







Vale of Usk LEADER evaluation

Findings and Recommendations






20th January 2022

Evaluation approach

-  Interviews with 18 project leads
-  Online survey – 14 responses
-  6 x workshops (themes and team)
-  Team members and wider stakeholder interviews
-  Review of project information
-  Review of project level evaluation/closure reports







Evaluation Findings – delivery structure

-  Well managed and delivered – good oversight
-  Rural development team well regarded – key role
-  Balance between LAG and accountable body requirements
-  Good spread across 5 RDPW themes – structure worked well
-  Good level of LAG engagement – online process positive








Evaluation Findings – LEADER principles

-  Some projects could be regarded as 'innovative'
-  LAG been open to some risk
-  Pilot/testing activities good opportunity to 'test the water'
-  Some project ideas now taken forward (although not guaranteed)









Evaluation Findings – impact

-  Additionality of support
-  Project level objectives being met
-  Several examples of further funding leverage
-  LEADER experience – tends to be longer-term and iterative
-  Will initial LEADER support be remembered?










Evaluation Findings – issues

-  Risk to budget allocation/spend?
-  Clearer separation of responsibilities?
-  Scale of co-operation activity?
-  LDS as a reference?
-  Newport animation?
-  Over-simplified application process?



Evaluation Findings – moving forward

-  Loss of community development/animation function post LEADER?
-  Preserving legacy – how will LEADER resources be kept 'live'?
 -  Communications – celebrating success
 -  Networking – funded projects
 -  Key learnings – internal (MCC/NCC) and external?
 -  Sustainability support?
-  Future for LAG-like independent advice?



Discussion