

LEADER NEWS



NEWS ON THE NEW LEADER PROGRAMME 2023 -2027

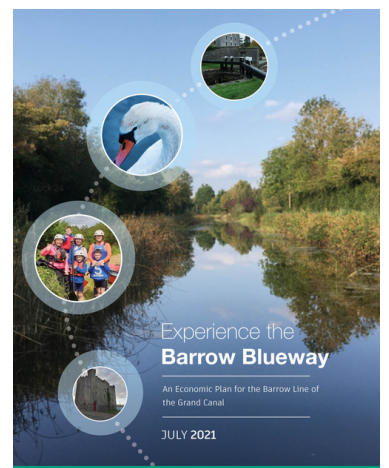
In late July, the LEADER Programme partners in Kildare - Kildare LCDC, Kildare County Council and County Kildare Leader Partnership as the Implementing Partner - submitted a new Local Development Plan for approval to the Department of Community and Rural Development. We are waiting to hear back, as the Plan moves through the Assessment Process, but the first two LEADER groups were approved at the end of August, so we are hopeful that Kildare will also get the go-ahead shortly.

We anticipate to be able to fund new initiatives and projects toward the end of 2023 or the start of 2024. The LEADER Programme is built on the huge energy and creativity which exists in local communities. We have starting taking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from groups and individuals in anticipation of the approval of the Programme. Check out our website for the themes of the new Plan and you can download an EOI form there.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS 1: THE BARROW BLUEWAY PLAN

The LEADER-funded Barrow Blueway Economic Plan, produced in conjunction with Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland, has been shortlisted for an award in the Employment & Enterprise category at the Irish Planning Institute's Irish Planning Awards 2023. These Awards recognise innovation and excellence in Irish planning.

The Barrow Blueway Economic Plan was a proactive in-house project, developed by CKLP and the Local Action Group, to put in place an overall strategic blueprint for the economic activity that will accompany the opening of the Blueway and a roadmap for entrepreneurs and communities to guide their ideas.





UPDATE ON PROJECTS 2: GRAZE DAIRY: REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

The LEADER funded Graze Dairy, a new micro dairy offering fresh milk straight from the farm, opened on September 7 in Prosperous Co.Kildare. The top-quality milk is pasteurised on site and is not homogenised, allowing it to retain high nutrition values, creamy texture and delicious taste. The milk is purchased on site in 500ml and 1L servings, using reusable glass bottles. There are also syrups available for anyone who wish to make milkshakes. The LEADER Programme was delighted to support the project with a grant of 54,450 Euro towards the pasteurization facility and the container/shop unit.



The COVID-19 pandemic and a growing climate awareness has highlighted the value of a resilient and local food system that functions in all circumstances, and is capable of ensuring access to quality food for everyone. Consumers now are more aware of the interrelations between ecosystems, supply chains, and care for the planet. In line with this, the milk at Graze Dairy gets rid of a lengthy supply chain and has no 'miles' - the milk travels just 100m down from the milking parlour to the vending machine.

Through the LEADER Programme, the Kildare Local Action Group seeks to contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal which aims to protect and restore biodiversity by promoting farm to fork initiatives. Current food consumption patterns are unsustainable from both health and environmental points of view. For this reason the LAG is pleased to support innovative local responses to the challenges identified by the Green Deal, such as the Graze Farm initiative, and seeks similar ideas under the new programme 2023 - 2027.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS 3: THE BARGE AT ROBERTSTOWN

The header picture and the one on the right the LEADER-funded Barge at Robertstown as the venue for a recent wedding. Robertstown Community Amenities Association received LEADER support of 41,000 Euro toward the restoration of the 52M barge and since the completion of the works it has travelled up and down the canal to Dublin, undertaken a lot of local trips and been used by local community groups. It is a great addition to the village and to the tourism offering associated with the Barrow Blueway.

The 52M was originally built for the Grand Canal Company in 1928 in Dublin and has had a colourful history, being sunk twice before being restored by the Community Association, for use as a community facility and tourism attraction. A lot of different community groups have used it over the summer, including the Kildare North Ukulele Group who use it as their base every Monday evening. It is open to all community groups who wish to use it as a meeting space and as the photo shows, it is a special, unique venue for weddings.



