

ENTERPRISING ROSCOMMON

New publication outlines funding available for small businesses in the county.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Roscommon County Enterprise Board have just launched a new publication which together the enterprise supports offer by each agency into one, easy to read document. Enterprising Roscommon showcases local entrepreneurs that have received funding from the agencies and gives clear guidelines as to what is available for start up and growing Roscommon businesses.

Martina Earley, CEO, Roscommon LEADER Partnership explained 'this new document shares a flavour of the enterprising projects that have availed of funding from Roscommon LEADER Partnership and from our colleagues in Roscommon County Enterprise Board. These rural entrepreneurs are a leading example of developing their businesses with the support of willing local funders. We hope they will act as an encouragement to others to avail of the wealth of supports available. In business, now is the time to be brave if we can at all! At the time of writing there is circa €6 million LEADER/Rural Development funding to be dispersed in Co. Roscommon between now and 2013. This is excellent news if you are a small enterprise, a farm family or a community group with an idea'

Roscommon County Enterprise Board's Acting CEO Louise Ward outlined that 'since 1993 we have provided a range of flexible and innovative support services to small businesses within Roscommon and are on hand to answer queries regarding access to grant aid for both new and existing businesses. Many of our entrepreneurs derive great benefit from our enterprise support services, we run a diverse range of training programmes for both the start up entrepreneur and the more established business person. Entrepreneurs should also take a look at our business network, the Roscommon Business Network, which meets monthly and is a fantastic forum for promotion of local businesses.'

Local entrepreneurs joined with agencies to launch the brochure. New business start ups Innovative Fitness Solutions, Boyle and Bikram Yoga Athlone are creating new jobs in the county following their Roscommon LEADER Partnership support, farmers Sean and Helen Butler have added a number of diversifications to their holding at Hillside Organic & Holistic Farm, Brideswell, a real hub of agri diversification and Boyle Chamber of Commerce are working on a project with almost 100 local businesses to upskill and market the town in a new and inventive way. Other entrepreneurs sharing their experiences of the grant process are Tommy Gaffney of newly established Shannon

River Adventure Centre; Irish Pallet Systems; Roscommon Town based Hooker Brewery and Anchor Lifting Services Ltd; Gusclad Ltd Ballyfarnon and The Printworks, Boyle.

The brochure can be obtained by contacting Roscommon LEADER Partnership on 090 6630252 and Roscommon County Enterprise Board on 090 6626263.

Businesses in the county may also be interested in a Dragon's Den event led by Bobby Kerr. Taking place at the end of September, participants with new business ideas will have the opportunity to present their proposals to a panel of experts. So if you are a budding entrepreneur, get your place booked now by contacting Westbic on 090 6625196.

Photo – supplied by Mary Regan, separate email

Pictured at the launch of Enterprising Roscommon brochure:-

Ciaran O'Connor, Boyle Chamber of Commerce/Better Boyle project; Tricia Fleming, Bikram Yoga, Monksland; Sheena O'Dowd and Martina Earley, Roscommon LEADER Partnership; Louise Ward, Roscommon County Enterprise Board; Joe Whyte, Innovative Fitness Solutions, Boyle and Sean Butler, Hillside Organic & Holistic Farm, Brideswell