

LEADER NEWS



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development (Europe
Investing in rural areas)



UPDATES ON PROJECTS : ATHGARRETT MALT SMALL BATCH, PREMIUM CRAFTED MALT FOR DISTILLING AND BREWING.

Athgarrett Farms Ltd. t/a Athgarrett Malt was established in 2017 and is based on a family farm outside Naas. The Headon Family have been producing malt at the site since 2018. As a self-employed tillage farmer and contractor, Garrett Headon has been in business since 2009. The Headons have self-financed the malting business from outset and are now increasing production capacity significantly to satisfy the increasing current demand and in anticipation of future demand. The Headons were approved for LEADER grant assistance in 2022 towards a new state-of-the-art modular malting system which has recently been installed, and can be seen in the header photo. It is easy to see the advance this is from their previous machine, shown on the right.



This new system will significantly reduce production time and is also much more energy and water efficient with a reduced labour requirement. The new system will allow for a significant increase in production.

This is a very innovative LEADER farm diversification project in that the promoter fills a unique gap in the market for small batch grain handling/processing and malting. There are no other maltings in the country of this scale providing customers with small batch grain solutions.



UPDATE ON PROJECTS 2 : ATHY RUGBY CLUB LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Local Club Athy RFC received LEADER funding in 2020 towards their Living History Project. For two years, club historian Diarmuid O’Connell researched the history of the club, beginning from 1880, and put it all together in a 60-foot long by eight-foot project, consisting of newspaper articles, cut-outs, and photographs of events in the club. Diarmuid says : “It is a giant-sized history of the club. I like to call it ‘Tall Tales from the Long Wall’



Our towns and villages are at the heart of social and economic activity, and local community initiatives such as this one contribute to the sense of pride which communities feel in their area. Vibrant local towns are important for balanced development in the county and contribute to an overall sense of wellbeing. The LEADER programme in Kildare is proud to work with local communities and groups to bring their ideas to fruition. In Europe, close to 8% of the total CAP allocations 2023 - 2027 will directly contribute to the development of rural areas and communities. We look forward to continuing to support ideas from groups all around Kildare.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS 3: THE BARROW BLUEWAY ECONOMIC PLAN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The LEADER Programme is always happy to work with the ideas which come in from groups and individuals all around the county. However, sometimes the LEADER team and the LAG develop “in-house” strategic initiatives, to stimulate growth or provide training in certain sectors. The very successful Social Enterprise training was an early example of this, as was the Climate action and Biodiversity training, all of which built the capacity of groups and continue to bear fruit today.

The Barrow Blueway Economic Plan was designed in-house to provide a strategic framework for community and individual entrepreneurs - and potential LEADER projects - at the commencement of the Blueway development. Helen Mulhall led out on the work and it was overseen by an interagency Steering Group comprising of LEADER, Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland nominees, and is a model of successful working together for a common end. On September 29th, **the Plan won a National Award under the Enterprise and Employment Category of the Irish Planning Awards.** Development Officers Helen and Brian were delighted to be there to receive this recognition for the LEADER work.



