

Appendix A

Making it Local – Area West Report

Making It Local (MIL) is a programme of LEADER (translated from French meaning Links between actions for the development of the rural community) funding via DEFRA and overseen by RPA (Rural Payments Agency). The MIL Executive is made up of Councillors from County and District Councils, representatives of the AONBs, local business representatives and staffed by Devon County Council Officers. It is an established mechanism for delivering rural development.

Our Committee has been the most successful in the country in allocating it's funds to it's 4 priorities and has now fully committed it's funding of £1.4m. There are still some opportunities for funding through other agencies such as:

- Countryside Productivity – Large Grant Scheme. This scheme is for large capital bids of over £35,000.
- Country Productivity – Small Grant Schemes, from £3000 TO £12000.
- The Growth Programme – Another large grant scheme over £35,000 with three strands – Business Development – Food processing – Rural tourism.

Since I last reported to Area West, we have supported a large number of projects within and around the East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONB. Some examples of the variety of grants that the Group have dealt with are:

- Axminster Heritage - restoration of 18th century dye house.
- Various and varied farming equipment such as a pasteurizers, weigh crush and EID Equipment, Organic dispatch system, robotic milking systems, stock managing equipment, hoof trimmers etc.
- Ferne Animal Sanctuary - visitors centre.
- Equipment for Ventons Cider, Powderkeg Brewery, Perrys Cider, Pebblebed Vineyard.
- The Common Players - travel round seaside venues giving shows.
- Lower Yeats Glamping.
- Nigel Priston Forestry- machinery
- Rebel Town Pizza Van
- Burroughs Farm single or low tillage machinery.

There is a small amount of money left to allocate and this will take place at a meeting on 21st February. We had been promised further funding which was to come from underspent projects round the Country but this appears to now not be forthcoming. We will, no doubt, find out more at the meeting.

*Cllr Martin Wale,
SSDC Area West appointed representative to the Making it Local (Executive Committee)*