

Document D8

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

STRATEGIC FIT AND CROSS CUTTING THEMES APPRAISAL REPORT

For RDP Applications

Scheme:	RCDF
Measure:	7
Sub Measure:	7.7
Applicant:	The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School
Project Title:	The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School and Cafe
PPIMS Case ID Number:	81123

STRATEGIC FIT

Evidence Assessed: Policy comments reports from Digital Inclusion and Tackling Poverty

The application recognises digital inclusion and highlights the key priority groups and the National Survey for Wales (June 2015) data, estimated 19% of Welsh adults who remain digitally excluded.

The principles behind utilising Wi-Fi provision to overcome issues of using computers for certain populations e.g. elderly, is positive. However, this would increase the reliance on staff at the café to have a good knowledge of other devices which people may wish to connect to the Wi-Fi and in turn could prove resource intensive. Additionally, there would be a need for the Pumpkin Patch to give consideration to how access to Wi-Fi is granted; would users need to agree to terms and conditions of use or would the Wi-Fi be restricted in terms of what content can be viewed.

As outlined, the aim is for local residents and business to access a Superfast connection, following the upgrade under Superfast Cymru to the nearest exchange in Nantgaredig. However, the application doesn't highlight whether it has explored the costing and speeds available if they were to connect the

Version: 2

Issue date: 10 November 2016

facility to Superfast. Would they need to set a charge for utilising the Wi-Fi, in order to make the internet café sustainable, or do they envisage these costs being covered by other areas e.g. cookery class and café purchases.

In order to align more closely with the basic digital skills commitments set out in the Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward, and our Digital Inclusion Delivery Plan, the applicant needs to demonstrate how, through the digital inclusion workshops, individuals will be able to progress their learning journey so they can gain the range of basic digital skills needed to fully benefit from the digital world. Officials would advise the applicant to make links to the current Welsh Government digital inclusion programme, Digital Communities Wales, which can help provide resources and training to front line staff, including volunteers, to help with the sustainability and consistency of delivery of any potential digital inclusion workshops.

The nearest internet and computer provision, other than the suggested internet café for the Pumpkin Patch would be Carmarthen town central library.

The applicant states that all information in terms of courses etc. will be done so online, mainly through the website and social media. However, consideration as to how best to reach and raise awareness of courses/Wi-Fi provision for those who are digitally excluded and most likely to benefit most.

Within the Strategic Fit section, the application recognises the role the project can play in support poverty. However, there is a significant lack of detail as to how this will be achieved. For example, how does the project look at target low income households. Further benefits could be realised if the project was to work locally with other initiatives. For example, whilst the project is concentrated on increasing skills in relation to cooking, links could be made to reducing household bills through fuel poverty initiatives. This is a shame as it could be a good project to tackle poverty if more details were provided.

The score given for Digital Inclusion is Medium and for Tackling Poverty the score is low.

Final Score: Medium

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Evidence Assessed: Technical Appraisal Report

Both languages are used in all workshops are currently offered. With the opportunity to be open longer and offer more workshops, they will be in a position to offer Welsh / English only workshops. This will be especially true for pre-school workshops such as the 'Little Pumpkins' classes, designed for

Version: 2

Issue date: 10 November 2016

the under 6 age group. This will be beneficial for the young pre-school learners and for their parents / carers who will gain confidence in the language and offer a Welsh learning environment.

Lisa is a Welsh speaker herself and will encourage children and adults to speak their language of choice. Classes can be bilingual and the Welsh language is promoted and used in most classes and demonstrations. Recipes and signage will be bilingual, and some 'Little Pumpkins' parent and child cookery workshops are already held in Welsh as the children are raised in Welsh homes and attend a Welsh medium meithrin. The junior workshops offer a choice of language.

The information provided shows that the project will aim to address the following threats and weaknesses in rural Carmarthenshire:

The decline of the Welsh Language

Encourage Carmarthenshire to be a tourism destination - not a gateway to Pembrokeshire

Prove that a Carmarthenshire micro-business is eager and determined to expand

To offer an attraction which is not weather dependent

Encourage people to gain a higher skill level

Encourage food production courses in FE/HE

Sustainable Development

The redundant cowsheds at Allt y Gôg Farm will be sympathetically restored to create a cookery school that will sit perfectly and beautifully in the Towy Valley. The frontage will remain exactly as it was built many years ago; openings and windows will remain the same. The Welsh purple slate will remain in the roof and, as far as possible, we will endeavour to create an eco-friendly building and an equally environment friendly business. The building will require low energy for heating, and will be well insulated.

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Pumpkin Patch will promote social inclusion and address issues relating to rural poverty by providing a purpose-built facility aimed at improving health and wellbeing through cookery, diet and nutrition classes.

The facility will also act as a community hub providing a meeting place for local groups to reduce isolation within rural areas.

The project will also contribute towards improving the quality of life for local people by enabling access to facilities aimed at educating children and local people about food, diet, and nutrition; a meeting place for local community groups to access to ICT; as well as act as a rural skills resource delivering training in specialist areas such as charcuterie and bee-keeping.

Cooking and gardening are two skills that have been lost somewhere during the past two generations. Offering gardening (grow-your-own) and cookery workshops and linking into other related topics including information about food, diet, composting, recycling and the wider global issues relating to food,

Version: 2

Issue date: 10 November 2016

nutrition and health (both physical and emotional) is important within the community. As The Pumpkin Patch strives to educate people about the benefits of healthy eating, it uses traditional Welsh recipes that have been handed down through the generations.

Statements of special educational needs for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties

The Pumpkin Patch has already worked with several groups and initiatives which enable those on low incomes and from deprived areas (Communities First Areas) to benefit from the workshops we offer.

Statemented children, the aged and young families with child-parent relationship problems have requested return visits as larger groups, which cannot currently be accommodated. In addition, many have additional learning needs including autism and learning difficulties. Teaching these children is especially rewarding, though considerable planning is needed to ensure the workshop is rewarding for them also.

The children's needs would be better met by a cookery school and life skills centre that would allow the children to learn in a new location, as it is often the school environment that instigated the negative behaviour. Through teaching a non-examined subject in a non-school environment, children learn and develop well

Final Score: Medium

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

The applicant has given adequate consideration to the Strategic Fit and Cross cutting Themes within the project application. There are no issues highlighted that would prevent approval. The final overall score given is Medium.

Completed by: (print name)	Welsh Government Official
Signature:	Electronic copy only
Date:	13/06/2017