



*Asiantaeth Datblygu Gwledig
Rural Development Agency*

Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig

Annual Report

1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

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Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig

Annual Report: 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

1. Introduction

Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig is a rural development company that provides guidance, support and funding for community-led projects that seek to develop and diversify the rural economy. It is supported through EU funds, UK domestic funds and some private sector funds.

The Company currently administers elements of the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (RDP), which is financed by the Welsh Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

One such element is the LEADER programme, which the Company administers on behalf of Local Action Groups (LAGs) in rural Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Here, the Company is involved in supporting activities and projects within the following LEADER themes:

1. Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
2. Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
3. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
4. Renewable energy on a community level
5. Exploitation of digital technology

The budget for the LEADER programme was approved during the period, in August 2015. The Company has been successful in securing a total programme value of £7,832,750 for the Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham LAGs. This equates to the following programme budgets per county:

➤ Rural Denbighshire:	£2,233,688
➤ Rural Flintshire:	£2,924,812
➤ Rural Wrexham:	£2,674,250

With the approval of the LEADER budgets, the Company finalised the setting up of the LAGs in each county area by September 2015. The LAGs are the decision-making bodies for the LEADER programme, with Cadwyn Clwyd appointed as the Administrative Body, which has responsibility of all aspects of implementation and management of the programme locally.

Cadwyn Clwyd was also active in bidding for funds from other RDP schemes. During the period, the Company assisted community groups in the area to gain access to the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF), which is a capital fund aimed at basic services and village renewal in rural areas. One result of this was Trelogan community's RCDF project being approved £155,678 at Expression of Interest (EOI) stage.

The Company also bid for project funds under the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme and was approved £316,000 at EOI stage towards a pan-rural Wales project, which focuses on exploring the feasibility of Smart energy grids - including storage, direct supply, monitoring, and controls - for community/agriculture based renewables and projects that address fuel poverty.

During the period, the Company also worked on accessing another RDP scheme, the Sustainable Management Scheme. A bid was subsequently approved at EOI stage for a total value of £260,000. This is a landscape-scale project that aims to carry out a series of interventions over approximately 8,000 hectares of land in a sub-catchment of the River Clwyd.

The total value of various RDP scheme funds accessed during the period and subsequently secured at approval or EOI stage is: £8,408,750.00

Scheme:	£
Denbighshire LEADER	£2,233,688
Flintshire LEADER	£2,924,812
Rural Wrexham LEADER	£2,674,250
Supply Chain (Smarter Energy)	£316,000*
SMS (River Clwyd)	£260,000*
TOTAL VALUE RDP Schemes	£8,408,750

**Approved at EOI stage*

The above budgets will be directly managed and delivered by Cadwyn Clwyd.

During the period, the Company also successfully completed the Commons Development programme. The Commons Development Programme was set up to enable graziers on common land to enter into the Welsh Government's Glastir agri-environmental scheme. The project was run in partnership with Menter Môn and PLANED. With partners, by the end of the period, over 70% of eligible Common Land in Wales had entered the scheme, resulting in a forecast of over £30 million of agri-environment payments to grazing associations across Wales. The contract remit was extended to also cover the provision of support for individual farmers interested in applying for Glastir Entry and Glastir Advanced on farms.

The Company also continues to deliver a commercial contract, Renew Wales, which provides support for communities to engage in carbon reduction initiatives.

Due to the period spanning the completion and commencement of two separate European programming periods, projects are not yet in full swing and therefore the Company turnover was lower than the previous year. The Company's turnover for year ending March 2016 was £580,773.

The loss incurred in the year was for fixtures and fitting out the new office.

The result of the UK Referendum to leave the European Union will inevitably create uncertainty for the Company in the future. However, the Welsh Government has confirmed that all existing contracts under the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 will be honoured. As a result, the contract for the LEADER programme will continue and the Company's finances and its viability is secure until 31st December 2021.

2. Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014–2020

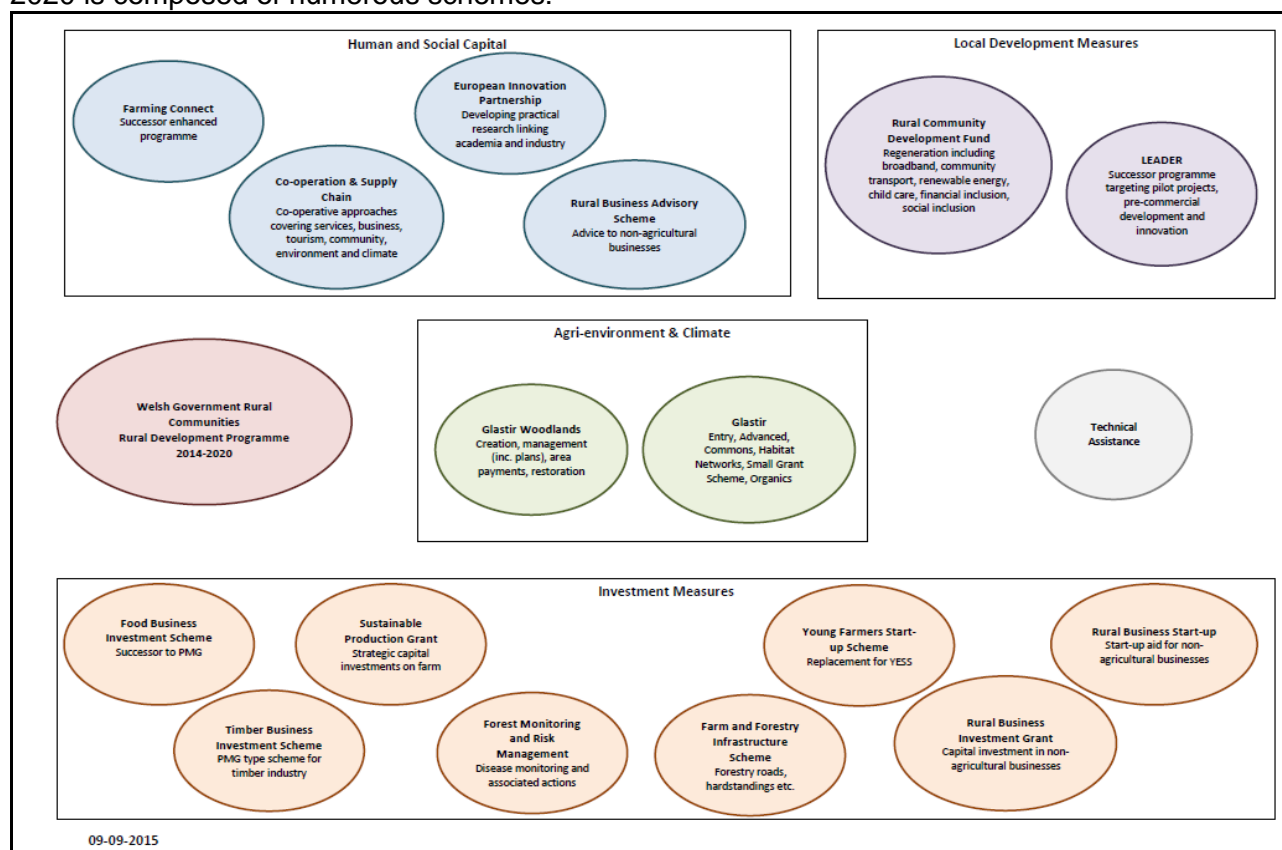
The Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 was adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015. This 7-year investment programme, with a value of approximately £953 million, is funded by the European Union’s European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Welsh Government. It will support a wide range of activities that contribute to the following objectives:

- Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture
- Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action
- Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment

Furthermore, all projects funded by the programme will align with one or more of the following 6 European Rural Development Priorities:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas
- Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests
- Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
- Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
- Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 is composed of numerous schemes:

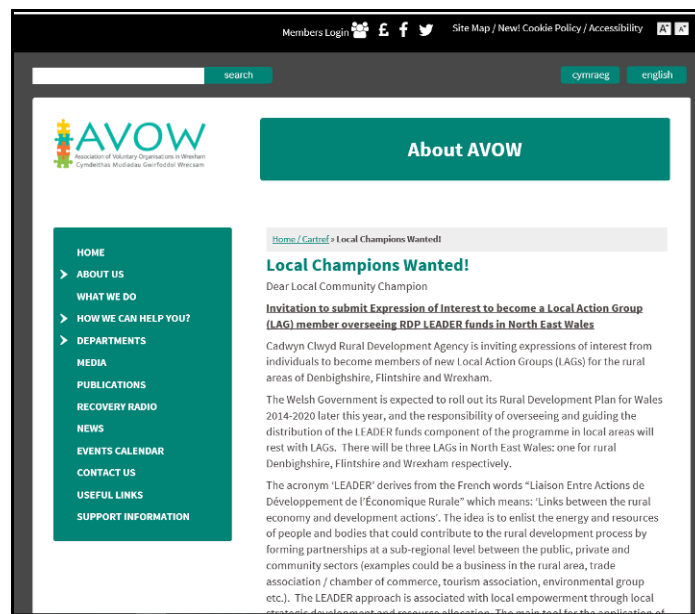


A Welsh Government info-graphic showing schemes within the Rural Development Programme

(i) Animation of LEADER 2014-2020 in North East Wales

LEADER 2014-2020 is one of the schemes within the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020. LEADER is a French acronym that stands for 'Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale', which translates as 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'. LEADER is a community-led, bottom-up approach that encourages cross-sector partnership working, networking and cooperation. The focus of the scheme is Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), and this is achieved by empowering Local Action Groups (LAGs) in the process of their own rural Development and allocating resources to them for this purpose.

The Welsh Government called for the formation of LAGs across Wales. The LAGs have the responsibility of designing and implementing a Local Development Strategy (LDS), and then allocating LEADER funds to projects that work towards the aims and objectives of this strategy. In January 2014, Cadwyn Clwyd submitted three Expressions of Interest (EOIs) indicating the intentions of local communities in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham to each form a LAG to deliver LEADER in the rural areas of their counties. These EOIs were approved by Welsh Government in March 2014. Cadwyn Clwyd then facilitated the formation of the three LAGs, which was completed by the Autumn of 2015. The Company set up an application process and undertook a publicity push calling for 'Local Champions' to sit on the LAG. Each LAG has a total of 18 members, drawn locally from community (6), private (6) and public sectors (6), as well as additional advisors from other bodies.



Cadwyn Clwyd facilitated the formation of the three LAGs in North East Wales. (Above) Cadwyn Clwyd LAG membership advert appearing on a partner organisation's website, AVOW

The LDS documents identify local needs, challenges and opportunities; and then outline a series of actions to meet set objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Cadwyn Clwyd facilitated the creation of three LDS documents in conjunction with the OldBell3 research consultancy; one each for the Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham LAGs. During Summer 2014, full and rigorous public consultation was undertaken with local communities, local authorities and stakeholder organisations in the three counties. This formed the basis of the strategies, which were submitted to the Welsh Government in September 2014. Written approval from the Welsh Government for the three LDS

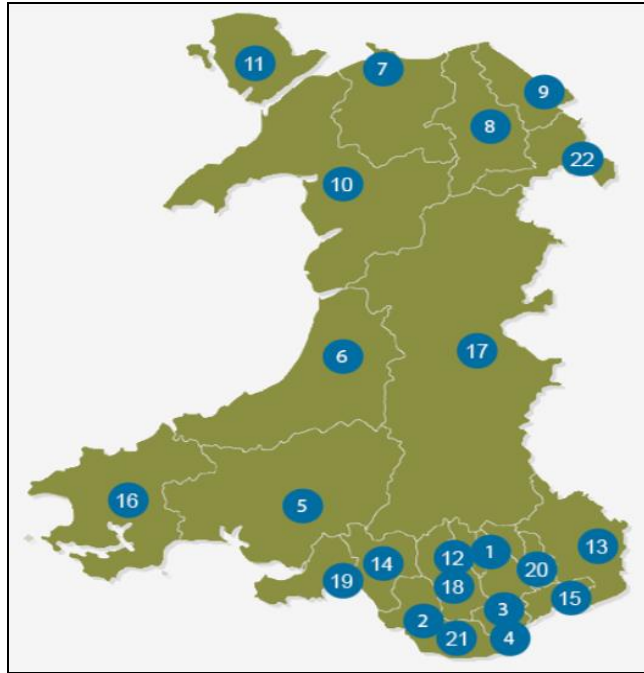
documents, the three proposed LAGs, and for Cadwyn Clwyd to serve as the Administrative Body for the three LAGs was received in early August 2015.



A summary of the Wrexham LDS in one page (Wavehill presentation, October 2015)

LEADER accounts for 5% of the RDP budget, which equates to approximately £47.5 million. In August 2015, the Welsh Government allocated this funding to 22 LAGs across Wales. The Company was successful in securing a total LEADER programme value of £7,832,750 for the Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham LAGs. This equates to the following programme budgets per county (made up of EARDF, Welsh Government co-financing and local match funding):

- Rural Denbighshire: £2,233,688
- Rural Flintshire: £2,924,812
- Rural Wrexham: £2,674,250



Welsh Government map showing the 22 LAGs in Wales. Cadwyn Clwyd is the Administrative Body for three LAGs: (8) Denbigshire, (9) Flintshire, and (22) Wrexham.

The LEADER fund is not a grant scheme, but rather a fund to explore innovative new approaches and experimental technologies to tackle poverty, create jobs and drive sustainable economic development. The LEADER programme focuses on 5 themes:

1. Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
2. Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
3. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
4. Renewable energy on a community level
5. Exploitation of digital technology

Pilot projects, feasibility studies, training and mentorship initiatives that align to these themes and work towards the objectives of the Local Development Strategies can be allocated funding by the LAGs. Eligible costs include professional fees and services, and small scale equipment costs (no more than £10,000 Inc. VAT). It cannot support capital projects, activities that would constitute State Aid, or projects outside the rural area. The results of experimental work under LEADER are disseminated to inform future rural development.

The first meetings of the LAGs were held in September and October 2015. Here, Cadwyn Clwyd was accepted as the Administrative Body, the LDS was adopted, LAG terms of Reference agreed and a training workshop was provided. Endaf Griffiths, from Wavehill, led this workshop, which gave an overview of the new European funding programme, the role of the LAG and a summary of the LDS. All Cadwyn Clwyd staff attended the first LAG meetings and met the new LAG members.



First Denbighshire LAG meeting, Oriol House, St Asaph, September 2015

In parallel with this, Cadwyn Clwyd completed its staff recruitment and now has in place a full complement of project officers for the delivery of the LEADER programme. The project officers have received in-house training and have also attended Welsh Government workshop events, for example, a State Aid workshop held in Newtown on 4 September 2015.

Swyddog / Officer
Lowri Owain (Rheolwr / <i>Manager</i>)
Adam Bishop (Cydllynydd Rhaglen / <i>Programme Coordinator</i>)
Delyth Jones (Swyddog Cyllid / <i>Finance Officer</i>)
Catrin Jones (Swyddog Cyllid / <i>Finance Officer</i>)
Sarah Jones (Swyddog Adnoddau Naturiol / <i>Natural Resources Officer</i>) - Thema 1 / <i>Theme 1</i>
Gwyn Rowlands (Swyddog Partneriaethau Busnes / <i>Business Partnerships Officer</i>) - Thema 2 / <i>Theme 2</i>
Donna Hughes (Swyddog Partneriaethau Busnes / <i>Business Partnerships Officer</i>) - Thema 2 / <i>Theme 2</i>
Helen Williams (Swyddog Menter Gymunedol / <i>Community Enterprise Officer</i>) - Thema 3 / <i>Theme 3</i>
Silas Jones (Swyddog Datblygu Egni / <i>Energy Development Officer</i>) - Thema 4 / <i>Theme 4</i>
Lowri Edwards (Cymorth Prosiect / <i>Project Support</i>) - Thema 5 / <i>Theme 5</i>
Eirys Roberts (Gweinyddwr / <i>Administrator</i>)

Cadwyn Clwyd project officers attended the Denbigh & Flint Agricultural Show on 20th August to network with a number of groups and talk about the themes of the new LEADER programme.

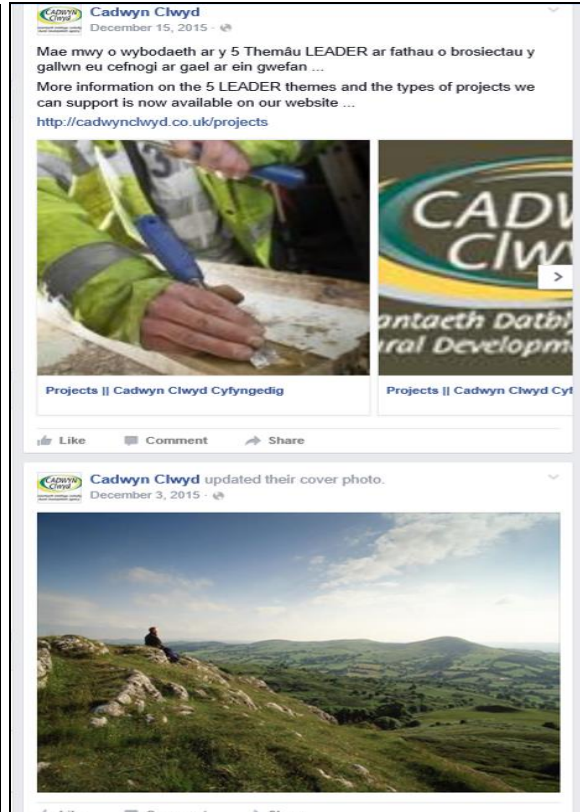


Denbigh & Flint Agricultural Show

A multi-pronged marketing campaign was undertaken to raise awareness of the launch of the new LEADER funding programme and the opportunity it presented for local rural communities. A press release was produced, Cadwyn Clwyd's website was updated, and information was circulated through electronic mail-outs and via social media.



(Left) Cutting from The Leader newspaper, 4 November 2015
 (Right) Updates on the Cadwyn Clwyd Facebook page



From this point on, throughout the period, Cadwyn Clwyd utilised its social media pages and website to promote the new LEADER programme. In October 2015, an open call for project ideas was circulated via Facebook, Twitter and through the website. The open call was also sent to contacts over email and through a posted mail-out.



Cadwyn Clwyd Tweets: (Left) open call for project ideas,
 (Right) promoting LEADER funding advice surgeries

Cadwyn Clwyd's thematic project officer team organised and staffed a series of LEADER funding advice surgeries for the general public. Here, individuals and/or groups could talk with a Cadwyn Clwyd officer about their project and get advice about opportunities available through LEADER, the wider RDP and other funds. Information was posted on Cadwyn Clwyd social media pages and website.

Denbighshire

Tuesday 17th November at Llys Owain, Corwen (3pm to 7pm)
 Wednesday 18th November at Trefnant Village Hall, Trefnant (3.30pm to 7pm)



Flintshire

Tuesday 24th November at Tyddyn Street Church, Mold (2.30pm to 6pm)
 Thursday 26th November at St Peters Church, Holywell (3pm to 7pm)



Wrexham

Wednesday 11th November at Glyn Wylfa, Chirk (3pm to 7pm)
 Thursday 12th November at Llay Miners Welfare hall, Llay (3.30pm to 6.45pm)

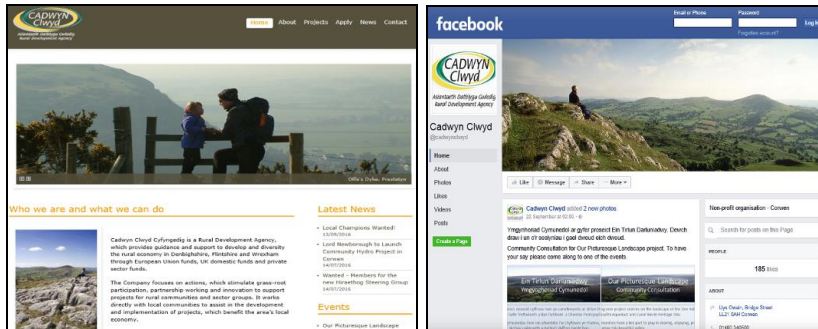


In preparation for the new LEADER programme, Cadwyn Clwyd had put in place an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to capture groups' project ideas and contact details. With the arrival of the funding, all of the EOIs that were received were responded to.

The process of project officers meeting groups, providing advice and working up LEADER projects is now firmly in place and will be ongoing. Cadwyn Clwyd has drawn up a Project Proposal Form and accompanying Guidance Notes. A project appraisal process has been put in place and the LAG decision-making system was tested at the second set of LAG meetings, which took place in December 2015.

Cadwyn Clwyd has made use of its social media to publish open calls for project participants for approved projects.





Website: www.cadwynclwyd.co.uk
 Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/cadwynclwyd>
 Facebook: <https://twitter.com/CadwynClwyd>

(ii) LEADER 2014-2020: Denbighshire Implementation

Theme 1: Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

The project officer met a number of groups through August and September to start talking about the new programme and to discuss their project ideas. The project officer attended the Flint & Denbigh Agricultural Show (20th August) to network with a number of groups and talk about the new themes of the new LEADER programme.

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members. All project officers worked on organising workshops within each of the Local Action Group areas and prepared information and paperwork for them.

The project officer attended meetings with community groups to discuss their initial project ideas and how they would fit in to the new themes and helped to direct the groups to other possible funding that they could access if their ideas did not fit into the new LEADER funding.

The project officer attended a number of meetings during the autumn. These included the Destination Denbighshire Partnership meeting in September held at Ruthin Castle, attended the Denbighshire Tourism Forum held at Oriel House in St. Asaph and met with DVSC officers also in November.

The project officer worked with a number of groups to develop project ideas into more strategic ventures, ready for the Cadwyn Clwyd BOD and LAG meetings in March 2016. These have included: Llantysilio Community Council, Clwydian Range Tourism Group, Llangollen Railway. The project officer has also been helping Llangollen Railway and Denbigh Museum with their RCDF applications.

Theme 2: Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains

The project officer with a specialist expertise in agriculture commenced working on this theme on 1 October 2015, having previously been involved with the Glastir scheme. The project officer attended the Funding Workshops held at Trefnant Village Hall and at the Cadwyn Clwyd office at Corwen. The officer has also attended Denbighshire LAG and Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors' meetings.

The project officer has also met with the following National Farmers Union, Farmers Union of Wales and Country Landowners Association, Natural Resources Wales, Dee River Trust, Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi, AHDB Dairy, Denbighshire Countryside Services, Farming Connect, Cywain, Coed Cymru and Cynefin.

The project officer attended the following events, Denbighshire Tourism Forum at Oriel House, St Asaph, the Denbighshire Ambassadors Meeting at Clwyd Gate, Ruthin, Cywain Agriculture Sharing Success at Talgarth Mill, Builth Wells, Food and Drink Wales Food for the Future Conference, Food Festivals Organisers Conference and the Food Technology Centre, Coleg Menai.

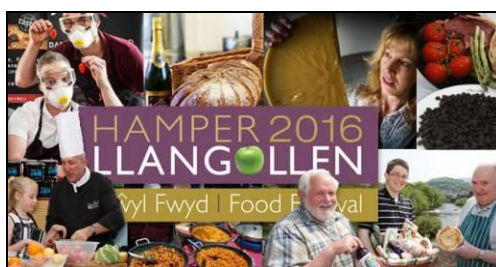
The following workshops were also attended, State Aid Workshop, Newtown, Superfast Cymru, St Asaph, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Aberystwyth and Sustainable Management Scheme at Penrhyndeudraeth.

In addition to the LEADER function, the project officer has been involved with the EOI's submitted in connection with the Payment for Ecosystem/Sustainable Management schemes and the Glastir Advisory Role tender.

The second project officer for theme 2 commenced employment with Cadwyn Clwyd early November 2015. The project officer attended the funding workshops, which were held in Trefnant and Corwen. The project officer has also met with/attended the following: Women in Dairy's inaugural meeting, the Food Assembly (Llangollen), Coleg Cambria, Food Festival Organisers Conference, Coleg Menai (Cywain event), Clwydian Range Tourism Group, Food for the Future Conference, Superfast Business Wales partner event, Taste of Local – March Business event, and a Technology for Business Growth event.

Llangollen Food Festival

Throughout the period the project officer has regularly met with the Llangollen Food Festival committee in an advisory capacity and to also ascertain whether potential projects can be developed in the future.



Dee Valley Active

An application was in development during the period. The application focused on the outdoor providers in the Dee Valley, its main focus was on trialling a new bespoke booking system, a skills audit and training.



North East Wales Food & Drink Forum

This application was in development to provide food and drink producers in NE Wales with a forum to meet and network, to provide an informal way to make connections, and develop short supply chain efficiencies. The forum will also provide training and mentoring to introduce new ways of thinking, run a range of events and learning journeys, enabling food and drink businesses to create growth and promote the sector as a whole. In addition, the food & drink forum will act as a catalyst for future project idea generation.



Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management

The project officer has created a link with Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy, the course leader for Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management, regarding the sustainability of food festivals in NE Wales. There was a subsequent meeting with the students of the course and members of the Llangollen Food Festival committee to discuss the history of the food festival, what has worked well, what they would like to achieve etc. It is hoped that innovative ideas will be produced by the students when they present a report on their findings later in the year.

Theme 3: Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members.

In October 2015, the project officer provided support at the Llangollen Food Festival. The event was a success with over 5,000 people attending the two day event.



The projects officer attended a number of meetings to discuss the new LEADER funds over the past few months they included organisations such as

- Denbighshire County Council – various departments
- Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
- Denbighshire Countryside Services
- Lottery
- Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych
- Plunkett

During this period the project officer has met to discuss potential project with the following groups, or where it wasn't possible to fund, the officer has advised on other potential funding pots: Llandegla Village Shop, The Old Gaol Ruthin, Marydei – Denbigh, Carrigeworks – Denbigh, Rhuddlan Library, Mark Williams – Just do-it, Llandegla Village Shop, Corwen Town Council, Canolfan ni.

All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Trefnant and Corwen.

The project officer attended a meeting with Corwen Town Council and the local MP Susan Elen Jones to discuss community banking in the Edyrnion area, work is ongoing on potential projects.

Approved Project: Llys Owain, Corwen

The project officer is in the process of going out to quote for a feasibility study / project specification for the redundant space on the ground floor of Llys Owain, the outcome on the study will help identify a number of uses for the space which will in turn enable the officer to secure funds to carry out much needed renovations to the space.



Ground Floor of Llys Owain, the Old HSBC bank building in the centre of Corwen

Approved Project: Canolfan Menter Rhuthun (46 Clwyd Street)

The aim of this project is to explore the economic and community potential of a redundant building in the centre of Ruthin by carrying out feasibility studies and surveys to assess whether it can be used for accommodating micro enterprises and community activity and whether there is demand for such a facility in Ruthin.

Since the project was approved in March, consultation on the viability of this project has taken place prior to commissioning the study and discussions have taken place with the following:

- Officer from Valuation and Estates – DCC
- Officer from Property Management - DCC
- Potential Anchor Tenant
- Stakeholder Organisations

These discussions have identified the following:

- High costs of adaptation
- Lack of on-site parking
- DDA
- Limited demand for this type of accommodation
- High running costs
- Lack of community involvement
- Anchor tenant is connected to Denbighshire County Council and had anticipated that the space would be at peppercorn rent or rent free.

It is on this basis that this study will not go ahead and the budget for this project will go back into the overall Denbighshire LEADER budget.

Theme 4: Renewable energy at Community level

During this period the officer has been working with several groups to develop their projects without RDP or to prepare them for the new programme. Groups worked with include:

Cowen Memorial Pavilion

The officer helped the pavilion secure funding for a Resource Efficiency assessment which looked at what could be done to make the hall more energy efficient. The committee have been encouraged to apply for RCDF. A number of other community buildings were referred to Resource Efficient Wales including:

- Llangollen Museum
- Ruthin Scouts



Pwllglas Village Shop and Pwllglas Village shop

Help was provided to Pwllglas village shop and Pwllglas village hall to access funding from the church to put solar PV panels on the roof. Support provide including helping with negotiations between the Church, the hall and the shop. The officer also chaired a meeting

between the three parties. The officer helped with planning guidance. This was successful and the church provided the funding required to install a 12Kw system as shown below.



Corwen Hydro / Corwen Electricity Co-operative

Support was given to the Corwen Electricity Co-operative in its successful drive to raise £300,000 in shares to build the scheme. In addition, the officer successfully applied for £28,000 of Ynni'r Fro funding for legal costs.

The project officer has been providing support to Corwen Hydro throughout the late summer and autumn. Meetings were held with local MPs and AMs to lobby on behalf of the Corwen Electric group. In a race against time, before government subsidies drastically reduced and pre-accreditation with OFGEM for Feed in Tariffs ended, we resubmitted the planning application. This was approved in time and we managed to register the scheme with OFGEM with days to spare.

The officer entered the scheme into the M&S Energy Community Energy Awards. The scheme was shortlisted and a campaign to gather the public vote was launched.



(Left) Collecting Votes at M&S Wrexham; (Right) Promotional Poster



(Left) Promoting share sales; (Right) Explaining the scheme to the Press

Burbo Bank

The officer is on the advisory panel for the Burbo Bank Windfarm, Community Energy Fund, and attended the first panel meeting during November.

Cynefin

Meetings were held with the housing group Cynefin to discuss potential projects.

Denbighshire County Council

Meetings were also held with Martyn Smith of Denbighshire County Council and the officer has been attending Denbighshire Fuel Poverty Action Plan.

The project officer attended meetings with community groups to discuss their initial project ideas and how they would fit in to the new themes and helped to direct the groups to other possible funding that they could access if their ideas did not fit into the new LEADER funding.

The project officer attended a number of meetings during the autumn. These included the Destination Denbighshire Partnership meeting in September held at Ruthin Castle, attended the Denbighshire Tourism Forum held at Oriel House in St. Asaph and met with DVSC officers also in November.

All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Trefnant village hall and Cadwyn Clwyd's offices in Corwen.

During October the officer attended a conference in Cardiff on community renewable energy in Wales.



Meetings were also held with NRW to consider how to fund natural approaches to landscape change.

The project officer attended at planning guidance consultation event. The event focussed on Denbighshire's renewable energy planning guidance.

Conversations with Welsh Government took place on holding a national event on community renewables and the role RDP can play. Cadwyn Clwyd played a leading role in this and the officer organised a Thematic Event which was held March 2016.

(iii) LEADER 2014-2020: Flintshire Implementation

Theme 1: Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

The project officer met a number of groups through August and September to start talking about the new programme and to discuss their project ideas. The project officer attended the Flint & Denbigh Agricultural Show (20th August) to network with a number of groups and talk about the new themes of the new LEADER programme.

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members. All project officers worked on organising workshops within each of the Local Action Group areas and prepared information and paperwork for them. All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Mold and Holywell.

The project officer attended meetings with community groups to discuss their initial project ideas and how they would fit in to the new themes and helped to direct the groups to other possible funding that they could access if their ideas did not fit into the new LEADER funding.

The project officer attended a number of meetings during the autumn. These included giving a talk to Pantymwyn Community Council about the new funding opportunities under the new LEADER programme, meeting with Flintshire Communities First in Holywell, Flintshire County Council Regeneration Team at County Hall, Nannerch Community Council meeting and Flintshire Countryside Service monthly team meeting in November.

The project officer has been working with a number of groups to develop project ideas into more strategic ventures, ready for the Cadwyn Clwyd BOD and LAG meetings in March 2016. These have included: Friends of Rhydymwyn Valley, Frith Community Council and Clwydian Range Tourism Group.

The project officer has also been helping Holywell & District Transition Group with their RCDF applications.

Theme 2: Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains

The project officer with a specialism in agriculture commenced working on this theme on 1 October 2015, having previously been involved with the Glastir scheme. The project officer attended the Funding Workshops held at Mold and Holywell. The officer has also attended Flintshire LAG and Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors meetings.

The project officer has also met with the following National Farmers Union, Farmers Union of Wales and Country Landowners Association, Natural Resources Wales, Coed Cymru, Coleg Cambria Llysfasi, Dee River Trust, AHDB Dairy, AONB Officers and the Mold Town Council.

The project officer attended the following events, Cywain Agriculture Sharing Success at Talgarth Mill, Food Festival Organisers' Conference, Food and Drink Wales, Food for the Future Conference and the Food Technology Centre, Coleg Menai with Cywain.

The following workshops were also attended: State Aid Workshop, Newtown, Superfast Cymru, St Asaph, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Aberystwyth and Sustainable Management Scheme at Penrhyndeudraeth.

In addition to the LEADER function, the project officer has been involved with the EOIs submitted in connection with the Payment for Ecosystem/Sustainable Management schemes and the Glastir Advisory Role tender.

The second project officer for theme 2 commenced employment with Cadwyn Clwyd early November 2015. The project officer attended the Funding Workshops, which were held in Mold and Holywell. The project officer has also met with/attended the following: Women in Dairy's inaugural meeting, Coleg Cambria, Food Festival Organisers Conference, Coleg Menai (Cywain event), Clwydian Range Tourism Group, Food for the Future Conference,

Superfast Business Wales partner event, Taste of Flintshire, Deeside Business Forum, and Mold Town Council.

North East Wales Food & Drink Forum

This application was in development to provide food and drink producers in NE Wales with a forum to meet and network, to provide an informal way to make connections, develop short supply chain efficiencies. The forum will also provide training and mentoring to introduce new ways of thinking, run a range of events and learning journeys, enabling food and drink businesses to create growth and promote the sector as a whole. In addition the food & drink forum will act as a catalyst for future project idea generation.



Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management

The project officer has created a link with Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy, the course leader for Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management, regarding the sustainability of food festivals in NE Wales. There was a subsequent meeting with the students of the course and members of the Llangollen Food Festival committee to discuss the history of the food festival, what has worked well, what they would like to achieve etc. It is hoped that innovative ideas will be produced by the students when they present a report on their findings later in the year.



Theme 3: Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members.

The projects officer attended a number of meetings to discuss the new LEADER funds over the past few months they included organisations such as

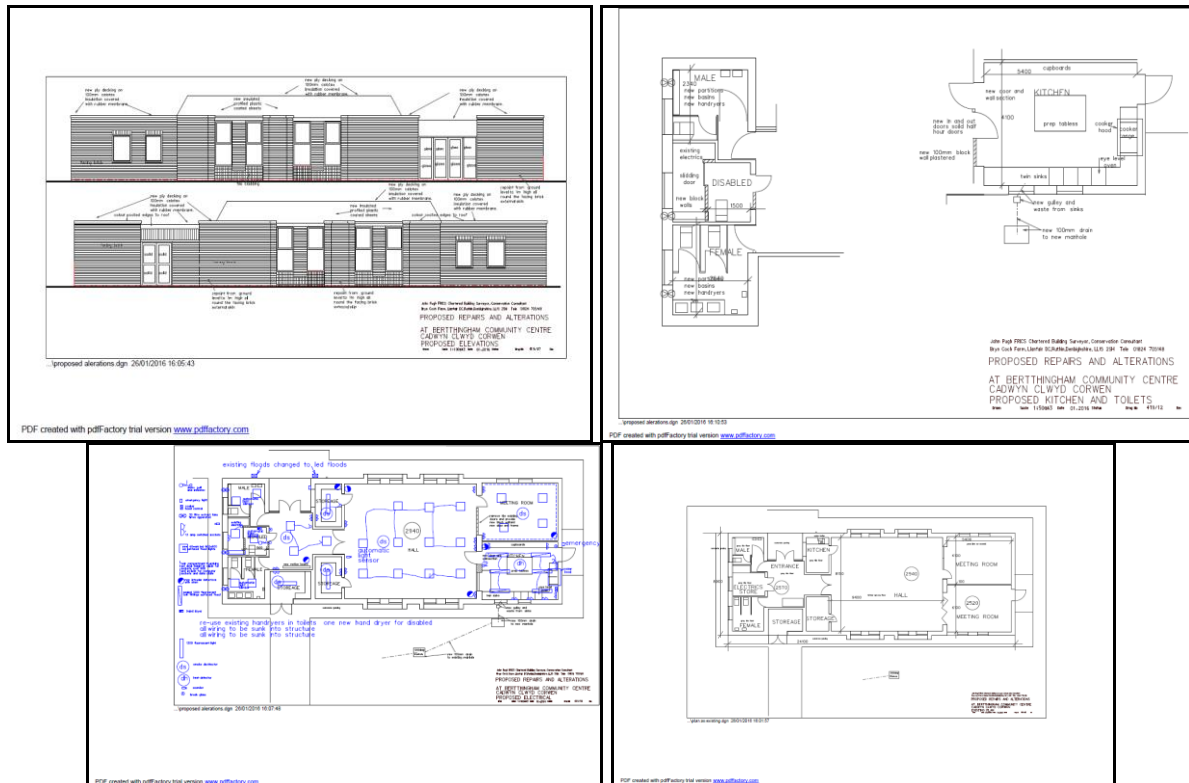
- Flintshire County Council – various departments
- Mold Town Council
- Communities First Holywell
- Lottery
- Plunkett

During the period, the project officer has met to discuss potential projects with the following groups, or where it wasn't possible to fund, the officer has advised on other potential funding pots: Carmel Village Hall, Mark Williams – Just do-it, Hawksbury Community Centre, Rhydymwyn Church, Mold Town Council.

All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Mold and Holywell.

Approved Project: Trelojan Community Association

The project employed the services of a professional to draw up a project specification in order to identify capital works and costings to the building. This information helped contribute towards the RCDF application. The group also purchased a laptop to help with the management and running of this project.



During January, the project officer worked on submitting an Expression of Interest application to the RCDF on behalf of the group. The application was submitted at the end of January and the group were informed on 29th April that they had been successful and were invited to put in a full application by 31st October 2016.

Approved Project: Post Start-up Support for rural Flintshire Communities seeking to run Basic Services

The project officer has met with officers at Flintshire County Council to discuss taking the project forward and will soon be meeting potential communities who are looking at asset transfers in their communities.

Theme 4: Renewable energy at Community level

During this period the officer has been working with several groups to develop their projects without RDP or to prepare them for the new programme. Groups worked with include:

Resource Efficient Wales

The officer helped the following secure funding for a Resource Efficiency assessment which looks at what could be done to make community buildings more energy efficient:

- Gwernymynydd Village Hall
- Gronant Institute

Burbo Bank

The officer is on the advisory panel for the Burbo Bank Windfarm, Community Energy Fund, and attended the first panel meeting during November.

Cynefin

Meetings were held with the housing group Cynefin to discuss potential projects.

During October the officer attended a conference in Cardiff on community renewable energy in Wales.



Meetings were also held with NRW to consider how to fund natural approaches to landscape change.

Conversations with Welsh Government have taken place on holding a national event on community renewables and the role RDP can play. Cadwyn Clwyd is playing a leading role in this and the officer is organising a Thematic Event which will be held during March 2016.

(iv) LEADER 2014-2020: Wrexham Implementation

Theme 1: Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members.

All project officers worked on organising workshops within each of the Local Action Group areas and prepared information and paperwork for them. All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Glyn Wylfa, Chirk and Llay Miners Institute.

The project officer attended meetings with community groups to discuss their initial project ideas and how they would fit in to the new themes and helped to direct the groups to other possible funding that they could access if their ideas did not fit into the new LEADER funding.

The project officer attended a number of meetings during the autumn. This included meeting with Wrexham CBC officers and World Heritage Site officers in November.

The project officer has been working with a number of groups to develop project ideas into more strategic ventures, ready for the Cadwyn Clwyd BOD and LAG meetings in March. These have included: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley Tourism Group, Llangollen Railway.

Theme 2: Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains

The project officer with a specialism in agriculture commenced working on this theme on 1 October 2015, having previously been involved with the Welsh Government Glastir Scheme. The project officer attended the Funding Workshops held at Chirk and Llay. The officer has also attended the Wrexham LAG and Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors' meetings.

The project officer has also met with the following National Farmers Union, Farmers Union of Wales and Country Landowners Association, Natural Resources Wales, Coed Cymru, Coleg Cambria Llysfasi, AHDB Dairy and the AONB.

The project officer attended the following events: Cywain Agriculture Sharing Success at Talgarth Mill, Builth Wells, Food and Drink Wales Food for the Future Conference, Food Festival Organisers' Conference and the Food Technology Centre, Coleg Menai.

The following workshops were also attended: State Aid Workshop, Newtown, Superfast Cymru, St Asaph, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Aberystwyth and Sustainable Management Scheme at Penrhyndeudraeth.

In addition to the LEADER function, the project officer has been involved with the EOIs submitted in connection with the Payment for Ecosystem/Sustainable Management schemes and the Glastir Advisory Role tender.

The second project officer for theme 2 commenced employment with Cadwyn Clwyd early November 2015. The project officer attended the Funding Workshops, which were held in Chirk and Llay. The project officer has also met with/attended the following: The Community Land Trust, Wrexham Food Festival, Women in Dairy's inaugural meeting, Coleg Cambri, Food Festival Organisers Conference, Coleg Menai (Cywain event), Food for the Future Conference, Superfast Business Wales partner event, Technology for Business Growth event, Wrexham Business Entrepreneur Network, Destination Management, Brymbo Heritage Group, Welsh Conservatives Food Producer Meeting and David Gray of The Foundry.

North East Wales Food & Drink Forum

This application was in development to provide food and drink producers in NE Wales with a forum to meet and network, to provide an informal way to make connections, and develop short supply chain efficiencies. The forum will also provide training and mentoring to introduce new ways of thinking, run a range of events and learning journeys, enabling food and drink businesses to create growth and promote the sector as a whole. In addition, the food & drink forum will act as a catalyst for future project idea generation.



Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management

The project officer has created a link with Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy, the course leader for Tourism, Hospitality & Events Management, regarding the sustainability of food festivals in NE Wales. There was a subsequent meeting with the students of the course and members of the Llangollen Food Festival committee to discuss the history of the food festival, what has worked well, what they would like to achieve etc. It is hoped that innovative ideas will be produced by the students when they present a report on their findings later in the year.



Theme 3: Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services

The project officer attended the first LAG meetings for each of the three geographical areas now covered by the new LEADER programme and met with the new LAG members.

The projects officer attended a number of meetings to discuss the new LEADER funds over the past few months they included organisations such as:

- Wrexham County Borough Council – various departments
- Together in Wrexham
- Cefn Mawr
- AVOW
- Lottery
- Plunkett

During this period the project officer has met to discuss potential projects with the following groups, or where it wasn't possible to fund, the officer has advised on other potential funding pots: Cefn Partnership for Regeneration and Horsemans Green (community centre).

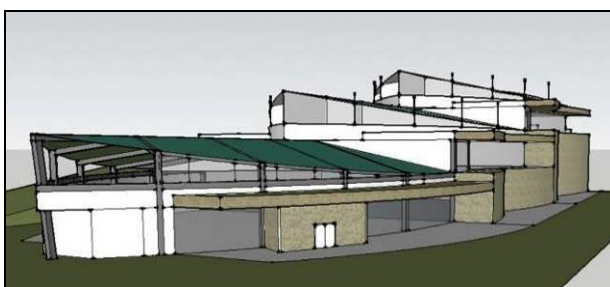
All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Chirk and Llay.

Theme 4: Renewable energy at Community level

During this period the officer has been working with several groups to develop their projects without RDP funding, or to prepare them for the new programme. Groups worked with include:

Brymbo Heritage Group

The officer has been exploring options for heating and powering the proposed development, including a solar farm, Biomass and Geothermal. We are exploring models for delivery that rely on other funding sources, such as raising money by selling shares or using ERDF or lottery funding.



Resource Efficient Wales

The officer helped the following secure funding for a Resource Efficiency assessment which looks at what could be done to make community buildings more energy efficient:

- Esclusham Community Council
- Brymbo Heritage Centr
- George Edwards Hall, Well Street, Cefn Mawr
- Dee Valley Trust

Glyn Ceiriog Hydro

Support was given to the group in its efforts to secure leases on land for a community hydro scheme.

Cynefin

Meetings were held with the housing group Cynefin to discuss potential projects.

During September we were busy moving offices from Ruthin to Corwen, the officer also attended the first Wrexham LAG meeting.

All project officers worked on organising workshops within each of the Local Action Group areas and prepared information and paperwork for them. All officers attended the funding workshops that Cadwyn Clwyd officers organised. These were held in Trefnant village hall and Cadwyn Clwyd's offices in Corwen.

The project officer attended meetings with community groups to discuss their initial project ideas and how they would fit in to the new themes and helped to direct the groups to other possible funding that they could access if their ideas did not fit into the new LEADER funding.

The project officer attended a number of meetings during the autumn. These included the Destination Denbighshire Partnership meeting in September held at Ruthin Castle, attended the Denbighshire Tourism Forum held at Oriel House in St. Asaph and met with DVSC officers also in November.

During October the officer attended a conference in Cardiff on community renewable energy in Wales.



Meetings were also held with NRW to consider how to fund natural approaches to landscape change.

Conversations with Welsh Government took place on holding a national event on community renewables and the role RDP can play. Cadwyn Clwyd played a leading role in this and the officer organised a Thematic Event that was held during March 2016.

(v) Projects under other RDP 2014-2020 Schemes

Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF)

It is also worth noting that project officers have also provided advice to groups on other funding streams within the Welsh Government's RDP, with the most notable example being the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). This capital-only grant fund, managed centrally by the Welsh Government, presents another valuable opportunity for rural community groups. Project officers have been involved in working up a number of EOIs to this fund, the first window for which closed 31 January 2016.

List of RCDF applications relating to the North East Wales region submitted to the Welsh Government for the first window for Expressions of Interest (EOIs), which closed 31st January 2016

EOI Number	Project Name	Area	Total Value (£)	Grant Request (£)
16	Llanfwrog Centre Lift and Stairs	Denbighshire	£48,000	£20,000
36	Denbigh Museum	Denbighshire	£600,000	£100,000
42	Llangollen Information Hub	Denbighshire	£160,000	£128,000
47	Prestatyn Hillside Shelter Enhancement	Denbighshire	£72,000	£36,000
119	Corwen Central Station Platform Project	Denbighshire	£565,766	£128,000
122	Cynwyd Community Sports & Recreation facility	Denbighshire	£20,000	£16,000
29	The Rose Equestrian Centre – Build an indoor School	Flintshire	£200,000	£128,000
30	Building for the Future – Phase 2 at St John's Church, Rhydymwyn	Flintshire	£151,200	£100,750
31	Holywell Greenways Project	Flintshire	£400,000	£150,000
48	Trelogan Community Centre (HUB)	Flintshire	£156,539.05	£125,231.24
52	Holywell Greenways Project [sic. duplicate]	Flintshire	£400,000	£150,000
95	Flintshire Community Transport Project	Flintshire	£160,000	£128,000
96	Linking Flintshire's Communities project 2	Flintshire	£95,000	£76,000
22	Jessop's Tramway (JT) & Windborne Gate Parking (WBG)	Wrexham	£160,000	£128,000
72	Brymbo Heritage Area	Wrexham	£4,500,000	£ 120,000

Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme – Cadwyn Clwyd EOI: Smarter Energy (measure 16.4/5)

The officer worked up an expression of interest for this scheme which was subsequently submitted. The proposal is for a project called Smarter Energy and involves developing 10 case studies for renewable energy schemes in a post-Feed-in-Tariff climate. The aim is to increase income for community energy schemes by methods such as directly supplying electricity, using batteries for storage etc. The EOI has been successful and the Company was invited to submit a full application by June 2016. The EOI was for £316,800. This

project will be pan-Wales and involves partners from across Wales, including PLANED, Severn Wye Energy Agency, The Green Valleys Project and Community Energy Wales.

Sustainable Management Scheme – Cadwyn Clwyd EOI: Collaborative Sustainable Natural Flood Risk Management on the River Clwyd (measure 16.5)

This is a landscape scale project that aims to carry out a series of interventions over approximately 8,000 hectares of land in a sub-catchment of the River Clwyd. The EOI has a total value of £260,000 and aims to reduce peak flows into the river Clwyd from this sub-catchment and to increase habitat connectivity and biodiversity. It is also expected that an improvement in water quality will be seen via monitoring throughout the project. The findings from previous study on the River Clwyd, funded in the last RDP programme will be implemented in this project.

3. Glastir – Commons Development Officer (CDO) Project

During the period, the Company successfully completed the Commons Development programme. The Commons Development Programme was set up to enable graziers on common land to enter into the Welsh Government’s Glastir agri-environmental scheme. The project was run in partnership with Menter Môn and PLANED. With partners, by the end of the period, over 70% of eligible Common Land in Wales had entered the scheme, resulting in a forecast of over £30 million of agri-environment payments to grazing associations across Wales. The contract remit was extended to also cover the provision of support for individual farmers interested in applying for Glastir Entry and Glastir Advanced on farms.

To mark the success of the CDO project, a press release was sent out along with the project evaluation. A leaflet was also produced to showcase the project accomplishments. The press release is available to see here:

http://cadwynclwyd.co.uk/news/pioneering_agri-environment_project_unites_wales_common_land_graziers



(left) Glastir Advance-Dry Stone Walling; (centre) Glastir Entry/Advance - Hedgerow creation/management (right) Glastir Commons - Grazing Management

4. Llys Owain, Corwen

From April to September 2015, Cadwyn Clwyd's Community Enterprise Officer was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the old HSBC bank building in Corwen and the coordination of the company's office move from Ruthin to Corwen in mid-September. The building has now been renamed Llys Owain. The officer has been working with the local estate agent and has listed the offices at Llys Owain. There have been a couple of interested parties and discussions are ongoing.

Before:



After:





5. Renew Wales Contract

The Community Energy Development Officer has continued to work on this contract and has provided support to a number of groups through this programme including: Transition Holywell, Glyn Ceiriog Hydro Group, Brymbo Heritage Group and Corwen Electricity Cooperative.

6. Cadwyn Clwyd Personnel: Board of Directors, Staff and LAGs

Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors

Members of the Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors for the period were:

- Mr. Andrew Jedwell – Chairman, Director
- Cllr. Rhys Hughes – Director
- Mr. John Les Tomos – Director
- Cllr. Carolyn Thomas – Director
- Dr. Norman Jones – Director
- Cllr. Huw L Jones – Director
- Cllr. Derek Butler – nominated Director October 2013 (resigned October 2015)
- Mr. David Darlington – Director (appointed July 2015)
- Mr. Gareth Evans – Company Secretary
- Ms. Joanna Douglass – Advisor (resigned May 2015)
- Ms. Sharon Barlow – Advisor (resigned October 2015)
- Dr. Carolyn Brindle – Advisor (appointed May 2015)
- Ms. Karen Whitney-Lang (appointed April 2015, resigned March 2016)
- Ms. Janine Beggan – Advisor (appointed June 2015)

Cadwyn Clwyd Staff

The following members of staff have been employed by Cadwyn Clwyd during the period:

- Lowri Owain – Manager
- Adam Bishop – Programme Coordinator
- Delyth Jones – Finance and Controls Officer
- Catrin Jones – Finance and Controls Officer
- Eirys Roberts – Admin Officer
- Lowri Edwards – Project Support Officer
- Helen Williams – Rural Services Officer Community Enterprise Officer – LEADER Theme 3

- Sarah Jones – Natural Resources Officer – LEADER Theme 1
- Silas Jones – Energy Officer / Energy Development Officer – LEADER Theme 4
- Donna Hughes – Business Partnership Officer – LEADER Theme 2 (started November 2015)
- Gwyn Rowlands – Commons Development Officer (CDO contract end September 2015; then Business Partnership Officer – LEADER Theme 2 (started October 2015)

- Daniel Delaney – Commons Development Officer Supervisor (contract end September 2015)
- Gwyn Rowlands – Commons Development Officer (contract end September 2015)
- James Blair – Commons Development Officer (contract end September 2015)
- Judy Hart – Commons Development Officer (contract end September 2015)
- Owen Jenkins – Commons Development Officer (contract end September 2015)
- Nigel Elgar - Commons Development Officer (contract end September 2015)

The North East Wales Local Action Groups (LAGs)

Denbighshire LAG

Community/Voluntary	Private	Public	Advisor
Andrew Jedwell (Cadwyn Clwyd)	Rhys Hughes (Farming)	Paul Michell (NRW)	Dave Shiel (AONB)
Eleri Roberts (YFC)	Norman Jones (Partneriaeth Corwen Partnership)	Cllr Alice Jones (DCC Cllr)	Lina Patel (SDCP)
Ian Lebbon (Destination Partnership)	Ruth Lee (Business) <i>Resigned Feb 16</i>	Cllr Huw Jones (DCC Cllr)	John Watkin (DVSC)
Heather Williams (Ruthin Civic Association)	Mari Jones (FUW)	Cllr Eryl Williams (DCC Cllr)	Ruth Williams (Menter Iaith)
Gwyneth Kensler (Denbigh Museum, Twm o'r Nant)	Sharon Newell (Siop Pwllglas)	Cllr Merfyn Parry (DCC Cllr)	Anthony Cecil Sutherland (Business)
Colin Loughlin (Llangollen Food Festival)	Dafydd I Jones (NFU)	Gareth Jones (Coleg Cambria)	Carolyn Brindle (DCC)
	J Ceiriog Jones (Farming) <i>Moved from an advisor to Private rep Feb 16</i>		Gareth Evans (Cadwyn Clwyd)

Flintshire LAG

Community/Voluntary	Private	Public	Advisor
Dave Shiel (AONB)	John Les Tomos (FTA)	Cllr Derek Butler (FCC Cllr)	Sharon Barlow (FCC)
Gill Stephen (Menter Iaith)	Mari Jones (FUW)	Cllr Carolyn Thomas (FCC Cllr)	Niall Waller (FCC)
Gareth Evans (Cadwyn Clwyd)	Adrian Waters (Business)	Tom Woodall (FCC Countryside Services)	Vanessa Warrington (Voluntary)
June Brady (FLVC)	Terrig Morgan (Farming - NFU)	Paul Mitchell (NRW)	
David Healey (Heritage Group)	Sue Haygarth (Business)	Marjorie Thomson (One Voice Wales Community Councils)	
Gareth Hughes (Community Cllr)	Adrian Barsby (Business)	David Hill (Mold Town Council)	

Wrexham LAG

Community/Voluntary	Private	Public	Advisor
John Gallanders (AVOW)	Jo Edwards (Food Producers Group)	Paul Mitchell (NRW)	Janine Beggan (WCBC)
Susan Gittins (NMCP)	Nicola Lewis Smith (Canal & River Trust)	Cllr. Neil Rogers and in his absence Cllr Hugh Jones (WCBC Cllrs)	Rebecca Lowry (WCBC)
Susan Kempster (Aqueduct Community Association)	Gill Wilson-Butterworth (Business)	Wendy Sime (Community Cllr)	Karen Whitney-Lang (WCBC)
Gwyneth Mabyn Pickering (Age Connects)	Gary Brown (Business)	Rebecca Morgan (WCBC)	Gareth Evans (Cadwyn Clwyd)
David Darlington (Cadwyn Clwyd)	Karen Bellis (WFU)	Rona Griffiths (Coleg Cambria)	
Gill Stephen (Menter Iaith)	John Droog (Trustee Rhostyllen Parish Hall)	Dave Shiel (AONB)	

Cadwyn Clwyd staff would like to extend their thanks to all members of the Board of Directors and the LAGs, who have been consistently supportive. The Company also acknowledges and thanks the Welsh Government Rural Programmes Team for the support provided.

Cadwyn Clwyd Accounts

Cadwyn Clwyd's finances for the period were prepared by Champion Accountants, Chester. A copy of the Company's accounts for the period 1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016 follow this report.