



Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020
Funding for Community Regeneration in Neath Port Talbot Rural Wards

The Rural Development Programme

Neath Port Talbot qualifies for Rural Development Plan funding from the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for the period 2014 - 2020. The aim of the Programme is to increase the economic prosperity of rural areas in Wales.

LEADER Project Updates

The Local Action Group is pleased to announce that the following projects have been approved for funding:

Go for IT

Age Connects Neath Port Talbot, formerly Age Concern Neath Port Talbot is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee established in 1998. They are an independent local organisation and work in partnership with the five other independent Age Connects organisations in Wales.

The 'Go for IT' project will foster interest and promote the importance and value of digital technology amongst adults ages 50 plus in the designated wards in Neath Port Talbot. The previous work delivering Outreach services in Neath Port Talbot has identified a level of interest, but many people have anxieties surrounding involvement in using digital technology to assist in various aspects of modern day life.

Age Connects Neath Port Talbot will recruit, train and support a minimum of 10 ICT Volunteer Mentors to assist with providing long term and sustainable ICT



support for people ages 50 plus during and beyond the life of the three year project. These opportunities for volunteering will enhance a person's digital, social and communication skills, offer valuable experience and contribute to widening their potential for future employment.



Outcomes of this project will include:

- *By the end of the project, 500 local older people will be more aware, confident and digitally proficient in managing financial, administrative, informational, educational and social transactions, using digital services. These increased skillsets and knowledge will ensure service users have a greater ability to face the many challenges associated with ageing.*
- *By the end of the project, 500 older people will have increased opportunities for community participation and experience significant reductions in social exclusion. Beneficiaries will have increased confidence, greater social networks and reduced feelings of loneliness and isolation.*
- *Throughout the life of the project, older people will benefit from increased income through the range of benefits and allowances available to them by accessing cheaper online alternatives.*
- *By the end of the project and with support from a minimum of 10 Volunteer 'Go for IT' Mentors, older people will continue to update their digital skills and regularly access non-syllabus sustainable ICT sessions.*
- *Throughout the project, its operation will help maximise the use of local rural community spaces and facilities in Neath Port Talbot such as community halls and resource centres, for learning, socialising, reducing social isolation and achieving digital inclusion.*

Is your community organisation looking for capital funding? If so contact the RDP Team for more information about the Rural Community Development Fund

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Tyfu'n Iach Gyd'n Gilydd (Growing Healthy Together)

This is a 1 year pilot project that will be delivered in partnership between Neath Port Talbot CVS, DOVE Workshop and Glynneath Training Centre. The aim of the project is to start developing a thriving food and growing economy in Neath Port Talbot. This pilot project will be a starting point and inform and enable the longer-term aim of establishing a thriving food and related produce economy for Neath Port Talbot and potentially create a Community Food Hub and a common brand amongst producers.



The pilot project will:

- *Map current producers and create a directory of local producers/projects*
- *Design and deliver an innovative pilot programme of community food growing activities/events*
- *Design and accredit new curriculum – NPT Growers Certificate and learning toolkit, working with Argoed Cymru and building on the success of the Growing the Future Project*
- *Pilot the new curriculum through a programme of horticultural skills training/support*
- *Provide access to training in growing, processing and enterprise skills e.g. healthy eating, food and recipe knowledge, food production, traditional crafts; woodworking etc.*
- *Create an innovative support network of local producers and community growing projects*
- *Promote healthy, affordable, locally grown food – through providing a range of opportunities and materials to raise awareness of the benefits of good quality local food, shortening the supply chain and reducing food miles*
- *Survey available land for growing, develop partnerships with housing associations, private landowners etc.*
- *Establish infrastructure for NPT Community Growing Hub*
- *Consult local producers and growing projects to assess and report on support needs.*

Past to Present @ SWMM

The South Wales Miners' Museum is a registered charity managed by a board of trustees dedicated to promoting the industrial heritage of the Afan and Llynfi Valley. The main purpose of the museum is to advance public education of the social heritage of the South Wales Coalfield. The museum's aims are to assist in the regeneration of the local community through easy access to information on social, cultural and industrial heritage. This includes enhancing community awareness and education through exhibiting artefacts of equipment, photographs, documents, maps and literature. Admission charges / donations contribute to the running and maintenance cost of the museum.



The key milestones and outcomes of the project include:

- *To recruit and retain 2 full time employees, Heritage Officer, Collections Officer*
- *Collections Care – review collection and complete a collections report*
- *Volunteer recruitment*
- *Form a working collections group*
- *Increase access to heritage through the installation of 4 info-point devices*
- *Purchase materials for collections care*
- *Form a collections care team*
- *Accession objects*
- *Ffilm Cymru Wales Workshops*
- *Installation of info-points uploading information*
- *Behind the scenes workshops – collections care in action*
- *Trial visits*
- *External guided tours*
- *School project days*
- *Family open days – workshops and activities*

