

LEADER NEWS



UPDATES ON PROJECTS : GURTEENOONA FARM DIVERSIFICATION EQUINE PROJECT

Sometimes the creativity of project Promoters can take your breath away when you see the scale of the work that they are doing and their drive to get the project completed. This is certainly the case in the work currently undergoing at Gurteenooona Services Ltd, which is a family-run equine business run by father and son Ger and Aidan Melia, specialising in recovery and care of older or injured horses. It is a unique offering of livery and recovery exercise facilities including a horse walker and sand arena available for local horse owners and veterinary clinics who are small scale, and do not have access to specialist facilities normally only available in private elite racing stud facilities. This LEADER project boosts the rural economy by enhancing a small rural equine business that specialises in horse rehabilitation and care for injured horses who can no longer compete and help prolong their life.



The new additions funded by LEADER include a gallops and fully roofed and enclosed equine pool. The gallops are complete with natural Wexford sand, a premium product which is gentle on recovering joints. The pool enables hydrotherapy treatment which reduces the impact of exercise on muscles helping to build muscle strength and strengthen damaged structures. The pool is 2m deep with a total area of 130m². It allows injured horses who would otherwise be confined to box rest begin to recover. The pool has a built-in water filtration plant to ensure pool hygiene. The final touches including a finish of equine chlorinated rubber paint are currently underway.



UPDATE ON PROJECTS 2 : INSYNC CANAL STORES BUILDING

In sync (formerly Kildare Youth Services) provide a wide range of youth and family services across Kildare and West Wicklow. The In sync approach is multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary which means they aim to offer a truly holistic and integrated service, and by putting young people at the centre and working with their families – In sync develop creative interventions which lead to better outcomes.

In sync were approved for LEADER grant of €128,067.24 in 2021 towards the upgrade and renovation of their Canal Stores building in Naas. This building is a dedicated youth facility which houses: 1. The Naas/Clane Youth Project which works with vulnerable young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years from within the local community. 2. The Kildare Youth Information Centre, which provides a free and confidential information service for young people across Kildare. Supporting young people to access information related to their needs in areas like education/training, careers, travel, rights and entitlements. 3. The building is also used for a variety of other youth projects and services and support a variety of community and statutory agencies to provide services to the community on a less regular basis.

Renovation work on this historic protected structure was completed this year and includes extensive repairs and replacement to various roof structures, insulation, windows/doors, and a new heating system. Work has also included the upgrade of electrics to include new emergency lighting; fire detection system and cost saving LED lighting throughout the building. The building is now much more energy efficient and comfortable for service users and staff.

LEARNING AND REFLECTING TOGETHER : LEADER TRAINING DAY

On September 14th, in the LEADER-supported Kildare Community Development Centre, Development Officers and LEADER claims administrators from different counties collaborated on a review of procurement processes in the previous programme. The time frame between procurement and project delivery means that quite a lot can change on the ground and in the market even before a project begins, and before any funding can be drawn down. Navigating that reality within the programme requirements is a common challenge. The very helpful training was an opportunity to share “war stories”, solutions and ensure continuing professional development by reviewing new procurement thresholds. The session, involving staff from Wicklow, Wexford, Laois, Carlow, Kildare, and Kilkenny was facilitated by senior Procurement consultant and trainer Michael Swan of Greenville Procurement Partners Ltd.

