

Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014–2020

Rural Community Development Fund – Expression of Interest – Criteria and Application Form

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Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020
Expression of Interest (EOI)
Rural Community Development Fund Criteria and EOI Form.
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Expression of Interest (EOI)

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INTRODUCTION

1. These Guidance Notes explain how the Expression of Interest (EOI) process will operate for the Rural Community Development Fund (sub-Measures 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 & 7.7).

2. Please read these notes carefully. You will also need to refer to the:

☐ Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 Expression of Interest Guidance Notes.

☐ Guidance Notes for the Rural Community Development Fund. These can be found at the web address below:

3.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/?lang=en>

TIMESCALES

4. There are expected to be two windows per calendar year. The first window will open for 6 months to allow initial development time prior to submission. Subsequent windows are expected to be open for three calendar months. Dates will be published on the Welsh Government website (see link above) on a rolling two year basis, and are subject to review. This will enable applicants to forward plan their application to meet their needs in terms of timescales.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

5. The indicative funding available for each 'window' will be published in advance on the Welsh Government website.

SCORING METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

6. Projects will be scored using the criteria on page 7 of this document.

HOW TO APPLY

7. For full details of how to apply please refer to the Expression of Interest (EOI) Guidance Notes document.

8. EOIs must be submitted on the application form at the end of this document.

9. Applicants should complete the EOI form electronically. Sections can be expanded as required. Please note that all the information must be provided within the EOI form. Additional documents or supporting information will not be accepted at EOI stage.

10. EOIs should be submitted via email to: RuralCommunityDevelopment@wales.gsi.gov.uk mailto:

11. No EOI will be accepted after the closing date.

EOI Selection Criteria

Rural Community Development Fund EOI project proposals will be scored using the following scoring scale of 0 – 5, then multiplied by the associated weighting factor to give a total score.

	Priority Criteria	Score	Weighting Factor
1	Effective community engagement during the development of the proposal	0 – 5	X 5
2	Additionality and strategic compliance	0 – 5	X 4
3	Access to services	0 – 5	X 3
4	Fuel poverty	0 – 5	X 3
5	In-work poverty	0 – 5	X 3
6	Digital inclusion	0-5	X 3

1. Effective community engagement during the development of the proposal

All decisions to invest in basic services and village renewal should be based on detailed local knowledge and sound evidence of need. Local communities are best placed to understand their local circumstances and to identify the barriers and opportunities facing them. All community-led applications for investment under 7.2-7.7 must be supported by detailed development plans.

Where there has been an ongoing process of holistic community engagement the idea for the project proposal may have originated from this ongoing work. Where this is not the case and the idea originated from a smaller group/individual it is important that the wider community has been thoroughly engaged in its development from idea to project proposal.

Stakeholder analysis is the process of identifying the individuals or groups that are likely to affect or be affected by a proposed action, and sorting them according to their impact on the action and the impact the action will have on them. This

information can then be used to assess how the interests of those stakeholders should be addressed in the project proposal. Stakeholder analysis has the goal of developing cooperation between the stakeholder and the project team and, ultimately, assuring successful outcomes for the project.

Every community will be made up of a range of stakeholder interests and will require a range of engagement techniques to enable the widest possible participation from these interests.

The final project proposal should reflect the outcome of the community engagement.

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response demonstrating clearly and that the project proposal arose through extensive community engagement. If the idea for the proposal originated from a smaller grouping within a community then the applicant has demonstrated that a stakeholder analysis has been conducted and appropriate techniques have been used to enable all stakeholders to be involved during the development of the proposal. The applicant has clearly demonstrated how the outcome of the community engagement has influenced the project proposal.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that a stakeholder analysis has taken place and that community engagement has taken place with the stakeholders most likely to affect or be affected by the proposal. The applicant has described how the outcome of this engagement has influenced the project proposal.

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one (or more) of the following: - that the project proposal arose through extensive community engagement or - that a stakeholder analysis has been conducted and that appropriate techniques have been used to enable stakeholders to be involved during the development of the proposal and - how the outcome of the community engagement has influenced the project proposal

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate both that community engagement has taken place and that the project proposal has been informed by the outcome of community engagement

2. Additionality and strategic compliance

Applicants should explain how the proposed project:

Contributes to the strategic aims and objectives of the Rural Community Development Fund

Contributes to relevant Welsh Government strategies

Contributes to or complements LEADER Local Development Strategies

Applicants should explain how the project will not duplicate any existing provisions or any known intended provisions either through statutory service providers, other Welsh Government funded initiatives or other EU funded projects.

Any EOIs found to contain significant areas of duplication may be excluded from progressing to project application stage and the applicant referred to the more appropriate funding source.

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response which clearly demonstrates that the project proposed contains no duplication, will complement and add value to existing mainstream activities. The applicant has clearly shown how the project proposed will contribute towards the aims of named key strategies. The applicant has explained how the proposed project contributes to or complements the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for their area.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that the project proposed contains no duplication, will complement and add value to existing mainstream activities. The applicant has mentioned key strategies/strategic objectives/the LEADER LDS although the contribution of the project proposal towards these is not clearly explained

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one of the following: - that the project proposed contains no duplication, will complement and add value to existing mainstream activities or

- how the project proposed will contribute towards the aims of named key strategies/strategic objectives

or

- how the proposed project contributes to or complements the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for their area

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate that the project proposed contains no duplication, will complement and add value to existing mainstream activities. The applicant has failed to demonstrate how the project proposed will contribute towards the aims of named key strategies. The applicant has failed to demonstrate how the proposed project contributes to or complements the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for their area.

3. Access to services

Individuals living in rural Wales are often unable to access the basic services and provision they need, particularly if they are living on low incomes. Often, feelings of isolation are exacerbated by the inability to partake in local community activities.

Applicants will need to consider how their local community can be supported in becoming more resilient and will need to describe how the proposed investment will improve access to vital services within the area. Applicants should particularly seek to improve access to services which will disproportionately benefit those on low incomes, such as improved public transport or community transport solutions and bringing important services to local communities. Co-location of organisations providing services such as credit unions, local health services, post office services, youth services, sports facilities, library services, etc. is encouraged.

Involving local individuals in local community activities gives a greater sense of ownership and pride in the community. Applicants should consider this as well as how to encourage healthier outdoor lifestyles, contact with nature and reduce feelings of isolation.

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response which clearly demonstrates that the project proposed will significantly improve access to services and involve local individuals in activities to improve their quality of life.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that the project proposed will somewhat improve access to services and involve local individuals in activities to improve their quality of life.

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one of the following: - that the project proposed will improve access to services or

- involve local individuals in activities to improve their quality of life

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate either that the project proposed will make any improvement to access to services or involve local individuals in activities to improve their quality of life.

4. Fuel Poverty

The three key factors that influence whether a household will be in fuel poverty, and the severity of that poverty, are: income levels, fuel prices and the energy efficiency of the home.

Often, low-income households pay disproportionately more for goods and services such as food, fuel, housing and credit. The Welsh Government's revised Child Poverty Strategy, published in March 2015, recognised this by setting a new strategic objective to support households in the "here and now" to increase their household income and address this "poverty premium".

Being excluded from mainstream services means families living in poverty often pay more for basic needs. For example, households may not be able to benefit from cheaper energy and fuel tariffs, which are linked to payments by direct debits. Furthermore, households with disabled children and / or parents are known to face higher living costs.

Costs can often increase for properties which are "off-gas", and energy efficiency can be lower in rural areas where the quality of housing stock is often poorer than in urban areas. Community-scale renewable energy provides communities with the opportunity to deliver cheaper energy while reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Lack of public transport, prohibitive costs of car ownership, the cost of transport fuel and distances travelled to access employment or training opportunities can also contribute to transport-related fuel poverty.

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response which clearly demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of those in fuel poverty and will significantly assist them.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of those in fuel poverty and will somewhat assist them.

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one of the following: - that the needs of people living in fuel poverty have been considered or

- that the proposes project will assist those living in fuel poverty

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate that the needs of people living in fuel poverty have been considered and failing to demonstrate that the proposes project will assist those living in fuel poverty.

5. In-work poverty

Jobs, growth and a strong economy are essential to sustainable communities and improving the lives of low-income households. The dynamics of poverty in Wales have changed over time, with far more people now living with in-work poverty. There are a range of activities which can contribute to tackling in-work poverty, including supporting second earners into work, childcare provision, supporting young people into employment through apprenticeships or traineeships and increasing skills to enable people to secure in-work progression.

Evidence suggests that in-work poverty is more prevalent in rural areas of Wales, where wages are lower, there is more part-time working and a greater prevalence of seasonal work.

Applicants will be expected to consider how their proposal will support this agenda. In particular, applicants may wish to consider how parents can be supported to take on additional hours (possibly through accessible, affordable and quality childcare and other dependent care).

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response which clearly demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of those living with in-work poverty and will significantly assist them.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of those living with in-work poverty and will somewhat assist them.

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one of the following: - that the needs of people living with in-work poverty have been considered or

- that the proposes project will assist those living with in-work poverty.

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate that the needs of people living with in-work poverty have been considered and failing to demonstrate that the proposes project will assist those living with in-work poverty.

6. Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion is about ensuring that people, both as citizens and consumers, benefit from the rapid pace of technological change taking place in our society. This especially applies with people being able to use the internet in ways that enhance their lives and contribute to helping them overcome other disadvantages which they might face.

Being online can improve everyday lives including saving money, helping individuals to find work and reducing social isolation. With services increasingly moving online, including vital public services and the UK Government's welfare reforms, it is more important than ever that individuals are not left behind.

There are key individuals who are more likely to be digitally excluded, including older and disabled people; those living in social housing; the unemployed and working age economically inactive. Latest data from the National Survey for Wales 2014-15 tells us that 19% of individuals in Wales are not online.

Applicants should consider how their proposed investment can support the people most likely to be digitally excluded, so that they can improve their quality of life and life chances.

Score 5 The applicant has provided a robust and detailed response which clearly demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of most likely to be digitally excluded and will significantly assist them.

Score 3 The applicant has provided a satisfactory response which demonstrates that the project proposed has considered the needs of those most likely to be digitally excluded and will somewhat assist them.

Score 1 The applicant has provided a potentially incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate one of the following: - that the needs of most likely to be digitally excluded have been considered or

- that the proposes project will assist those most likely to be digitally excluded.

Score 0 The applicant has provided an incomplete or insufficient response failing to demonstrate that the needs of people most likely to be digitally excluded have been considered and failing to demonstrate that the proposes project will assist those most likely to be digitally excluded.

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Rural Community Development Fund

Expression of Interest Form

Project Overview

1) Project Name and Description

Project Name: ***The Pumpkin Patch Cookery & Gardening School and Café***

Project Description (Maximum 50 Words only)

Please ensure this briefly but clearly identifies what the project is about, what investments are proposed to be made and very briefly why these are needed.

Renovation of a redundant cowshed into:

- 1) A purpose built cookery school, to house the existing Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School, which has outgrown its existing premises within the family home***
- 2) Accommodation for a Rural Skills Centre and other training courses***
- 3) An internet coffee house to serve the community (43)***

2) Project Location

***The Pumpkin Patch Cookery & Gardening School
Allt y Gôg Farm,
Abergorlech Road,
Whitemill,
Carmarthen
SA32 7AY***

3) Other details

Proposed Start Date: ***January 2017***

Likely End Date: ***January 2018***

Total Project Cost : ***£160,000***

Total Grant Amount : ***£128,000***

Grant Rate %: ***80%***

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Applicant Details and Background

1) Applicant Name and full Postal Address

Applicant / Company Name: ***The Pumpkin Patch Cookery and Gardening School***

Address: ***Allt y Gôg Farm, Abergorlech Road, Whitemill, Carmarthen,***

Post Code: ***SA32 7AY***

Contact name: ***Mrs Lisa Anne Fearn***

Position: ***Owner***

e-mail: ***lisa@thepumpkinpatch.org.uk***

Telephone No. ***01267 290312*** or **Exempt under Section 40(2)**

(incl. STD code)

2) Applicant's business status

Please tick appropriate box:

Social Enterprise

Charity

Community Interest Company

Cooperative

Mutual

Trust

Public Sector Body

Sole Trader

Company ltd by guarantee

Private Limited Company

Partnership

Public Limited Company

Other

If other, please specify

Company Number and / or Registered Charity Number (if appropriate): N/A

Customer Reference Number (CRN) if known:

(CRN is the Welsh Government grant payment reference number) N/A

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3) Company Structure

Is the applicant company a member of a group of companies? NO

If yes, please give the name of the immediate, and if different, the ultimate Parent company and the country in which they are registered:

If relevant, is the applicant business a micro-enterprise SME:

Micro-enterprise Yes

SME Yes / No

Please explain how your proposed project will deliver against the Rural Community Development Fund EOI priority criteria

1. Effective community engagement during the development of the proposal

The Pumpkin Patch is an existing cookery and gardening school that has delivered courses for adults and children from the proprietor's home and garden for 6 years. The Pumpkin Patch has specialised in providing local children the opportunity of growing their own food and learning how to cook it with a huge emphasis on diet and nutrition. Demand for places, and for accommodating larger visiting groups, has now increased and the family kitchen is neither suitable, nor large enough, to effectively house the School.

Photo: Overcrowded kitchen at the current premises – Exempt under Section 40(2)

The on-site redundant cowshed, which is located less than 20 metres from the house, offers the perfect solution and will enable expansion of the business in a way that will benefit numerous local children, teens, adults and community groups within the area.

To date, Lisa who runs the cookery and gardening school, has already provided excellent bespoke workshops for a range of groups within Carmarthenshire and beyond. The expansion of the facilities will enable the Pumpkin Patch to develop the experience for clients by providing an enhanced programme of activities and enable larger groups to utilise the facility.

In addition to the regular weekly and monthly cookery and gardening workshops, Lisa has tailored courses to meet the needs of specialised groups of individuals. The following groups have already benefited from the teaching, and have indicated their support for a purpose-built facility. In developing this proposal, the following groups have been consulted to ensure that the new facility would meet with the needs of the users.

LAC (Looked after children), Llanelli

Allowing young people the opportunity to learn useful life skills, in a relaxed friendly environment, removed from the pressure of their everyday lives.

MENCAP

Previous bespoke courses have allowed young adults the chance to develop skills in the kitchen, which have enabled them to become self-sufficient and able them to fend for themselves.

Communities First, Llanelli

Lisa has worked with a range of children in deprived areas. A particular focus has been on working with family groups, with an emphasis on healthy eating on a budget, where difficult to reach adults tend to be enthused by and learn from their children.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

Morfa and Llwynhendy Children's Centre

The Pumpkin Patch brought young children and their parents together to enjoy spending time together. Working together brought families closer together and allowed them to spend quality time together providing, promoting and encouraging 'parenting skills'. This was achieved through the teaching of healthy eating and cooking together. Parents and teachers were amazed at the response and what was achieved. Young children were excited to take part and small successes, for which they were praised, made them proud and confident.

Rhydygors School Carmarthen.

Rhydygors pupils have statements of special educational needs for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. In addition, many have additional learning needs including autism and learning difficulties. Teaching the children is especially rewarding, though considerable planning is needed to ensure the workshop is rewarding for them also.

Teachers have not been able to bring children to The Pumpkin Patch, given the existing facilities, and have been extremely complimentary about the way Lisa meets and interacts with the children within the school. 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.

The aforementioned groups of individuals within the community have already benefited from attending the workshops available; however, these and other groups and individuals have expressed an interest in attending, but are currently unable to be accommodated due to a lack of space and inadequate facilities. A larger unit would enable current services to be extended without being constrained by the cookery school also being the family home. To date, The Pumpkin Patch has had to visit such groups at their location. Receiving groups has always proved difficult, as the location can only accommodate a small number of visitors, and the toilet facilities are limited. However, the 'out and about' workshops are also restricted by the on-site facilities offered by the host. Kitchen facilities and space at the venue is sometimes equally restraining and so ideally it would be great to offer an ideal location at The Pumpkin Patch, to offer a full package.

Stakeholder analysis

The needs of the following groups within the community will be met by the classes and expansion of The Pumpkin Patch through the targeted workshops created and run by the business. They will help in terms of the new skills that can increase employability and therefore reduce poverty.

Infants - under 6 year-olds (Little Pumpkins)

Classes teach parents and children to start well, encouraging a good knowledge of where food comes from, and how to cook it. Workshops are linked-in to numeracy and global awareness. Lisa encourages involvement by parents with their children, promoting healthy eating.

As identified in previous work with CYCA, LAC, Children's Services and other groups, parents often learn more through their children and adults access the education provided by The Pumpkin Patch. Classes also enhance the bond between carers and children through joint activities. Existing attendees have highlighted the need for larger premises to provide a wider range of play facilities for parents, grandparents and guardians to interact with their children.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

Juniors – 6 – 12 year-olds (Junior Pumpkins)

Classes increase the existing skills base, and further knowledge about diet and a healthy outlook. Lisa teaches children to understand how the body works and how food affects the way we are and look. Lack of knowledge about nutrition and how foods affect us contributes to the high incidence of childhood obesity in Wales.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

Teens - Secondary School age (12+)

Poor self-esteem, caused by obesity affects our body image and confidence. At the Pumpkin Patch cookery workshops, the teaching is informal and friendly and several parents have commented on their child's improved attitude and confidence having been part of the regular classes. For some individuals, especially those who do not excel in a school environment, and for those who have experienced negativity and bullying at school, being part of an extra-curricular non-school based group, really adds value to their lives, which way exceeds the life skills acquired as part of the teaching.

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Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

Community Groups

Serves Groups such as the WI (Women's Institute), Merched y Wawr and Welsh language community groups, Community Gardening / Allotment Groups

Several groups in the area meet on a monthly basis and are always on the lookout for somewhere interesting and different to visit. Over the past few years an increasing number of

local, and not so local, groups have visited The Pumpkin Patch for a demonstration evening and pop-up supper night. Recently, several larger groups have been turned away due to lack of kitchen preparation space as well as insufficient tables and chairs to cater for the groups. A commercial kitchen will allow The Pumpkin Patch to cater for these larger groups and the open space and coffee shop area will enable us to offer sufficient space for the larger community groups, especially those who wish to invite spouses and friends to join for the evening

School Visits

The Pumpkin Patch has regularly visited small groups at local schools to assist with cookery clubs and to add value to other lessons where an element of gardening and/or cookery can assist in the understanding of a subject. Nantgaredig School, Peniel School, Abergwili School and schools further afield such as Rhyd-Y-Gors and Felindre School, Swansea have invited Lisa to teach at their school. Traditional Welsh cookery is always popular, as well as more exotic foods such as Sushi and Italian pasta making to allow children to explore more 'global' food types as part of their curriculum learning. To date, despite being frequently asked to take school visits, The Pumpkin Patch has been unable to do so, as there is insufficient space, only the family toilet facilities and no provision for packed lunch picnic areas etc. Small groups from Peniel school make an annual trip as a reward for attending the school 'Cookery Club' in year 6, however the number has been capped at 15 due to lack of space at the current facility.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

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Children's Cookery Parties.

The Pumpkin Patch is currently often inundated with requests for children's birthday parties. It is, however, unable to meet the demand due to cookery workshops and parties being held at the proprietor's home. Despite the family welcoming the business, they cannot be expected to remain out of sight in their own home, to enable these parties to take place. The proposed larger premises would facilitate larger and multiple parties.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

The Community Garden and local School and Community Groups

As part of the project, the existing children's allotment and raised bed area would become a small community garden, and would provide a great way to introduce both the children and adults, including the school teachers to a manageable way for 'growing your own' at home and at school. The Pumpkin Patch would offer exotic and heritage vegetables, together with traditional farmhouse fruits and vegetables to introduce children and local community groups and individuals to more of a challenge for their own gardens.

It intended to allow visitors to the centre access to the gardens and raised beds for their enjoyment. Older members and groups with knowledge of the gardens will be allowed to potter and weed, offering an involvement in the garden. This will add value and interest to many visitors from the community. Harvested vegetables will be used during the cookery workshops as they always have been, and compostable materials will be added to the garden compost and wormery. The garden and raised beds will be visited and managed or 'gardened' as part of the cookery / gardening workshops This is how The Pumpkin Patch links the growing and cooking of our food.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

In addition to the regular workshops and cookery demonstrations, The Pumpkin Patch has visited other community groups such as the Tywi Centre Llandeilo to teach traditional bread making using their cob oven. It is hoped that The Pumpkin Patch would be able to offer similar workshops of, though different to those already being offered in the area. Other workshops could include:...Exempt under Section 43. This would foster knowledge transfer and innovation within the community.

The Pumpkin Patch's involvement in the community has thrived since its establishment. The need for a lifestyle and cookery based organization within the locality has been proven. Children and adults have also travelled from further afield. Children have travelled from Brecon, Neath and Port Talbot. Adults have travelled for a traditional Welsh cookery day from as far as Hereford, and frequently contributed further to the local economy by staying in a local B&B overnight. There is nothing on par with the Pumpkin Patch in Wales. Despite the existence of other small or specific cookery schools, no one else has added the gardening, diet & nutrition element to the basic cookery school concept.

PhotoGRAPH – Exempt under Section 40(2)

2. Additionality and Strategic Compliance

Additionality

The Pumpkin Patch is an existing cookery and gardening school in the Tywi Valley, which is in the heart of rural Carmarthenshire, famous for its dairy industry and for the excellent fishing opportunities offered by the River Towy. The School is located 6 miles from the centre of Carmarthen town. The Pumpkin Patch is the only facility of its kind within Wales. While there are other small scale cookery schools within Wales, the Pumpkin Patch is different in that it incorporates gardening, diet & nutrition to the programme of activities. The expansion to the facilities will therefore not duplicate any existing provision.

Despite having village halls and pubs, the Pontargothi, Nantgaredig and Abergwili area have little in terms of a community action centre. There is no shop, takeaway, chip shop, community centre; in fact the closest the area can offer in terms of a place to meet is the local garage filling station on the A40 at White Mill. The existence of a coffee shop with internet provision, veg box and 'family food' takeaway would add a significant benefit to the local residents and passers-by, which travel the A40 to and from work daily.

The expansion of the Pumpkin Patch into new and improved premises will allow it to offer the community an array of additional services. It would be able to offer:

An internet café on site which allow local residents as well as visitors to the area, an opportunity to engage in the area, explore their surroundings rather than fuel along the A40 directly to town. The internet provision in the area is poor, as it is in several rural areas in Wales, however, Superfast Broadband provision will be improved in the near future.

More crucial to the slightly aging population of Nantgaredig area is the provision of internet and search engines without the encumbering hassle of working a computer. Being able to access the internet without the hassle of managing errors and other computer issues such as firewalls/updates/downloads and other terrifying Jaron to the older computer user will be a huge attraction and benefit to the community. This would offer next generation broadband and digital inclusion skills training.

All aspects of what we offer would be available online, and all courses would be marketed on the website as they are currently. We already make full use of social media to promote the activities here at The Pumpkin Patch, and this has proved to be extremely successful when starting new workshops aimed at specific groups. The use of Facebook and twitter, Instagram has already been a great tool in marketing workshops to the younger generation and their parents.

Currently, parents drop children off at the kitchen and disappear for a few hours, while the workshop takes place. The availability of an on-site coffee shop will double up as a viewing gallery for parents and grandparents to view the cookery workshop.

Photograph – Exempt under Section 40(2)

The coffee facility will be housed on two floors adjacent to the open plan cookery school. From the first floor gallery we hope to offer a suspended viewing gangway above the cookery school and the adjacent commercial kitchen. This not only provides a very attractive viewing gallery, but an opportunity for visitors to the centre to be part of the action and gain awareness of what we offer in an extremely transparent way. We have nothing to hide, and wish everyone to be part of the action.

Numerous groups have already benefited from the workshops that we offer. Unfortunately, we are limited to small groups at Allt y Gôg farm as the kitchen and cooking facilities are not sufficiently large to cater for larger groups. We are frequently contacted by local schools and organisations, wishing to organise group visits and day trips to the cookery school but we are unable to accommodate normal school classes of 25-30 children. There is demand for and scope to reach many more school children and community groups but The Pumpkin Patch has had to delay such visits until the cowsheds can be renovated and the larger premises are available.

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In an area where numerous traditional family dairy farms have moved out of the industry, many farms have been sold as smallholdings to people from outside the area and are new to agriculture and the area. Hopes are often high and knowledge is limited, which gives us an opportunity to run rural skills courses in specialist areas such as

Exempt under Section 43

This would of course be in addition to the culinary side of the business and the cookery school which would offer additional skill building courses, run by local experts:

Exempt under Section 43

The Centre will provide a meeting place for the elderly in the community for...Exempt under Section 43.....in both Welsh and English, and an after school rendezvous point for Mums with children en-route to after school activities.

As we are on the A40 trunk road between Carmarthen and Llandeilo we could of course gain significant business from passers-by, cyclists and fishermen, as the Tywi is a mere 500m away, and the Angling club car park is only ½ mile down the road.

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Plan: existing Cowshed

Plan: proposed Cowshed conversion for The Pumpkin Patch

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Existing Cowshed Elevations

Elevations of proposed cowshed conversion for The Pumpkin Patch

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The Pumpkin Patch is often regarded as a recreational attraction, allowing children and adults of all ages to further their interest in food and cookery, which is a huge pass-time and feature for TV companies at the moment; cookery is definitely in fashion! The Pumpkin Patch, however, takes pride in offering more than just a cupcake workshop, and a finger licking experience. One of the original aims of the cookery school was to EDUCATE children about food and diet, where it comes from, how we grow it, and what we can do with it. It's not all sugar and sprinkles at The Pumpkin

Patch! We grow and harvest our vegetables and we teach about traditional and wholesome family food. Food that sustains and feeds us.

When appropriate, The Pumpkin Patch teaches about the energy that food contains and the benefits of good food and nutrition, as well as teaching about food hygiene and safe cutting and cooking methods. Numeracy and literacy are discussed while children weigh and prep their ingredients. The difference between a currant and a current, and how they differ from raisins and sultanas, and where they grow in the world is an important part of a Pumpkin Patch workshop.

Children and parents alike LEARN new and interesting relevant facts about food and cookery. In so doing, we have a significant role to play in the health and the education of those that attend and we wish to further this role by offering more workshops and The Pumpkin Patch experience to more people in the area, through larger premises.

Long term, this knowledge should affect the way we eat and cook, which in turn will filter through to the next generation, with improved health. 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 all found the sessions useful and requested return visits as larger groups, which cannot currently be accommodated.

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. Lisa is a fluent Welsh speaker, who regularly appears on Prynawn Da, the daily Welsh magazine program on S4C, Radio Wales and Radio Cymru. All her workshops and demonstrations are bilingual, which again allows both Welsh speaking and English speakers a chance to be involved and included.

The Pumpkin Patch new premises will be using as many renewable energy sources as possible. Solar energy already plays an important part of the existing property's energy consumption. We will investigate other heat sources such as geothermal, biomass, solar thermal and heat pumps. There are several option to explore and we will endeavour to make the centre as eco-friendly as possible.

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PhotoGRAPH – Exempt under Section 40(2)

EC Rural Development priorities

The project meets the high level objectives of the EC Rural Development priorities, in particular Priority 6 - Promoting Social Inclusion, Poverty Reduction and Economic Development in Rural Areas, as it will foster local development in rural Carmarthenshire by enabling the development of an existing business which will ultimately result in job creation in a rural area.

The project will contribute towards meeting the aims and objectives of the Rural Community Development Fund as it 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 meet thus reducing isolation within rural areas.

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Photo: Current disused Cowshed – Front

Photo: Current disused Cowshed – Rear

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Specifically, the project will meet the objectives of the RCDF sub measure 7.7 as it will involve the conversion of a prominent disused building in a rural area, bringing it back into economic use, resulting in the creation of new employment opportunities. The Cowshed is located on the busy A40 Trunk Road between Llandeilo and Carmarthen, and is very visible, so renovation will bring significant improvement to a major tourism route.

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.

Local Development Strategy (LDS) for rural Carmarthenshire

The local development strategy for rural Carmarthenshire (LDS) provides a framework for the sustainable regeneration of the rural economy. The Carmarthenshire LDS is driven by the priorities of the Swansea Bay Economic Regeneration Strategy and shares the same key strategic aims. The LDS effectively builds on the wider regional strategy whilst adapting activities to meet the specific needs of rural Carmarthenshire. The Pumpkin Patch will help contribute towards the following key strategic aims of the LDS:

Strategic aim 1: To support business growth, retention and specialisation

The project will combine education, health and tourism to attract visitors to the area, and to serve the nearby population, thereby boosting the rural economy.

The Pumpkin Patch is an existing cookery and gardening school that is currently being run from the family home in the Tywi Valley. The business has now grown to a point whereby the current facility is too small and is unable to meet the demands of its client base or develop further. The investment in a purpose built cookery school and life skills centre will enable the business to expand & further develop its activities. Growth will allow us to support the objective of increasing job opportunities thus making a more significant mark on the local economy.

Strategic aim 2: to support a skilled and ambitious workforce

The Pumpkin Patch will help achieve this by working with vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs or social, emotional and behavioural problems by developing their kitchen skills and furthering their knowledge about diet and healthy living. This can also help with attainment by learning relevant facts about different food, where it comes from, how we grow it and what we can do with it.

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, nutrition and health, both physical and emotional is

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important within the community. The new facility will also run rural skills courses in specialist areas such as:

Exempt under Section 43

In addition, the new facility will offer additional skill building courses, run by.... Exempt under Section 43. This has been recognized as a weakness in the SWOT analysis or rural Carmarthenshire.

Strategic aim 3: to seek to maximize job creation and employment prospects

There are currently few working opportunities within the White Mill/ Nantgaredig area. Expansion of the Pumpkin Patch will certainly allow us the opportunity to offer work within an area that has previously offered nothing more than to work at a local pub or filling station. Development of the redundant cowshed at Allt y Gôg Farm will facilitate the further development of a small local enterprise.

Strategic aim 5: to develop the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area in terms of tourism, business investment and addressing rural poverty

One of the key strategic aims of The Carmarthenshire Local Development Strategy is to develop the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the rural area in terms of Business investments and addressing rural poverty. The LDS places priority on investing in business premises as a key focus and in encouraging growth thus ensuring greater opportunity for local people to access employment within their locality. By investing in a new purpose built facility, the Pumpkin Patch will be able to further develop the business and to develop the cookery school and life skills centre to meet the huge demand that they are currently unable to accommodate.

In addition, the expansion of the cookery and gardening school and the development of the redundant cowshed will support the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area in terms of tourism investment as it will attract and engage visitors to the area. The location is adjacent to the agreed site of the new cycle path between White Mill and Nantgaredig which then continues to Llandeilo, and would therefore enhance access to other attractions in the area.

As a Welsh speaker herself, Lisa is always eager to encourage Children and adults to feel comfortable and to speak their language of choice. This usually means that classes are 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

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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 as we have children who are more comfortable in Welsh while others are non-Welsh speakers.

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

Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire 2011-16

The Pumpkin Patch cookery school, café and Life-skills Centre will assist in achieving the following key goals as set out within the Carmarthenshire Integrated strategy:

Preventing ill health and encouraging healthy and active living

The project will encourage healthy and active living through the provision of workshops for young people, children and parents about where their food comes from and what do with it, how to cook it in a healthy and economical way, the importance of home grown, locally sourced ingredients on their health and well-being as well as on the local economy and the global impact of sourcing local food and reducing waste and the carbon footprint. The activities will at all times encourage people to improve their nutritional health and improving access to health and well-being services to people disproportionately affected by rurality, poverty or disability.

Improving the emotional, mental health and well-being of all people in the County

At the Pumpkin Patch cookery workshops, the teaching is informal and friendly and several parents have commented on their child's improved attitude and confidence having been part of the regular classes. For some individuals, especially those who do not excel in a school environment, and for those who have experienced negativity and bullying at school, being part of an extra-curricular non-school based group, really adds value to their lives, which way exceeds the life skills acquired as part of the teaching. This can help increase poor self-esteem. The new facility will ensure that all children with special educational needs and additional needs have an appropriate high quality education resource.

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Improving skills and training to increase employment opportunities for all

Expansion of the Pumpkin Patch would without doubt create work in the area. At busy times of day there will be the need for more part time staff, over lunch time etc and during courses and events. The Pumpkin Patch would be open for business.... Exempt under Section 43.

Developing an Inclusive Society

The Pumpkin Patch currently works with children who have special educational needs for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, many have additional learning needs including autism and

learning difficulties. The workshops held at The Pumpkin Patch have assisted the development of the self-esteem and resilience of children, young people and adults. 1:1 cookery sessions with children on the autistic spectrum are held regularly, which assists to build confidence and enables them to feel welcome and valued in the group workshops.

Parents have praised the work of The Pumpkin Patch for making their children feel proud and for giving them a sense of worth, which had been missing in their school life for a number of reasons, including bullying. While The Pumpkin Patch sets out to teach children to garden and cook, they achieve far more than these basic life skills.

Reducing waste and moving towards becoming a zero-waste county

The Pumpkin Patch endeavours to teach life skills alongside the cookery. We view teaching about the minimum generation of food waste and maximum composting as important as cooking. The project will also assist in educating children, developing children and young people's understanding of environmental and global issues.

Ensuring the promotion of the Welsh language and Welsh culture

As a Welsh speaker herself, Lisa is always eager to encourage Children and adults to feel comfortable and to speak their language of choice. This usually means that classes are 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 as we have children who are more comfortable in Welsh while others are non-Welsh speakers.

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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child / Children and Young People's Plan

The Welsh Government has adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as the basis for all its policy work for children and young people since 2004. For the purposes of planning and securing delivery of services, this is expressed in seven core aims, which are at the heart of the Children and Young People's plan and states that all children and young people should:

- 1. have a flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development;*
- 2. have access to a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities, including acquisition of essential personal and social skills;*
- 3. enjoy the best possible physical and mental, social and emotional health, including freedom from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;*
- 4. have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;*
- 5. be listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;*
- 6. have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional well-being;*
- 7. not be disadvantaged by child poverty.*

The CYPP will take responsibility to promote:

Good health in the early years and adolescence is a vital contribution to maintaining good health through life; The health and well-being of children is intimately connected with that of their families.

The Pumpkin Patch's aim is to give children the start that they deserve. Unfortunately, this is often not achieved at school, or at home. Children need to learn life skills that through the years were taught to them by parents and grandparents. These days there is definitely a skills shortage, and in some cases, parents don't have the required skills, or time, to pass on to the next generation.

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 in other related topics and information about food, diet, composting, recycling and the wider global issues relating to food, nutrition and health, both physical and emotional, is important within the community.

Public Health Wales

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are a wellbeing equivalent of 'five fruit and vegetables a day'. These are based upon the New Economics Foundation [2008] review of the most up to date evidence of individual actions that promote wellbeing. A key ethos of the Pumpkin Patch is to promote and encourage healthier living through the use of interesting classes including an opportunity for local people to grow their own

We all know what we need to do to protect our health. It's not news that smoking, drinking too much alcohol and being overweight are not good for our health and our future. But we

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also know it's not always simple to make healthy choices or feel that we even have a choice. We want to work with our partners and communities to make sure we help people make the right choices.

Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (March 2015)

The development of this strategy is an opportunity to strengthen our collective efforts on making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Wales, tackling inequalities and improving prospects in adulthood. We believe that the Pumpkin Patch shows linkage to the following delivering objective:

Reducing the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families living in poverty, by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

The above, all relates to the aims of The Pumpkin Patch works, and how we love to work with groups in the wider community to improve the way children and parents work together. We have

put together numerous work programmes to help Mums / Dads and children to work together to foster better relationships and an increased knowledge about food in general, diet and health.

Improved, larger premises will allow us to continue to offer these workshops and to market our school further and teach and reach more children in the county. The demand is certainly there, but so far we are unable to meet the demand.

The Pumpkin Patch has run courses at Llwynhendy Family Centre, Morfa Integrated Children Centre (Llanelli), Carmarthenshire Healthy Schools Initiative (Carmarthenshire County Council), Looked After Children (LAC), Llanelli; Love Food Hate Waste Campaign (Carmarthenshire County Council), Action for Children, Carmarthen and Women's Aid. These groups will continue to benefit from the new purpose built, easily accessible facility enabling us to better cater for the needs of the individuals.

Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010 - 2020

One Wales, One Planet A new Food and Drink Strategy will help to deliver “a much lower food ecological footprint and much lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in Wales, with minimum generation of food waste, and maximum composting’.

The strategy recognises that more widespread knowledge about food, leads to increased consumer empowerment and helps people to understand that their food choices and purchasing habits have important implications for: • their health; • the environment and its resources; • animal welfare; and • the economy.

Central to this effort is the Wales-wide adoption of a “whole-school” approach – that is, an approach that embeds the healthy eating message into a wider educational package that

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stresses the positive links between food, fitness, health and both physical and mental well-being. The Strategy sees positive health and cultural benefits to supporting efforts to develop cooking skills of our children and young people. While there is a role for schools here, it is recognised that other sectors also provide learning and influence behaviour, such as further education, work based learning, youth work, and adult Community Learning. The Strategy also acknowledges the potential positive role of demonstration events at food festivals and farmers’ markets in promoting cooking skills.

The facts and strategies highlighted within the document Food For Wales 2010-20, underlines how important food is within the community. At The Pumpkin Patch we endeavour to teach life skills alongside the cookery, we view teaching about the minimum generation of food waste, and maximum composting as important as cooking. During the past few years we have witnessed first-hand the positive effect of our teaching, not only in increased food based knowledge, but in raised levels of self-esteem and a positive influence on behaviour.

During demonstrations, we highlight the benefits of using up leftovers, using smaller portions of good quality locally sourced produce, and we see the motivation and positive effect that these demonstration lunches and evenings have, which is in total keeping with the statement 'positive role of demonstration events at food festivals and farmers' markets in promoting cooking skills. Our workshops see children in the most deprived communities (Communities First/ Flying Start) learn to appreciate healthy food, as the learning opportunities are sufficiently stimulating and empowering. This is at the core of The Pumpkin Patch ethos, and this is what we strive to achieve in all the work that we do in the community.

3. Access to Services

The project will improve access to a number of services as detailed below:

- Investment will enable the development of an informal education resource, enabling The Pumpkin Patch to further develop the facilities it can provide to children who have special educational needs for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The facility will offer children, young people and adults an opportunity to learn and excel at something that is non-academic, not curriculum based and is a life-skill that appeals to a group in society that does not excel or feel comfortable in a school environment.*
- The project will also increase access to health and well-being services for people who are disproportionately affected by rurality, poverty or disability. The purpose built facility will provide informal ways in which to educate children about food and diet, where it comes from, how we grow it, & what we can do with it. Having courses based around cookery and health will create a fun and exciting environment for children and youth to learn about nutrition, food and important skills such as cookery and gardening. These skills are often not practised by the parents and are therefore not passed down to the children. This is especially the case in low income families. Busy working parents do not have the time to spend with their children; however, these skills are vital for healthier lifestyles and general health and wellbeing.*

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- As part of the wider project, a small community garden will be created, providing a great way of introducing both children and adults, to a manageable way of 'growing your own' at home and at school.*
- By minimising resource use through encouraging sustainable consumption and production, the project will also promote and encourage the purchase of local, sustainable, seasonal food in communities, with an expansion in allotments and community food production.*
- The project will also establish a rural skills centre, providing access for local people to rural skills courses in specialist areas such as:*

Exempt under Section 43

- In addition, the new facility will offer.... Exempt under Section 43*

This has been recognised as a weakness in the SWOT analysis for rural Carmarthenshire.

- The project will also enable low income families to take part in courses and activities run locally within the community. Having the activities aimed at each individual age group and interest, improves the quality of the service provided and will allow reduced feeling of isolation.

- The purpose built facility will also provide much needed facility for local groups to utilise for various activities e.g. Merched y Wawr / Women's institute etc. This space could be utilised in providing information workshop sessions in a variety of areas including digital inclusion classes.

- The internet café will also provide access to internet facilities within a rural community, providing a place where local people can go on-line to access day to day services such as public services, on-line banking facilities etc. There are no local facilities offering this service.

- By increasing access to the aforementioned services, the project will greatly enhance the quality of life for a number of different groups, as highlighted above. The Pumpkin Patch will work closely with local colleges in order to offer traineeships and apprenticeships for young people. The employment of local residents in the project will also give a sense of ownership and pride in their workplace and in the community.

- The Four Seasons swimming pool and gym is located at the A40 junction at Nantgaredig. They offer swimming and fitness and there is the possibility that we could work together

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to offer a healthy eating exercise plan for members. This would be a fantastic service that we could offer within the area.

4. Fuel Poverty

The cost of fuel and distance travelled to access facilities often prohibits some people from accessing services. The development of the facility will ensure that local communities are able to access the facilities provided by the Pumpkin Patch within their own locality thus going some way towards reducing the negative impact of fuel poverty.

The Pumpkin Patch is located on the A40 between Abergwili / White Mill and Nantgaredig and is easily accessible via public transport. It is opposite a bus stop on the main bus route between Carmarthen, Llandeilo, Llandovery and beyond. The buses also pass the property en-route to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales at Llanarthne, and then Cross Hands & Ammanford. The same bus service also serves the local town of Carmarthen which has a number of good public transport links including rail ensuring accessibility from and throughout Wales.

The recently announced Tywi Valley cycleway will pass alongside The Pumpkin Patch, which will increase accessibility further.

5. In-work poverty

Working closely with local colleges and groups will allow The Pumpkin Patch to offer traineeships and apprenticeships for young people. The purpose built facility will enable The Pumpkin Patch to increase the skills base, allowing progression within the business, increased hours or responsibility and therefore pay.

For individuals who chose a career elsewhere, we will be a spring board which will be part of their future having provided a secure start, improved skills and confidence, gained in a small friendly and caring environment of a local business that cares about the community and the future.

Parents have already commented on how attending our workshops have benefited their child's level of self-esteem and confidence.

The expansion of the existing business will provide work opportunities within the area. We will require staff at all levels, to assist and help manage the workshops and the courses that will be available. As we would wish to be open for long hours each day of the week, we would be in a position to offer several job share schemes, and variable hours to suit young mums and older members of the community.

Expansion of the Pumpkin Patch would without doubt create work in the area. We would have busy times of day when we have need for more part time staff, over lunch time etc. and during courses and events. As we would be open for business.... Exempt under Section 43

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The business would not be seasonal nor weather dependent, and therefore the staff requirement is likely to be constant throughout the year.

As the business offers children's cookery and gardening workshops, it would be feasible to consider offering reduced fee places to staff members. This would allow some parents and guardians the benefit of offering a few hours work in the office / coffee shop or kitchen while their child undertakes a cookery class on site. This would alleviate the need for additional childcare.

6. Digital Inclusion

The internet provision at the café will allow local residents and business to access the fastest internet available in the area. We are scheduled to receive the Next Generation Superfast Broadband within the next 12 months. The majority of the work has already been completed with fibre installed to our local exchange in Nantgaredig. We would therefore be in a position to maximise on this by offering WiFi and computer access to local people who either do not have access to a computer or the skills to enable them to access services on-line.

More crucial to the slightly ageing population of the Abergwili, Whitemill and Nantgaredig area is the provision of internet and search engines without the encumbering hassle of working a

computer. Being able to access the internet without the hassle of managing errors and other computer issues such as firewalls/ updates/downloads and other terrifying jargon to the older computer user will be a huge attraction and benefit to the community. As the new facility will be a multi-purpose building, being designed primarily to house the existing cookery school, the open space will also be suitable for other workshops and seminars and to house local events. We are currently considering providing digital inclusion workshops to support local residents.

All aspects of what we offer would be available online, and all courses would be marketed on the website as they are currently. We already make full use of social media to promote the activities here at The Pumpkin Patch, and this has proved to be extremely successful when starting new workshops aimed at specific groups.

The use of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has already been a great tool in marketing workshops to the younger generation and their parents.

In addition to the online marketing of workshops and events, all jobs vacancies will also be available online for the maximum number of people to access the information.

There are key individuals who are more likely to be digitally excluded, including older and disabled people; those living in social housing; the unemployed and working age economically inactive. Latest data from the National Survey for Wales 2014-15 tells us that 19% of individuals in Wales are not online.

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The centre will promote rural crafts and skills, however due to the rapid pace of technological change taking place in our society, offering computer based workshop could well be of great benefit to the community's more rural and elderly population.

Declaration by Applicant

I declare that the information contained in this EOI application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Scheme and EOI Guidance Notes and any other technical guidance that has been issued and that I am authorised to sign / submit this EOI application.

I undertake to notify the Welsh Government of any other application for grant aid for this project.

I confirm that no work on this project has been undertaken.

☐ I acknowledge that neither the Welsh Government nor any adviser appointed by the Welsh Government shall be responsible for any advice given, including without limit any advice given in relation to this application, and that I am solely responsible for all business decisions undertaken.

Signed: (unless sent electronically) **Lisa Fearn** Date: **30th January 2016**

Name: **Lisa Anne Fearn**

Position: **Owner of The Pumpkin Patch Cookery & Gardening School**