

# Making it Local News

## May 2011

Funding for rural businesses and communities in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Making  
it  
local



*Stafford Marsh Field Studies Building, on the Axe Estuary*

### Funding update

We have now approved 48 projects, amounting to a total commitment of £1.2million. We have received and fed back on 271 Initial Project Outline enquiries by May 2011. Fifteen projects are now successfully completed, with many more in full swing. Please see our website [www.makingitlocal.org.uk](http://www.makingitlocal.org.uk) for details of projects.

### Temporary Suspension of Making it Local approvals

We are currently in a period of review by DEFRA of the Local Action budgets, which is likely to result in a national re-allocation of funds in the autumn. This means that we are not able to approve any applications until then. In the meantime, we are continuing to work with projects to prepare applications ready for the release of new funds and to help projects look for alternative funding and develop their plans.

### Supporting villages

**Whitford Village Hall** are pleased with their new **kitchen** funded by Making it Local. As soon as it was finished, they put on a big village breakfast which attracted over 60 people. They have increased private bookings, including a village wedding, and will be offering light lunches and ice creams during events which will bring in extra income to the hall.

**Yarcombe Village Hall extension** has made an enormous difference to the groups making use of the hall, which can now be completely cleared for dancing and special events. Clubs, such as the table tennis club, can now stay in the village and expand their membership because they can keep their equipment at the hall.

**East Budleigh community shop** was given funding for **new chillers** to allow them to extend the range of local produce they could stock.

David Willis, of **Donyatt Village Hall** said "We were able to make our village hall at Donyatt much more energy efficient, saving money and reducing our carbon footprint. "



*East Budleigh community shop with staff and volunteers*

## Supporting Rural Tourism

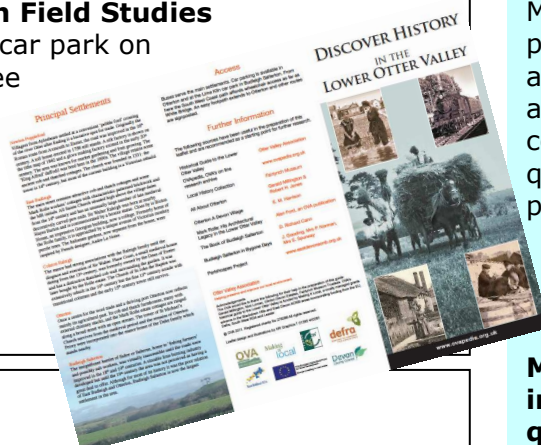


**Escot** has constructed a **new boardwalk and enclosure** for their Red squirrel experience which they plan to open this summer. It will be free to enter and provide a fantastic wildlife encounter with these endangered mammals. They are now working on a **Red squirrel interpretation** area within the barns complex.

East Devon District Council's **Stafford Marsh Field Studies**

**Building** (see front for picture) and car park on the Axe Estuary are now open for free public access to view wetland wildlife.

The **Otter Valley Association** has produced a new **leaflet** to interpret the history of the area and encourage people to get out and about to discover it for themselves.



## Supporting Rural Business

The team from West Devon BIP running the **Sustainable Business Network** has now laid on 298 free training days and supported 188 businesses in the Making it Local area. They have helped local businesses to establish **6 sustainable networks** for the future.

Local website design company **Bitpod** received funding to develop video production for clients' websites, allowing them to compete online and bring business to the local area.

**Somerset Pumps** can now sell their rainwater harvesting and pump products to domestic customers as well as retailers, using a new trade counter, e-commerce site and phone system.

**Wellington Chamber of Commerce** received funding for leaflet showing a **town map**, encouraging residents and visitors to shop locally.

## Quality of Life

Making it Local is a broad grant scheme and people sometimes feel unclear about what can be funded. The grant is part of a Europe-wide drive to improve well-being in rural areas. There is a rediscovery of the old saying "there's more to life than money" and increasingly, grants like Making it Local can fund projects with environmental and social benefits, as well as economic ones. Of course, improvements in quality of life are hard to predict and measure, making the application process seem complex sometimes, so the team are on hand to advise.

**Making it Local is intended to improve the quality of life for our rural communities and anyone in the area can get involved in steering the funding programme as part of the Consultative and Advisory Group (CAG). If you would like to find out more, please contact us at the address below.**

## Staffing Update

The Making it Local team is:

- Melanie Sealey, programme manager
- Julie Fergusson, project development officer for the Blackdown Hills AONB area
- Kate Tobin, project development officer for the East Devon AONB area.

Kate is also covering some admin work temporarily.

## Funding Workshops

Tuesday 7th June: Dunkeswell Village Hall 10am—12 noon  
 Tuesday 14th June: East Devon Business Centre, Honiton 10 -12

Both workshops cover the application process and funding advice and include a presentation by a successful local project. Places are limited so please email Making it Local to book your place on this workshop.

[makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk](mailto:makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk) - [www.makingitlocal.org](http://www.makingitlocal.org) - 01823 680626  
 Making it Local, St Ivel House, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3SJ

"Making it Local is a locally managed grants scheme in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB areas incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, South West RDA and Leader"

