

Rural Development Plan - information

A new funding opportunity has opened up for rural Pembrokeshire. Pembrokeshire County Council has announced that it is accepting applications for funding from projects to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

The funding comes from the Rural Development Plan for Wales, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Applications are welcome from any organisation, but projects need to meet strict criteria. Projects that have previously received RDP money include Pembrokeshire Fish Week and the Sunderland Flying Boat Centre. Decisions on which projects will proceed to the next stage will be taken by the Pembrokeshire Advance partnership at a meeting in January. Initial expressions of interest need to be submitted to the Secretariat by **1st December 2009** – so time is short!

A briefing for organisations interested in this call for proposals will be held at Technium Pembrokeshire, Cleddau Bridge, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire between 10am and noon on Monday 2 November. The Pembrokeshire Advance Secretariat will give presentations to explain the background to the RDP, eligible and priority activities, requirements on RDP sponsors and to explain the application process. The Secretariat will also seek to answer any questions raised. If you want to submit an application for RDP, then it is imperative to attend the briefing session or make separate arrangements to discuss your project idea with the Secretariat – please don't try to "go it alone" as time is short and the programme is complex.

To obtain an application pack - or find out more about the briefing session - contact the RDP Team, Economic Development Division, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest. Telephone 01437 775790 or e-mail Geraldine.odonnell@pembrokeshire.gov.uk.