. Armagh

Email: landmpictureframing@hotmail.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group area: Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR)

Liam and Marie McArdle have been building their picture framing business over the past 10 years. Initially it was a part-time retail business, selling picture frames, but over the past 5 years they have moved into manufacturing. They also offer bespoke work, offering a specialist service for local artists and photographers. Demand for the frames and mounts have grown to the point their equipment needed upgraded in order to meet the quality standards they pride themselves in providing. To assist them with this SOAR has provided a grant for new



equipment. Liam McArdle stated, "This new equipment has not only allowed us to increase the business but will also enable us to offer a wider range of frame size and mount shapes to an exceptional standard."

FABRITE ENGINEERING

Applicant: Kenny McAleenan

Location: Maghaberry, Co. Antrim

Measure: 3.2 Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Lagan Rural Partnership



Fabrite Engineering Ltd is a dynamic and expanding steel fabrication and architectural metalwork

business based near Maghaberry Co. Antrim. The Company provides a comprehensive range

"This new facility gives us the opportunity to develop our company goal of a total façade package of structural steelwork, cladding, glazing and rain screen systems. Since the introduction of our new handling system we have been able to secure 3 million pounds of work which includes contracts for Olympic 2012 projects."

of services covering everything from feasibility studies, surveying, planning, design, manufacture and installation.

Due to increased sales

orders and the need to expand production capability the business received a capital grant of £48,888 for material handling equipment.

YELLOW HEIFER RESTAURANT

Applicant: Emmet Quinn

Location: Camlough, Co. Armagh

Measure: Measure 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR)

Located on Main Street, Camlough Emmet Quinn & Family Public House is marketed and renowned locally as a family orientated and family run pub. The business, which has been owned and managed by Emmet for 16 years, is situated at the gateway to the Ring of Gullion in an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB).

While the pub services the local population on a daily basis Emmet realised his business would be required to adapt to cater for the increased

tourist trade in the area. In particular the provision of food was seen as a priority. Emmet applied to the NIRD for assistance to install a professional kitchen. The result has been the establishment of the 'Yellow Heifer' restaurant which has both increased business and has provided additional services in the area.



"I spotted an investment opportunity that would help expand my business, and by securing the funding from SOAR, this has helped turn my opportunity into a reality."

Emmet Quinn

ESCARMOUCHE LASER QUEST

Applicant: Escaramouche Laser Quest

Location: Randalstown, Co. Antrim

Email: info@laserquestireland.com **Web:** www.laserquestireland.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

Escarmouche Outdoor Laser Quest was set up by John McAuley 3 years ago in the Shane's Castle Estate, near Randalstown, Co. Antrim. John saw a gap in the market to run a business alongside an existing paintball business on the estate, targeting

younger customers and customers who wanted to take part in another activity. He received funding to expand the business so it could cater for more customers and to increase the space for new game zones so several groups could take part at the same time.

"With the equipment and the space I had, I was restricted to smaller groups or only having one group at a time. The additional game zones and laser guns open the business up to cater for more customers rather than having to turn them away," says John.



THE SOCCER SHED

Applicants: Stephen Herron and Colin Todd

Location: Ballyclare, Co. Antrim

Web: www.thesoccershed.co.uk

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development GROW

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

Stephen Herron and Colin Todd received Northern Ireland Development Programme funding to set up two indoor third generation (3g) turf pitches

which are suitable for 7-a-side football and other sports, including rugby and hockey. The 3g surface allows players to train in the footwear they use when

playing the sport which cannot be used on sand or water-based AstroTurf. This provides a safe facility for use by clubs, schools, youth clubs and other groups.

The indoor facility has been particularly popular due to the cold weather meaning frozen pitches for a lot of sports teams.



THE MARQUEE COMPANY

Applicant: The Marquee Company

Location: Burren, Co. Down

Email: info@marqueecompany.net **Web:** www.marqueecompany.net

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR)

The Marquee Company, based in Burren, Co. Down was awarded funding toward the purchasing of specialised marquee equipment and marketing that will assist the business expand into developing markets. The company started trading part-time in 2007, however the owner, Emma McKernan

has now built an 'all year round', fulltime business which plans to create employment opportunities in the area following this investment. Emma spotted a gap in the local market when planning her own wedding in 2006. The business idea grew from the lack of local based provision of quality marquees and

hire businesses catering for weddings. The business can now offer a range of marquee hire, furniture hire and event management for a diverse range of events which include pre-wedding parties, weddings, children's parties, sporting functions, Gala balls, meetings/conferences and corporate events.



HOME FROM HOME KENNELS

Applicant: Home from Home Kennels

Location: Ballymena, Co. Antrim

Email: danny@homefromhomeok.com **Web:** www.homefromhomeballymena.co.uk

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: North East Region (NER)

Danny O'Neill, a pedigree dog breeder who has operated a successful boarding kennels business for the past five years received planning permission to expand his

existing boarding kennels and cattery and to construct a grooming parlour for both cats and dogs. The new premises have enabled Danny to increase the number of animals which

can be housed to around 40 of each. Due to the size of the kennels and the exercise areas, this improved facility will allow pet owners to house their pets together if they wish. Danny is also

expanding the premises to incorporate an external dog run which will provide more freedom for the animals, a more luxurious stay and also peace of mind for pet owners.

MOLLOY METALS

Applicant: Molloy Metals

Location: Co. Armagh

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development

Local Action Group Area: Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR)



Gerard Molloy of Molloy Metals a scrap metal business in County Armagh successfully secured funding to purchase a hydraulic shear. This new shear will allow the company to cut and shape

heavy waste metals enabling his business to load and ship more tonnage while at the same time cutting down on transport costs. This funding opportunity will also assist the rural business in creating an



additional 3 employment opportunities over the next 3 years. Gerard Molloy said, "Recycling has become more and more important over recent years with major changes in legislation and this

machine will enable us to operate our business more effectively and efficiently. I am delighted to have secured this funding from SOAR and look forward to working in partnership with them in the future!"

AGNEW ENGINEERING

Applicant: Agnew General Engineering

Location: Gilford, Co. Down

Email: info@agnewengineering.com **Web:** www.agnewengineering.com

Measure: 3.2 Support for Business Creation and Development DRAP

Local Action Group Area: Down Rural Area Partnership

Agnew General Engineering is a family owned steel fabrication company near Gilford, Co. Down which has been running for 18 years and employs 8 people. The

company successfully bid for funding to allow the business to develop current product lines, including its innovative boot cleaning equipment, and to increase its capacity.

"Over the years, Agnew General Engineering Ltd we have become a reputable company both within our local area of Northern Ireland and now developing into Southern Ireland."



MEASURE 3.3

Encouragement of Tourism Activities

This measure aims to use the natural resources in Northern Ireland's rural areas to attract visitors and create new employment opportunities. It will do this by providing support to existing rural tourism enterprises or to those who want to set up a new sustainable rural tourism enterprise.

| Grant Rate | Maximum Grant Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 50% Private Sector | £50,000 |
| 75% Social Economy Enterprise | £250,000 |

ANTRIM FISHING FESTIVALS

Applicant: Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Councils

Web: www.southantrimfishing.com

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim



The South Antrim Fishing Festival, a joint application from the two councils of Antrim and Newtownabbey, was the first iconic tourism project to be awarded funding from GROW South Antrim Local Action Group. Funding was awarded to enable the fishing festival organisers highlight the local area as a unique

angling hotspot, and to enhance this popular tourist activity within the South Antrim area. The fishing festival was held in May 2011 in cooperation with local angling clubs and facilities and host events and activities to suit all ages and interests, giving everyone a chance to take part.

"The festival was a great opportunity for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils to join forces to promote fishing tourism in both Boroughs. The coaching sessions provided opportunities for novices to learn how to fish and attracted over 4 times the visitors we were expecting. The schools outreach was also really successful, with almost 20 rural schools taking part and the restaurant voucher booklet promoted fish and seafood menus in local cafes and restaurants, bringing people to rural parts of South Antrim."

Karen Steele, Antrim Borough Council

WALKING GUIDES

Applicant: Antrim Borough Council

Web: www.antrim.gov.uk

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

Antrim Borough Council applied to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme for funding to promote the beautiful walking routes in the Borough. The Council received support through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme to design and print a range of new

guides promoting the routes including Crumlin Glen, Randalstown Forest, Rea's Wood, Sixmilewater, Tardree Forest and Toome Canal. The guides, which are designed for visitors and local alike, fold up into a handy pocket-size and are made from a hard-wearing waterproof paper to withstand all weathers.



"These guides are a great incentive to discover the beautiful walks in the Borough and give users all the information they need on the available routes, along with the sights they can see along the way. The guides are made from weatherproof material which means they are ideal for walkers to take out with them and to always have at hand."

Elaine Upton, Antrim Borough Council

PREDATOR CHARTERS

Applicant: Hamish Currie - Predator Charters

Location: Cushendall, Co. Antrim

Email: info@predatorireland.com **Web:** www.predatorireland.com

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities NER

Local Action Group Area: North East Region (NER)

Hamish has run his successful charter angling business Predator Charters Ltd in Cushendall, Co. Antrim for five years. With assistance from the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Hamish was able to invest in a new vessel which can carry more passengers in more comfort and with

improved facilities and equipment. The boat can only be used for chartered angling and is so specialised that its manufacturers have stated that it is a world first in design for a boat of this nature. It's in good hands though as Hamish is an experienced skipper and has a superb record in his profession.



SLIEVENAMAN COTTAGE

Applicant: Lisburn Scouts

Location: Mourne Mountains Co. Down

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Local Action Group Area: Down Rural Area Partnership

Slievenaman Cottage is idyllically situated on the edge of the stunning Mourne Mountains in Co. Down. The cottage was originally registered as a dwelling house in 1936 however the structure, comprised of stone rubble, harled with lime render and roofed with natural slate, predates this. It is situated amongst what are believed to be some of the oldest Scots Pine trees in the Mournes and is surrounded by an attractive raised garden which is retained by a traditional dry stone wall.

The cottage is owned by the Lisburn District Scouts and the organisation realised the potential for redevelopment as the property was ideally placed for the use of mountain explorers, walkers, climbers, cavers and kayaking. The Scouts established a Slievenaman Bothy Committee, which includes non-scouts,

to oversee the running of the project and take responsibility for maintenance, bookings, marketing and general management of the facility.

Thanks to NIRD P support the building has been re-developed into a traditional mountain shelter 'bothy style' which can now be used all year round by groups and individuals. The cottage can accommodate 20 people with space outside for tents. Additional sleeping accommodation is available in the adjacent outbuilding consisting of a dormitory (sleeps 10/12 and was originally believed to be an Old School house), main cottage area with adjoining room/dormitory (sleeps 8), lounge with stone floor and open fire, outside kitchen with equipment and running water. There are two outside toilets with sinks and running water also available on site.



CASTLE WARD TRAILS

Applicant: Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN)

Location: Castle Ward, Strangford, Co. Down

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Local Action Group Area: Down Rural Area Partnership

A new network of off-road trails through one of Northern Ireland's most scenic landscapes was officially opened in June 2011 with assistance from the NIRD. Set in picturesque parkland, forest and farmland on the shores of Strangford Lough, the Castle Ward Demesne has been attracting visitors for many years. The estate boasts an 18th Century mansion house, exotic gardens, stunning mixed woodland, children's adventure play area and access to Strangford Lough. Project promoters CAAN, eager to capitalise on the natural beauty of the demesne to boost local use and tourism potential, also received funding from the Northern

Ireland Tourist Board and Down District Council. Now almost 21 miles of trails leading through the picturesque area, incorporating Northern Ireland's first long-distance, cross-country mountain biking trail as well as sustainable tracks for horse riders, walkers and runners alike, are available for all to enjoy. There is also an all-ability path constructed along the shores of Strangford Lough, suitable for buggies and prams as well as wheelchair users and those with limited mobility. The trails were meticulously designed by trail developer Dafydd Davis MBE who has designed sustainable off-road trails all over the world.



Picture courtesy of www.outdoorni.com

"With a real mix of rural farmland and forests set with the stunning backdrop of Strangford Lough, Castle Ward is unquestionably rich in natural beauty. These trails have been designed to allow visitors to enjoy the demesne's highlights as well as visiting areas where there was previously no or limited access."

Dafydd Davis MBE – Trail Designer.

GROOMSPORT TECHNICAL STUDY

Applicant: North Down Borough Council

Location: Groomsport, Co. Antrim

Email: jennifer.ingram@northdown.gov.uk **Web:** www.northdown.gov.uk

Measure: 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Local Action Group Area: Down Rural Area Partnership

An opportune funding application by North Down Borough Council resulted with an award of Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme funding which has been used to fund a technical study into a local tourism project. Groomsport, near Bangor, has developed in recent years as a centre for onshore and water based recreation however the local area had fallen into decline with shops in a

state of disrepair, an increase in the ageing population and lack of employment opportunities. The results of the funded study will aid the Council in any future development decisions on how best to develop and improve Groomsport's tourism opportunities and to attract visitors to the village, ultimately benefiting the rural community by improving village facilities and increasing turnover for local businesses.



MEASURE 3.4

Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population

This measure aims to improve or maintain the living conditions and welfare of those living in rural areas. It is also aimed at increasing the attractiveness of these areas through the provision of additional and better basic services. Support will be provided towards the costs of identifying needs and providing basic services for rural dwellers.

| Grant Rate | Maximum Grant Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 50% Private Sector | £50,000 |
| 75% Social Economy Enterprise | £250,000 |

ANAHILT PLAYGROUP

Applicant: Anahilt Playgroup

Location: Anahilt, Co. Down

Measure: 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population

Local Action Group Area: Lagan Rural Partnership



The issue of childcare provision is a constant concern for working parents. In rural areas specifically the issue is compounded with the lack of adequate availability. In the small village of Anahilt, Co. Down a playgroup has been in operation since

1981 to cater for local children however their premises were no longer fit for purpose. The facility is located on land owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and is leased by the management committee and is the only facility of its kind within the

village and the surrounding rural area. Through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme a much needed extension to their childcare facility was provided which was the first major enhancement to the playgroup since it opened. The investment

has created a larger kitchen area and additional toilet that has significantly increased the ability of the facility to provide a better, safer and functional service to the children and a staff office that allows staff to meet with parents in privacy.

HOLESTONE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Applicant: Holestone Young Farmers

Location: Doagh, Co. Antrim

Email: rasheefarm@hotmail.co.uk

Measure: 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

Holestone Young Farmers Club was awarded funding through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme to renovate the Orr Owens Memorial Hall in Doagh, Co. Antrim. The

Club has been using the hall for over 60 years but in recent years it had fallen into disrepair meaning the club had to pay to book another venue for public functions, activities and

events. The funding the Club has received will allow them to renovate the hall to bring a wide range of benefits to the surrounding village and rural community. The hall will be available

to other community or interest groups, including an Irish dancing school, Ulster Farmers Union meetings, a local horse and pony club and the agricultural show meetings.



MEASURE 3.5

Village Renewal And Development

In order to support integrated village initiatives which promote community development and regeneration, this measure will support capacity building within and between villages and their surrounding rural areas in the formulation of integrated action plans to define the role of the village and fully develop the potential of villages and their surrounding areas.

| Grant Rate | Maximum Grant Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 50% Private Sector | £50,000 |
| 75% Social Economy Enterprise | £250,000 |

NURTURING VILLAGES WITH GROW FUNDING

Applicant: Carrickfergus Borough Council

Location: Toomebridge, Doagh and Whitehead, Co. Antrim

Email: info@carrickfergus.org **Web:** www.carrickfergus.org

Measure: 3.5 Village Renewal and Development

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

The GROW Local Action Group has moved ahead to develop individual Village Masterplans for Toomebridge, Doagh and Whitehead. The Masterplans were finalised following public consultation and display. Funding was also awarded to employ a Village Renewal Facilitator to provide hands-on support to rural villages across the Local Action Group area.

The facilitator is now in post and will help bring forward and develop Village Plans for these areas.

As Crumlin already had a Council village Masterplan in place, it was able to start implementation straight away, and Antrim Borough Council has been awarded funding to carry out a Village Enhancement Scheme. This scheme will involve

removing the old overhead electricity cables and poles, installing new street paving and street furniture, such as bins and hanging baskets and undertaking a programme of tree planting. There will also be traffic management improvements on Main Street.

Local Action Group Chair, Cllr Vera McWilliam, said, "This is an opportunity to carry out major

improvements in our villages, to develop them for both the local community and businesses. With significant funding available to implement actions coming out of the Masterplans, I look forward to seeing villages across South Antrim benefit to become revitalised, building on the vibrant rural community which is already there."



VILLAGE FACILITATOR

Applicant: Antrim Borough Council

Tel No: 028 9446 3113 **Email:** briega.coyle@antrim.gov.uk **Web:** www.antrim.gov.uk

Measure: 3.5 Village Renewal and Development

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim

Briega Coyle has commenced work as Village Facilitator to engage local people to think about the future of their rural village in the Local Action Group area of GROW South Antrim. Briega's role is to work with communities in rural villages and smaller rural settlements to help bring forward and develop Village Plans for

these areas. Explains Briega, "The aim of Village Renewal is to improve the quality of life, making rural villages better places to live, work and play. The first stage of this will be developing village plans by looking at what is currently in place in villages and what it needs to develop. The second stage is implementing

the actions identified through the village plans to regenerate the villages and enhancing the community infrastructure. This could be improving how the village looks, providing signage or streetscaping or encouraging greater use of existing village buildings. Bring your vision to your village."



MEASURE 3.6

Conservation and Upgrading the Rural Heritage

This measure aims to use the natural resources in Northern Ireland's rural areas to create new employment opportunities and develop the rural economy through supporting local village initiatives to preserve and upgrade their rural heritage.

| Grant Rate | Maximum Grant Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 50% Private Sector | £50,000 |
| 75% Social Economy Enterprise | £250,000 |

SOUTH ANTRIM HERITAGE TRAIL

Applicant: Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Councils

Web: www.antrim.gov.uk & www.newtownabbey.gov.uk

Measure: 3.6 Conserving and Upgrading the Rural Heritage

Local Action Group Area: GROW South Antrim



Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils have come together to implement a joint project to establish a heritage trail, with interpretive panels stretching the length of the two council districts. The panels will tell the

story of the heritage of the area, with old photographs and maps bringing the information to life. The trail will link the heritage sites in the two Boroughs and create a trail for visitors and locals to find out about the heritage of Antrim

and Newtownabbey and encourage people to take pride in conserving and maintaining their unique heritage. Lisa O'Kane, Tourism & Events Officer for Newtownabbey Borough Council said, "This project is a great

opportunity to explain the local heritage that we may walk past every day and to promote the wealth of monuments, historic places and buildings that we've inherited for visitors. We'll also be putting together a brochure mapping the trail."

ACROSS EUROPE

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) is just one of 94 Rural Development Programmes in operation across Europe. The total budget across the region is 230 billion euro budget.

The clear commitment of the European Union to the development of its rural areas has in recent years been translated into firm regulations and policies and in practical programmes which are making a real, tangible difference to the lives of people and their communities all across Europe.

The projects on the following pages are examples of the great confidence and innovation expressed by project promoters in other areas of Europe.

WILD ORCHARD SMOOTHIES

Applicant: Diarmuid Crowley

Location: Co. Limerick, Ireland

Web: www.wildorchard.ie

Theme: Supply Chain Development Programme

Diarmuid Crowley has come a long way from making smoothies at his kitchen table, today he runs an award winning smoothie company 'Wild Orchard', which operates from a small factory at the foot of the Galtee mountains. 'Wild Orchard' products have become so popular they were recently chosen by the Munster Rugby team as part of their nutritional programme. The first

batch of Wild Orchard's products flew off the shelves and orders came in briskly as production began in their own factory. However Wild Orchard's success did not happen overnight and there were many obstacles along the way. "One of the first problems we faced was the short-shelf life of our juice products, for distribution purposes alone we needed to extend that shelf-life

through pasteurising the product because we didn't want to add any preservatives or additives." Diarmuid explains. "We approached Ballyhoura LEADER Partnership with our problem, explaining that we needed funding towards a pasteuriser. They approved a grant of €25,000 euros and they also went on to support us through training and marketing."



GLUTEN FREE KITCHEN

Applicant: Gluten Free Kitchen

Location: Leyburn, England

Email: info@theglutenfreekitchen.co.uk **Web:** www.glutenfreefood.info

Theme: Rural Business Support Programme

The Gluten Free Kitchen began in Aysgarth in 2005 when Sue Powell, a qualified chef, became aware of the problems encountered in sourcing quality gluten free food. Sue experimented and formulated a series of recipes which not only met

the rigorous demands of gluten free, but delivered a range of quality products. Sales rapidly increased and the quality was recognised when several gold Awards in 2006, 2007 and 2008 were won from the Guild of Fine Food Great Taste

Wards for puddings and Foods Matter Gluten Free Awards for cake, muffins and puddings. The business was originally based in a purpose built bakery in Aysgarth but demand soon outstripped supply and larger production facilities

were required The company received funding which allowed the business to relocate to new premises in Leyburn North Yorkshire, allowing them to increase their baking operations, reduce operating costs and increase business sales.



BEDDING RECOVERY SYSTEM

Applicant: Michael Wallbank

Location: Yorkshire, England

Theme: Rural Enterprise Investment Programme

Michael Wallbank, a dairy farmer in North Yorkshire undertook research into Bedding Recovery Units as he felt this system would benefit the profitability of his farm. Bedding Recovery Units (BRU) extract fibre from animal slurry, then dry, sterilise and pasteurise the fibre using heat generated from within the material. The fibre can be used for bedding livestock, while the remaining liquid and nutrients are applied to land as fertiliser. The technology is new to the UK and Michael's farm is only the second in the UK



to install BRU processing. The total investment of £237,525 will generate direct bedding savings

of £64,800 per year, and there will be an additional reduction in operating costs of around £20k

per year in part due to a reduction in the need for the purchase of chemical fertilisers.

GREEN CARE FARMING

Applicant: Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)

Location: Gronomsorg, Sweden

Email: ingrid@whitelock.se

Theme: Farm Diversification

Ingrid Whitelock, an expert with the Federation of Swedish Farmers, had noticed there was a lot of interest among farmers in the area for so-called green care: offering jobs on farms to people with social needs, learning disabilities or functional impairment. "This can be a way of developing and gaining new countryside entrepreneurs, often female entrepreneurs, who are often interested in caring work. There is also a great need for daily occupation within the local

care provision services," says Ingrid. The project is collaboration between LRF and the four Leader areas. "The process may take some time, but many have already started trial operations," says Ingrid. She sees the work as 'an example of how animals, nature and society can collaborate' and says she is inspired by the people who come to work on the farm. "I can best summarise this with what one girl said after having been rabbit manager, now I am looking after others myself," says Ingrid.



FARMER COPLEY'S SHOP

Applicant: Heather & Robert Copley

Location: Yorkshire, England

Email: info@farmercopleys.co.uk **Web:** www.farmercopleys.co.uk

Theme: Rural Enterprise Investment Programme

Farmer Copley's Farm Shop was opened by Heather and Robert Copley in 2003 to provide a diversified income allowing them to continue with the family farm. The business gradually expanded over the first 5 years until full capacity was reached and the premises needed extended. Yorkshire Forward supported the £200,000 development with grant investment of nearly £80,000, from the Rural Enterprise Investment Programme. The extension included a new café called Moo, and an expanded butchery counter. The extension also enabled the family to install an incinerator



which burns the shop's waste to provide the hot water to the butchery. This saves on fuel costs, and adds to the environmental credentials of the new business. The main aim of Farmer Copleys is to supply home and locally produced quality food to as many local people as possible.



TOLSTA COMMUNITY SHOP BUY OUT

Applicant: Tolsta Community Development Ltd

Location: Tolsta, Scotland

Theme: Services

When the news broke that the only retail outlet in their area was being sold local the 500 residents of Tolsta in the Scottish Western Isles were very concerned that they would lose this vital service so they decided to buy it. Through an amalgamation of funding including Rural Development Programme monies. Shares in the shop were sold in the community for £25 each with the management committee

advising that all profits will be re-invested in the business. It is a daunting venture and Catriona MacIver commenting, "The future is entirely dependent on the community being willing to spend their money in the shop. To make this a success, we will be depending on the custom of the whole village and we will do our best to accommodate all their shopping needs at very competitive prices."



HÄLJE FARM DIVERSIFICATION

Applicant: Erik & Kristina Johansson

Location: Umea, Sweden

Email: haljegard@ume.se **Web:** www.haljegard.nu

Theme: Farm Modernisation Programme

Although Erik and Kristina Johansson didn't have any experience in farming they decided to buy an old farm and develop different activities. Over the last 10 years Erik and Kristina Johansson have diversified Halje farm, no longer a traditional dairy farm, it is now a unique, experience-based activity for visitors. There are three areas of business: small-scale production and sale of food, biodiversity and events and adventure tours. The farm shop has everything from beef and sheep meat to unleavened bread and sheepskins. On the farm

there are opportunities to organize private parties and corporate events tailored according to the customer's requirements. Recently there have been new additions to the farm with the construction of a restaurant, shop and conference facilities, thanks to the support from the Rural Development Program. Today, the farm production stands for about half of the sales, and activities and events for nearly one quarter. With the new extension hopefully the turnover from this branch of the business will be doubled within a few years.



RURAL HOME CARE SCHEME

Applicant: Tygga Jamton

Location: Norbotten, Sweden

Email: goran.aberg44@telia.com

Theme: Services

The small village of Jämtön in Norrbotten has around 400 inhabitants, of which eighty are older than 65. The home care service was not sufficient for all their needs and was the basis for the project that started a year ago. Ingemar Karlsson is one of the people driving the project and says, "The aim is for old people to be able to remain living at home a bit longer. They can just phone me and get help with mowing the lawn or hanging curtains."

Göran Åberg is project leader for the initiative and says, "Having the security of phoning someone is important. We also have meeting places, such as a village café and various activities that means contact between old people is getting even better." The Association received a grant under the Rural Development Programme and says Göran, "We have now got a good community spirit in the village with the help of the project."





NEVERLAND PLAY AREA

Applicant: Angus Council

Location: Kirriemuir, Scotland

Email: scharnbergerj@angus.gov.uk **Web:** www.angus.gov.uk

Theme: Encouragement of Tourism

In 2010 the town of Kirriemuir celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of its most famous son, the author, James Matthew Barrie. Angus Council and the local community worked in partnership to create a fitting project to mark the event. The local beauty spot Kirrie Hill underwent an extensive redevelopment programme, taking inspiration from the tale of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan. The project aims to encourage tourism to Kirriemuir town and at the same time benefit the local residents. The project incorporates the Neverland Play Area featuring famous characters of the Peter Pan books. The local

community helped with the design of a Peter Pan mosaic, which resides at the entrance to the park. The project has been part funded by the Rural Tayside LEADER programme which awarded of £60,000 towards the development. Angus Environmental Trust contributed £30,000 with the remainder being funded by Angus Council.



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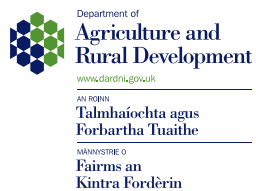
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