



ESSEX RIVERS LEADER FUND GIVES THEIR FIRST GRANT OF £86,104

Calcott Hall Farm in Brentwood has received a windfall of £86,104 towards their project to change a currently unused barn into a Café next to their farm shop.

The project to rebuild and extend a redundant barn at Calcott Hall Farm is worth approximately £250,000 and this grant will mean the project can start immediately, with the prospect of creating six jobs by the end of the year. This investment will enable Calcott Hall Farm Café to serve new and existing customers with produce from the farm and other locally produced items. It will also aim to increase visitors and spend at Calcott Hall Farm Shop which also sells produce from the farm and locally sourced and produced items.

This is the first grant to have been made by the Essex Rivers Local Action Group which has been set up to distribute £1.8million of EU funding to rural businesses and organisations in parts of Essex. It covers parts of Colchester, Chelmsford, Brentwood, Braintree, Maldon and Rochford local authority areas and the aim of the Defra grant is to help boost growth and create jobs in the countryside. The Essex Rivers Local Action Group is made up of local community representatives from rural businesses and public bodies and meets every three months to allocate funding.

Robert Davidson, Chairman of the Essex Rivers Local Action Group and himself a local farmer, said: “We were so pleased to support this project. It will create six jobs for local people and growth for the farm business which are the main aims of the LEADER grant.”

Peter McTurk, who will be managing the project for Calcott Hall Farm, said: “We are thrilled to have been awarded a LEADER grant to help with the development of our new Cafe at Calcott Hall Farm. New jobs and opportunities will be created and we are all looking forward to the exciting new project.”

Duncan Howie, Vice Chairman of the Essex Rivers Local Action group added: “This is great news for the Essex rural economy and means more jobs and a boost to the community. I urge all rural businesses to find out if they are eligible for LEADER funding.”

Beverly Davies, LEADER Programme Manager, added: “You don’t have to be a business to apply; if you are a farmer, smallholder, forester or are involved in local tourism, you may be eligible for a grant. Just contact me and I will let you know if you are eligible to apply for money for your project.”

For more information contact Beverly Davies at the Rural Community Council of Essex on 01376 547330 or visit the website www.essexrcc.org.uk



GROUNDWORK AND TESCO ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO AWARD FUNDING TO COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE PROJECTS



TESCO'S BAGS OF HELP SCHEME WILL OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS AGAIN ON 18 APRIL 2016

Do you know of a local community green space project that would benefit from funding? If so, apply to the second round of this fantastic community grant programme – or share this information with anyone you think may be interested.

Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork, the community charity with a green heart, and is funded by Tesco customers from the proceeds of the 5p charge for plastic carrier bags. The scheme is open to community groups across England, Wales and Scotland to apply for grants of £8,000, £10,000 and £12,000 to improve local green space.

Projects that will get the green light as a result of the funding will include new pocket parks, sports facilities, schools, wildlife areas, seafront improvements and community gardens.

Tesco customers will be able to cast their vote on which shortlisted project in their area they would like to see receive the top grant from 1 October 2016. Groundwork is administering the funding and you can find all the details on their dedicated website please click [here](#)

In total the programme will support around 2,500 projects each year across the UK – over 300 of those will be in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Groundwork has over 30 years' experience of working with communities to change places and change lives for the better. People are a part of the place they live, work and play this scheme will help people access valuable funding to run projects that improve community spaces.



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL FLOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME YEAR 2 GRANT 2016/17

As part of the second phase of the grant contribution from Essex County Council (ECC) five year Capital Programme budget. It is ECC's intention to contribute towards the delivery of schemes which result in protecting residential properties in the Essex County from ordinary watercourse, ground water and surface water flooding. ECC have stated the eligible bodies who may apply also include Town and Parish Councils, District, Borough and City Councils, Community groups, The Environment Agency, Water supply and Sewerage, Essex Highways, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Voluntary Organisations, Charities, Conservation Bodies, Landowners and Farmers.

We welcome the opportunity for our members to make applications for projects.

The application will be open from 31st March 2016 and closes 1st September 2016.

Applications can be sent to: floods@essex.gov.uk

or posted to:

Flood and Water Management, E3 Zone 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH



MPS CALL FOR PLANNING POLICY REVIEW

An influential group of MPs has called for a comprehensive review of national planning policy.

The Communities & Local Government (CLG) Committee said the review should be carried out before the end of this parliament. The inquiry report said there had been insufficient robust, objective and evidence-based monitoring, evaluation or review of the National Planning Policy Framework since its publication in 2012.

An overall review of the operation of national planning policy should pull together the various significant pieces of work in this area, said the committee.

This work includes the Local Plans Expert Group report, the Housing and Planning Bill, and the technical consultation on the implementation planning changes.

Committee chairman Clive Betts said: "It is important that people are reassured that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) works effectively and that it supports sustainable development in their communities.

"The government needs to ensure there is confidence in the planning system by carrying out a comprehensive review of the NPPF by the end of this Parliament."

Communities would not benefit fully from the NPPF unless their local authorities properly fulfilled their responsibilities to publish and adopt Local Plans, said the committee.

For further reading please click [here](#)



NATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT AWARDED FUNDING

The UK's National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) has been saved from closure after being awarded last minute government funding - securing its future for a further four years.

The government has today confirmed that the NWCU will be provided with £1.204million government funding by Defra and the Home Office until March 2020. Additionally, Defra is to provide the Unit with up to £29,000 a year over the next four years for specific work to tackle wildlife crime conducted online, which is a growing area of concern. The specialist unit plays a vital

role in investigating crimes against both wildlife in Britain and internationally, and was threatened with closure after the government failed to confirm whether the unit would continue to receive funding after March 2016.

In a statement, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Secretary, Rory Stewart, said:

"In recognition of the important contribution the Unit makes to tackling wildlife crime, both at home and abroad, I can confirm that Defra and Home Office Ministers have agreed that their respective departments will each provide the Unit with funding of £136,000 a year for the next four financial years. This will give the Unit significant financial stability and enable their vital work to continue until at least 2020. Those contributions will be in addition to the funding central Government provides to police forces in England and Wales to tackle all types of crime (including wildlife crime)." Please click [here](#) for the full article

SAFEGUARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

Whatever the outcome of July's In/Out vote, our industry's environmental commitments must continue to transcend international boundaries.

This year, thanks to the announcement of Europe's long-awaited circular economy (CE) package, sustainability has been highlighted as a key area for improvement for European manufacturers with the targets set out by the EU providing a clear blueprint for a greener and more cyclical future. The CE package has given all industries operating within the UK's circular economy some exciting and achievable objectives to strive towards. These include getting to the stage where European economies are collectively recycling a minimum of 65% of municipal waste and 75% of overall packaging material within the next 15 years. For glass, the benchmark has been set higher, with targets fixed at 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2030.

The most recent figures from the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) suggest that the UK is well on track to meeting these targets. As data from the latest annual waste report suggests, 72.7% of UK packaging waste is currently being either recycled or recovered.

For further reading please [click here](#)



**MALDON
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

MALDON DISTRICT SHOWCASE 2016

Maldon District Council is hosting a high-profile showcase for district based businesses at the Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Cold Norton, on Wednesday 11th May 2016.

Funded by Magnox Ltd and organised by Maldon District Council, the Showcase is open to new and existing businesses - sole traders, SMEs and large enterprises - looking to raise their profile locally, nationally and internationally. The event will also be of significant value to those who may be considering starting their own business. The importance of brand will be highlighted by the keynote speaker . . . Levi Roots, Chef, Musician, Entrepreneur and Dragon Slayer! In addition to visiting the various exhibition stands, there will also be the opportunity for delegates to attend seminars on:

- Apprenticeships for Employers
- Exporting Opportunities
- Social Media
- Funding for Business

Cllr Penny Channer, Chairman of Maldon DC Planning & Licensing Committee commented "I am delighted that the District Council is providing an opportunity to showcase our entrepreneurial spirit and support our local businesses. I'm particularly looking forward to Levi Roots sharing his business story, and to hearing more about what makes the District such an excellent location for business".

Please click [here](#)

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

New Police and Crime Commissioner for the Essex Police Area: Thursday 5th May 2016.

EU referendum - the UK will vote to remain in or leave the European Union: Thursday 23rd June 2016.

If you have not yet registered to vote and would like to do so registration must be completed by 18th April to vote in the 5th May elections, or by 7th June to vote in the EU referendum on 23rd June.

To register to vote please click [here](#)

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