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Peebles Community Fund

1 message

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To: Dave Hodson <daveh@tweeddaleyouth.co.uk>

17 January 2020 at 13:15

To Peebles Community Good Fund,

The EU funded LEADER programme 2014-2020 was given £3.2 million to distribute to groups in the Scottish Borders. LEADER has now disbursed all our grants bringing in a further £4.2 million in investment.

One of the groups Scottish Borders LEADER was delighted to award funds to was Tweeddale Youth Action (TYA). Tweeddale Youth Action's Food Punks and Bike Punks projects are exactly the sort of innovative project tackling rural issues that LEADER seeks to fund; this was why the LAG, the local LEADER decision making body, awarded TYA one of our largest grants of just under £95k. Approximately £47k in grants have been paid to TYA so far and around £47k of grant potentially remains available for TYA to put claims in against.

As a EU designed, UK and Scottish Government managed programme LEADER is quite complex with a number of rules that must be adhered to. As part of this protecting the public pound/value for money approach LEADER pays funds in arrears. Claims take several weeks to process; even longer if there are some possible irregularities or confusion. In previous LEADER programmes, LAGs were allowed to advance money to applicants and the Borders LAG advanced money to community groups to help them with their cash flow. Under the 2014-20 Programme, this facility for advancing funds to grant recipients was withdrawn. Unfortunately this has led to a number of smaller community groups across Scotland struggling to keep their projects on track due to cash flow problems.

The multi-dimensional nature of the TYA project has meant that it has been more complex to administer than the average project; this has led to delays in reimbursing TYA. It would be beneficial for TYA if they were able to secure a loan to help them with their current cash flow challenges.

regards

Simon

Simon Lynch

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Please note due to the nature of my post, email is usually the quickest way to get in touch with me

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Scottish Rural
Development
Programme



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