

PROJECTS IN PRACTICE

11th March 2010



Summary Programme

'Projects in Practice' is the Day 2 afternoon programme, hosted by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland as part of the UK NRN Networking Conference. **Pre registration is essential for this part of the proceedings.**

The aims of the afternoon programme are to:

- Demonstrate practice across a range of projects, reflecting themes and opportunities within the Rural Development Programme;
- Provide participants with an opportunity to scope out potential co-operation ideas and identify partners as an initial stage of developing co-operation projects;
- Provide productive networking and sharing practice time to those involved in rural development programme delivery from across the regions.

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

The programme timetable is as follows:

1:00pm	Depart conference venue for study visits (<i>2 options available as outlined below</i>)
3:30pm/4:00pm	Depart study visits/return to conference venue with refreshments served on arrival
4:15pm	Cross Border Networking Co-operation workshop (in partnership with <i>the Ireland National Rural Network</i>)
5:30pm	Finish



STUDY VISITS (1:00pm – 4:00pm)

The visits for this session will take place within the catchment area of Lagan Rural Partnership (one of 7 Local Action Groups established under the NI RDP to delivery Axes 3 and 4). The LAG covers the Council areas of Lisburn, Belfast and Castlereagh and although predominantly urban in character, including the cities of Belfast and Lisburn, the area has a significant rural population of approximately 40,000, many of whom would be classed as living in the “urban fringe”. This catchment is therefore unique within Northern Ireland, with most other areas being predominantly rural. Contact details for Lagan Rural Partnership are:

Contact Padraic Murphy (Rural Development Manager)

Phone 028 9250 9489

Website www.laganruralpartnership.com

Two options are available for delegates:

Study Visit Option 1 - 1 visit, multiple projects

- **‘Renewable Energy’:** *Agri Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Hillsborough, Co. Down*

Approximate distance from conference venue: 14 miles

Approximate duration of visit: 2 hours (excluding travel time)

AFBI, formerly the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland, provides a research function in order to underpin the development of the agriculture and food industries in Northern Ireland. A growing area of research at the facility for many years has been renewable energy in the contexts of;

- The agricultural production of alternative fuels
- Meeting the energy needs of farms in an environmentally sustainable manner

The visit will comprise a tour of a number of demonstration projects in areas such as combined heat & power, anaerobic digestion, and the growth of biomass crops which may be of use in either on-farm or community settings.

Contact details for AFBI Hillsborough are:

Phone 028 9025 5689 (Central reception)

Website www.afbi.gov.uk



Study Visit Option 2 – 2 visits

- **‘Rural Enterprise in Action’:** *Murloc Angling and Rural Pursuits, Aghalee, Co. Armagh*
AND
- **‘Innovative Solutions to Service Provision’:** *Hillsborough Village Centre, Hillsborough, Co. Down*

Approximate distance from conference venue: 20 miles

Approximate duration of visit: 2 hours (1 hour at each venue, excluding travel time)

Murloc Angling and Rural Pursuits:

With the assistance of funding from the Leader+ Programme this business is a successful farm diversification project which has been in operation since July 2008. Developed on the Murray family farm, this facility comprises a 5 acre lake, baiting pond, lounge area and tackle shop. Contact details for Murloc Angling are:

Contact James Murray/James Lockheart

Phone 028 9265 1421

Website www.murlocangling.com



Hillsborough Village Centre:



With limited meeting space available in the centre of the conservation village of Hillsborough, this centre shows just what can be possible when the community, local government and statutory bodies work together to develop the most effective solution to meeting the needs of a community. This shared service is an example of a facility in Northern Ireland combining community and sports facilities with the primary school provision for the village on one site, thus ensuring the best facilities possible for both the school and wider community whilst delivering a solution that is also cost effective in terms of both capital and revenue costs.

Contact details for Hillsborough Village Centre are:

Contact David Agnew
Phone 028 9268 3015
Website www.hillsboroughvillagecentre.com

CROSS BORDER NETWORKING CO-OPERATION WORKSHOP (4:15pm – 5:30pm)



This workshop will be facilitated jointly by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland and the Ireland National Rural Network.

Workshop Summary:

As an integral part of the Rural Development Programme transnational co-operation is a vital element in the Leader approach.

This workshop will give participants the opportunity to share and develop their co-operation ideas and to establish linkages with potential partners.

For those interested in further developing a co-operation project, further support will be identified to facilitate the establishment of partnerships and the detailed development of project proposals.

The workshop is open to participants from the UK and the Republic of Ireland interested in transnational co-operation projects.