Welcome to LEADER in Meath

Thursday, 22nd September 2016

Ardboyne Hotel, Navan
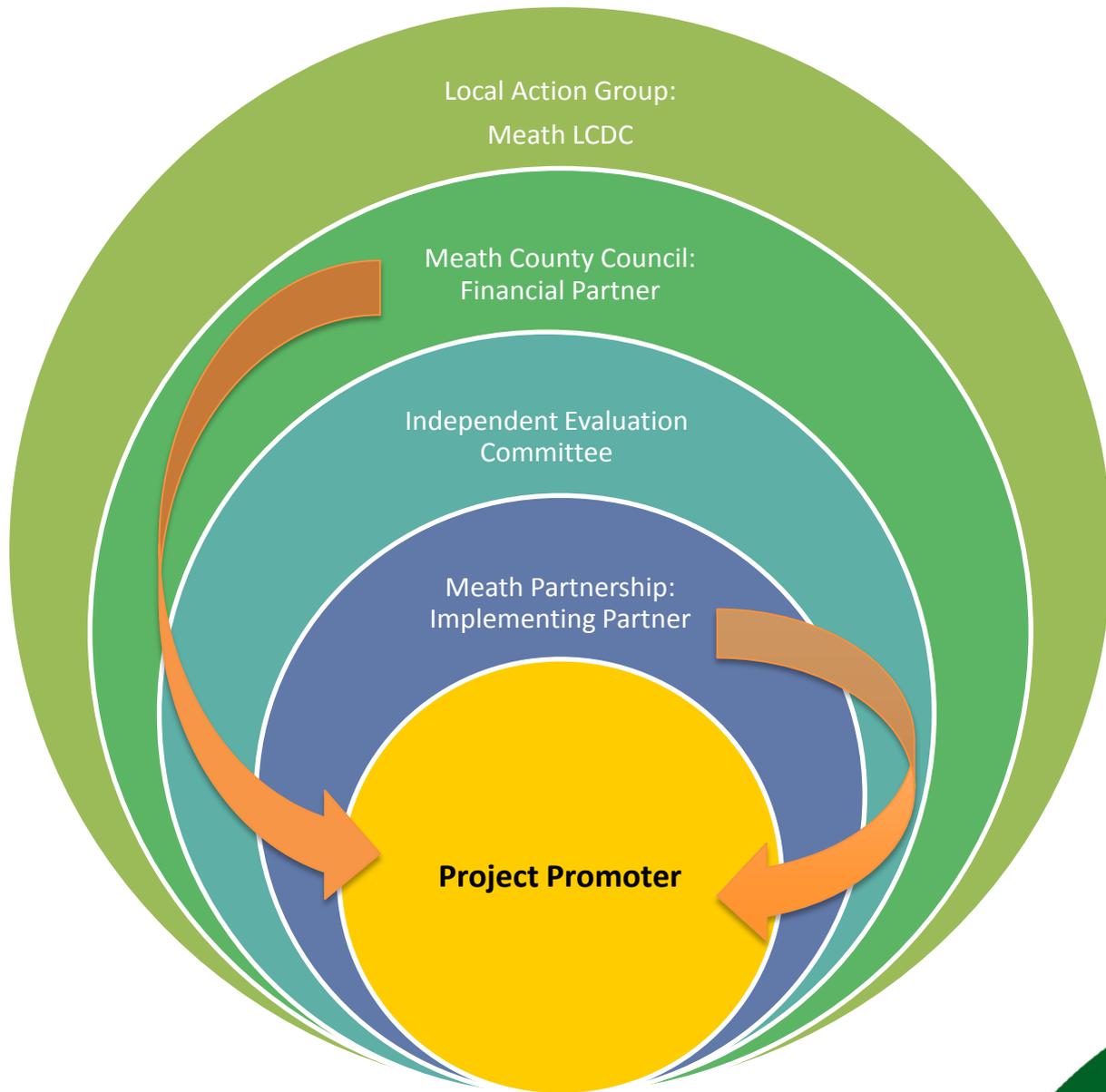
"a county which fulfils its social and economic potential, that is a preferred location for living and doing business, and one that provides its citizens and communities with the highest standards of living and quality of life"

Framework for New LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020

The themes and sub-themes are:

Economic Development, Enterprise Development, Job Creation:

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
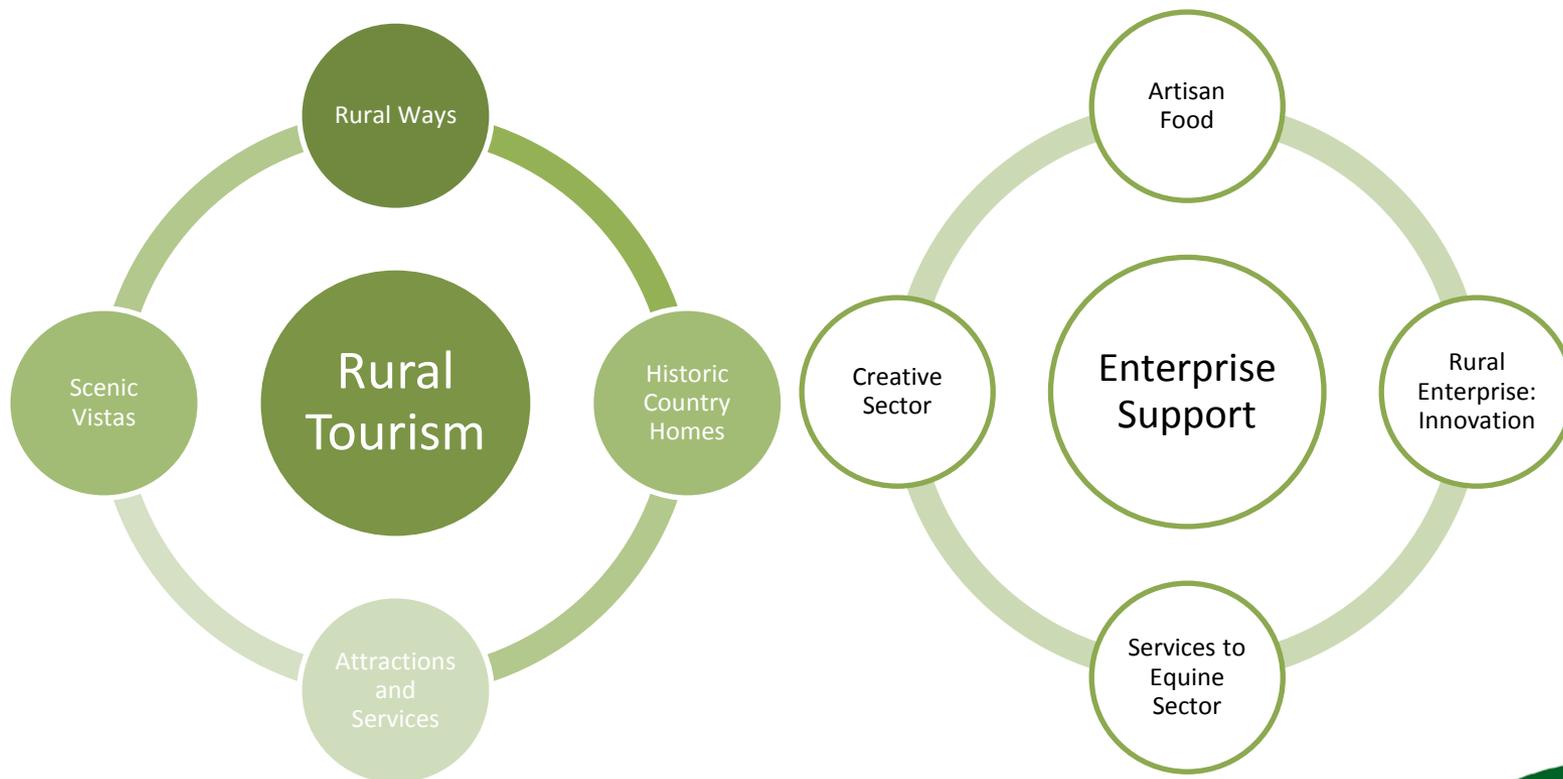- Broadband
- Rural Towns

Social Inclusion:

- Basic Services for hard to reach communities
- Rural Youth

Rural Environment:

- Water Resources
- Biodiversity
- Renewable Energy

Economic Development, Enterprise Development, Job Creation

Rural Ways

Scenic Vistas

Rural Tourism

Historic Country Homes

Attractions and Services

Artisan Food

Creative Sector

Enterprise Support

Rural Enterprise: Innovation

Services to Equine Sector

Budget Available: €1,859,550

Rural Towns

- Spearhead the rejuvenation and development of the towns and villages of County Meath

Festival and Events

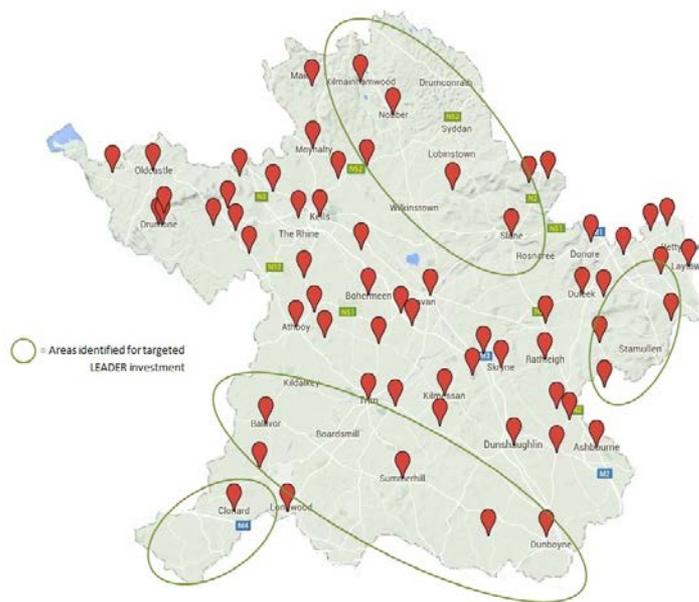Village and Town Centre Development

Community Capacity
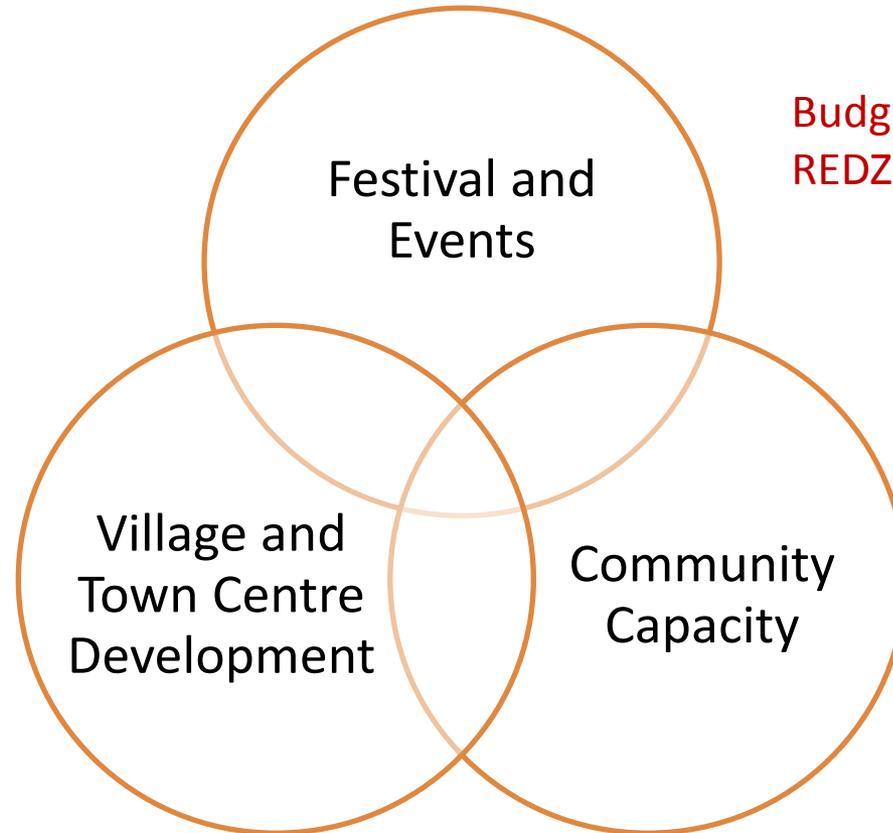
Budget Available: €623,875 + REDZ Initiative

Community Capacity
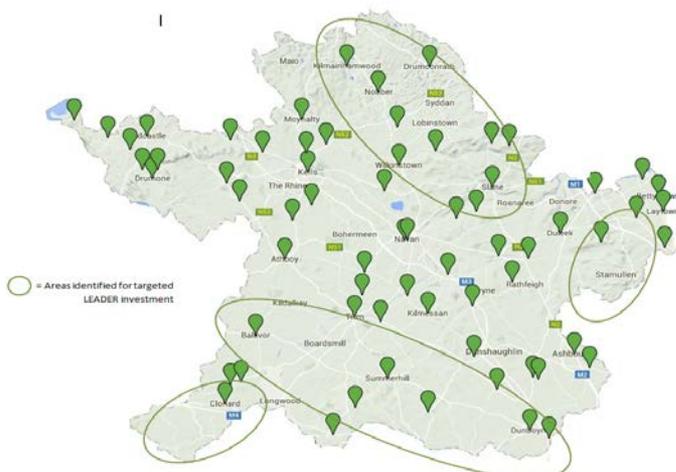
Support local development, networking and capacity building to empower local communities to develop the skills and experience that the community can draw on in developing a sustainable future and harnessing the potential of LEADER

LEADER 2020

Social Inclusion

(Community Facility Development) **+** (Rural Youth) **+** (Developing Community Assets (People)) **+** (Broadband and Digital Inclusion) **=** (Social Inclusion in LEADER)

Priority areas for Investment may include:

- Improving access to basic services and support for community facility development
- Introduction of a new service or the re-introduction of a previously withdrawn service
- The promotion of youth entrepreneurship and associated training can provide improved pathways for young people to access economic opportunities in rural areas.
- Youth-based projects may also include: the provision of youth clubs/cafés; improved access to ICT; sports/recreation activities; arts-based projects; and youth development programmes
- Support for improved access to and use of broadband in rural areas
- Feasibility studies, thematic or area development plans, purchase of equipment, networking, information hub and shared facilities
- Initiatives to developed and "tap-into" the social capital within the Community

Heritage Capital of Ireland

- Protect, enhance and widen the social and economic benefits of Meath's natural, built, social and cultural heritage.
  - Restoration, protection and appreciation of Meath's Antiquities
  - Animation of Meath's Natural, Social and Cultural Heritage
  - Investment in heritage-based visitor trails and support packages

Budget Available: €611,800

Rural Environment

- To promote and progress social, community and economic action supportive of environmental protection, sustainability and good practice

Development of Renewable Energy

Inland Waters Recreation and Protection

Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity

Budget Available: €921,977

Who can apply

- LEADER is a funding initiative open to all, from community and voluntary groups to private individuals and small to medium enterprises, LEADER can offer grant aid and support to projects aiming to promote the quality of life and economic opportunities for Meath dwellers within the framework of the approved LDS and Operating Rules.

- Even if you are not a Meath resident you can still avail of LEADER support once the project is based in the county.

Eligible project areas for LEADER investment

- Construction, acquisition or improvement of immovable property;
- Purchase of new machinery and equipment
- General costs linked to expenditure referred to in points (a) and (b), such as architect, engineer and consultation fees, fees relating to advice on environmental and economic sustainability, including feasibility studies.
- Professional costs, such as the fees of architects, archaeologists, engineers and consultants, are eligible for funding up to a cumulative ceiling of 12% of the capital costs of such projects.
- Intangible investments such as the acquisition or development of computer software and acquisitions of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks.
- Services and facilities targeting the disadvantaged and hard to reach

LEADER grants cannot fund any project or element of a project retrospectively.

Ineligible Activities

Things LEADER can't do

- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Conventional retail operations, excluding community based shops and farm shops selling locally produced produce
- Courses of instruction or training which form the part of normal education programmes or systems at secondary or higher levels.
- Loans, working capital, insurance costs
- Horticulture (including bee-keeping)
- Payments for gifts, donations or personal entertainments
- Statutory fines and penalties, criminal fines and damages
- Legal expenses in respect of litigation
- Costs associated with meeting a legislative or statutory requirement

- Planning application fees
- Reclaimable VAT
- Improvements/refurbishment of private residential property
- Projects that already have other EU funding either directly or through a national programme
- Conventional motor vehicles, including cars, industrial/farm/construction vehicles, vans and buses
- General maintenance works of public bodies
- Childcare, Health Care, Nursing homes, housing
- Race and sport horse industries
- Greyhound Industry

Grant Rates

Funding Ceilings and Support Rates			
Type Project	Promoter	Rate of Aid	Maximum Funding
Capital	Private Community	Up to a maximum of 50% Up to a maximum of 75%	€200,000
Analysis Development	Private Community	Up to a maximum of 75% Up to a maximum of 90%	€30,000
Training	Private/Community	Up to a maximum of 100%	€200,000

Quick checklist if considering an application for LEADER

- As a guiding principle, Meath Partnership on behalf of the LAG will consider projects by reference to the following:

    - Compatible with the LDS and Programme Operating Rules
    - The innovative nature of the project proposed
    - The market or demand for the proposed project, product or service
    - The economic viability of the project proposed
    - The capacity of the promoter to deliver the project
    - Adequate overall finance available to the promoter to successfully fund and complete the project.
    - The promoter possesses sufficient management and technical capacity to implement the proposed project

New Feature

Rolling vs Targeted Calls for Projects

- Rolling Calls are open applications received on a 'first-come, first served' basis. However under this Programme, LAGs must implement targeted periodic calls for EOIs. It is expected by the Department that the majority of calls will be on a targeted basis (40% minimum) and that targeted calls are spread across all themes of the Programme. Targeted calls will commence from 2017 onwards.

- The purpose of targeted calls for EOIs is to ensure that LEADER funding is targeted where it delivers the most value, is awarded based on a comparative assessment, secures equal opportunities for all potential applicants and ensures that funding is available for the duration of the Programme. Targeted Calls in Meath will adhere to the bottom-up ethos of LEADER.

- Targeted, periodic calls will be widely publicised, e.g. on the LAG's website, at information meetings and/or in the local media and direct contact with promoters.

Making an Application

Article 48: Requirement in terms of verification and compliance. Pobal/FP

1

Expression of Interest

New Stage: 1st formal step outlining the project idea and assessing its eligibility. All EOIs will be acknowledged and logged on RDP IT System.

2

Application

Once proposal is eligible, issued Application Form and Guidance Pack with all terms and conditions set out in terms of leases, planning permission, financing, TCC, procurement (quotes), insurance and statutory requirements. Once full application is received it will be acknowledged and sent for 1st Article 48 Check

3

Assessment and Decision

PO will prepare an assessment of the project and present it to the Independent Evaluation Committee The IEC will make a recommendation to the LAG for funding in terms of the amount and rate. The LAG will meet to review the recommendations of the IEC and either approve or reject the application for funding. An appeals process is in place.

4

Contract

Once the decision of the LAG is known, the project is presented for the second Article 48 Check. Once this check is complete and no issues found, the FP informs Meath Partnership of the outcome and the Letter of Offer and Contract is issued to the Promoter. Once the offer is accepted the eligibility period for the project commences. The PO will monitor the progress of the project and undertake site visits as required.

5

Payment

Once the project or phase of the project is complete and all expenditure incurred, the Promoter will seek the drawdown of the grant aid. The PO will work with the promoter to finalise all outstanding checks and paperwork and present the project for drawdown. At this stage the project will undergo the final Article 48 check in terms of payment and once completed successfully, Meath County Council will issue the grant payment to the promoter by EFT.

Supports Available

- Animation roadshows in various locations across county Meath

- Thematic Seminars

- Individual Promoter Meetings

- Helpdesk and email support

- FAQ on website

- Call the office and talk to the Team

Thank You