

To: JLAF

From: Chris Weedon [mailto:Chris.Weedon@forestofavon.org.uk]

Sent: 06 March 2008 18:08

The Forest of Avon is receiving a grant to run this programme between now and the end of March 2009. The aim is to essentially offer advice to farmers and landowners on some elements of land diversification to provide potential benefits to them. Over the next few months we will be contacting landowners through various networks to offer our services under this programme. We have already sent some flyers out to South Gloucestershire landowners. The grant will cover costs for marketing the project, making farm / site visits and setting up meetings, workshops, seminars etc to offer advice and solutions to specific subjects / issues. We can also pay for specialist advice or speakers / consultants if that is deemed necessary. There is no money to offer to specific landowners or to make physical changes on the ground.

Specific subject areas / issues we are currently looking at as part of the programme include:

1. Environmental Stewardship Schemes and other land based grants
2. Wood Fuel, woodland management and woodland planting
3. Organic Growing and Local Food Networks
4. Recreation and Tourism opportunities.

As part of the work we could look at certain access / recreation / tourism issues that might have been mentioned on recent JLAF meetings. This might be subjects which landowners would like more information about or it could be something area specific that involves an access proposal. The critical thing to remember is that the money is available to help farmers and landowners so we couldn't be involved in trying to negotiate a specific access or other proposal unless there were clear benefits for the landowner.

I'd be grateful for any thoughts you may have about this project. Feel free to circulate this to appropriate people and I'd be pleased if you were able to mention it to any of the members on the JLAF. I'm happy to follow up this email with further information or a meeting.

Kind regards

Chris Weedon
Local Projects Manager

Forest of Avon

The Estate Office
Ashton Court Estate
BRISTOL
BS41 9JN
Tel 0117 953 2141
Fax 0117 953 2143
www.forestofavon.org.uk

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