

[BNED LEADER 2014-2020 Update: October 2019](#)

Bolsover North East Derbyshire (BNED) LEADER is a European Funded Programme which aims to develop a vibrant, dynamic and diverse rural economy and increase economic productivity and growth.

The primary objectives of the Programme are job creation and economic growth within the rural economy, with projects meeting one of the six priorities:

- Support for increased farming productivity
- Support for micro/small enterprises and farm diversification
- Support for tourism activities
- Provision of rural services
- Support for culture and heritage activities
- Support for increased forestry productivity

The current Programme commenced in 2015 and we have recently approved the final 3 projects of the 2014-2020 BNED LEADER Programme which sees our allocation spent.

	No. of Projects Supported			Grant Awarded (£)			Jobs Created		
	Total	BDC	NEDDC	Total	BDC	NEDDC	Total	BDC	NEDDC
Total	37	12	25	£1,248,695.88	£541,366.11	£707,329.77	69.82	41.75	28.07

In total, 98 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) have been received 95 of which have been invited to Full Application.

Overall 37 of these applications have been contracted and 10 have been rejected at either the ECR stage or LAG approval meetings.

46 applicants have withdrawn from the process citing problems with match-funding, arranging quotes and programme complexity and 2 contracted projects have had their grant funding agreements withdrawn due to non-compliance of LEADER processes.

The table below shows the split of the grant monies awarded across all 6 LEADER priorities.

PROJECT GRANT REQUEST BY PRIORITY						TOTAL GRANT APPROVED
Increasing Farming Productivity	Micro and small enterprises and farm diversification	Rural Tourism	Rural Services	Culture and Heritage Activity	Increasing Forestry Productivity	
£222,911.47	£524,589.80	£230,721.34	£210,269.37	£0.00	£38,436.70	£1,248,695.88

The Programme has now moved into the monitoring phase. All the beneficiaries of the live projects are being kept in contact with to ensure that their project remains on track and to help with any issues that arise ensuring that all RPA processes are fully complied with.

All beneficiaries are aware and are regularly reminded that the cut-off for final claims being submitted to the LEADER team is October 2020 and close monitoring will continue to ensure that this timescale is met.

The RPA has now issued Post Payment Monitoring forms and guidance and the LEADER team are starting to process these for all the completed projects (projects that have submitted and been paid their final claim).

The Economic Development Units and Partnership Strategy Teams of BDC and NEDDC have played a key role in promoting the scheme, supporting applicants and undertaking project appraisals.

Promotion

Promotion will shift to case studies of completed projects in the near future. Closed project details are now starting to be added to the website (www.bned-leader.co.uk/index.php/projects-2014-2020) and more will be completed after the busy application processing period. Tours of completed projects will also be organised for BNED Local Action Group members and key partners up to the end of the Programme and an evaluation of the impact of BNED LEADER and lessons to learn for the future will also be a particular focus for the team.

BNED LEADER Staffing

Nicolas Parsons joined the team in August 2020 and as she has previously worked on the BNED LEADER programme has hit the ground running and required minimum refresher training. Nicola will be part of the team until Mar 2021.

**Sharon Stevenson,
BNED LEADER Programme Officer
15th October 2019**