

The Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways LEADER Programme 2007-2013 is part of the Rural Development Programme for England and covers most of the rural East Riding of Yorkshire and parts of Ryedale and Scarborough. LEADER is a European Community initiative for assisting rural communities to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area.

The Local Action Group (LAG) are integral to the Programme and chose the key theme of Rural Heritage and Culture, linked where appropriate to service provision, with business growth and opportunities as cross-cutting themes. The LAG held the Programme's first Annual Event at Tickton Grange on 28th April which has been deemed a major success in celebrating the Programme achievements. The Event attracted members of the Wider LAG, (a membership of interested parties across the LEADER area) as well as projects that have received funding, representatives from regional organisations as well as the four local authority areas that the programme covers.

Over 70 delegates enjoyed presentations from Yorkshire Forward as well as LEADER funded projects such as the R.S.P.B National Seabird Centre, The Wolds Way Arts Trail, East Riding Artists and the new Beverley Tickton Grange development. Full case studies of all LEADER funded activity can be found on our website.

Dee Mitchell, Programme Coordinator gave delegates a Programme Update, Dee stated that although the programme has allocated £1.3 million to 24 community-led projects, more importantly it has helped lever in a further £1.4 million worth of funding from other sources. Dee said that *"this has significantly increased the effectiveness and impact of the Programme activity"*. LAG Chair, Graham Ward OBE gave an insight as to future Programme expectations, he said that *"the Council has a very real commitment to the LEADER Programme's continued success, it is an extremely exciting time for the programme and its achievements have set a very high bar for the next year."*

A project that LEADER has recently supported is concerned with developing Local Food. This is centred on a collaborative approach for Local Food producers. The Head Chef at Tickton Grange presented the importance of sourcing food locally and participants were given the opportunity to try various scrumptious tasters, such as Rosedale Farm Chicken Fillets, Smoked Yorkshire Ham and Charters of Brandesburton Sausage Rolls.

The delegates were then given a tour of ERA's soon-to-be Art Gallery which will be part of a large development for Tickton Grange, including a Farm Shop, Bakery, Orangery and Business Centre. Rose Horsepool said that *“LEADER has enabled a dream become a reality. ERA's aim is to raise the profile of our local Artists and makers whilst promoting economic growth for the area, LEADER has been fundamental in making this happen.”*

Feedback from the event has been extremely positive, Delegates stated that the Presentations were informative, the food was delightful and the Programme achievements were impressive. Mandy Annison, Project Secretary for The Riverside Pop-in Café, gave a personal thanks to LEADER staff for their inspirational support during the extent of their project which involved providing small catering facilities and a nature trail at St. Andrews Church in Paull.

Kath Wilkie, LAG Member for the LEADER programme said that *“the Event has provided Delegates with an insight of the Programmes impressive achievements, much of the strategic investment and community-based links are now starting create the bigger picture.”*

Information about the CWWW LEADER programme and how to apply can be found at www.ruralprogrammeseastyorkshire.co.uk/rdpe.

The LEADER programme is being financed by the European Agriculture Fund for Rural development as well as DEFRA and is managed by Yorkshire Forward as part of the Rural Development Plan for England.