



ff Funding at Falkirk



****FUNDING ALERT – MARCH 2008****

Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group have been awarded £2.63million to allocate to projects based within rural communities between 2007-2013.

What is LEADER?

LEADER is a mainstream part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (SRDP). In the words of The Scottish Government, "it is a bottom up form of local governance aimed at empowering communities to develop their own area using innovative approaches and cooperation".

Once the new programme is approved by the European Commission LEADER is expected to have a budget of around £41m across Scotland over the period 2007-13. Funding is awarded to Local Action Groups (LAGs) to take decisions on projects which are community driven, have a wide community benefit, and will lead to achieving some of the desired outcomes of the Programme.

What geographical area will be covered?

Eligible areas are all of rural Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire, and the Lomond area of West Dunbartonshire. Essentially this is **all** of Forth Valley **except** the larger settlements (Stirling, Falkirk, Alloa, Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Stenhousemuir) **plus** Balloch and surrounding settlements in the National Park area in West Dunbartonshire.

What can be funded?

The specific criteria, upper and lower funding limits and guidance for applicants are currently being developed, however the broad themes under which projects will be funded are:

Revitalising Communities	Conservation of the rural environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring sustainable local services - Developing community owned assets - Supporting sustainable local enterprise - Celebrating Forth Valley and Lomond's culture - Sensitively developing the built environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting businesses and communities to natural assets - Environmental improvements - Ensuring sensitive access for all - Understanding Forth Valley and Lomond's natural heritage

For further information and to register your interest in applying to the LEADER programme visit www.fvl.org.uk or contact the External Funding Unit.

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