

1.4.9 Support the planning and implementation of projects in the Slieve Ardagh area

Co-ordinating Partner

Slieve Ardagh Rural Development

Update February 2005:

Good progress has been made in the Slieveardagh area over the past year. A second public meeting for farmers was held in Gortnahoe Hall on the 22nd November 2004. The well-attended meeting discussed topics that included decoupling and farm safety. A further meeting covering REPS 3 will be held in spring 2005.

The financial resources that were provided by South Tipperary County Council were utilised to employ a research worker to evaluate the economic, social and cultural aspects of the Slieveardagh area and to present a plan that would provide a framework for the future development of the area. The second part of the plan was presented at a well attended partners meeting on the 20th January 2005. Following a discussion on that report, the need to renew and strengthen community structures was identified as an issue. Representatives of Muintir na Tire were invited to the meeting in order to progress a suggestion to make a proposal to the InterReg III-A for funding to support community structures. BNS may be involved in supporting the InterReg application.

A list of further actions was agreed at the January partners meeting and the next meeting is planned for 15th September 2005.

Update October 2004:

A business plan has been prepared for the Slieve Ardagh area which focuses on targeting 4-5 economic areas (IT, childcare, heritage tourism and small food production), upskilling of smallholders and the co-ordination of local development services in the area. A developer has been identified to advance major project in the Kilcooley area.

Update March 2004:

This action was agreed at the November 2003 Board meeting.

Curam Slieve Ardagh held a seminar with CDB members in April 2003, following which the group developed a plan for the area and consulted with local groups prior to submitting the plan as a potential new action in the county Economic Strategy.

Curam Slieve Ardagh is the lead stakeholder and TEAGASC, South Tipperary Co Council and Tipperary SR County Enterprise Board have already committed resources to supporting implementation of the plan.

Measure 1.4 Matching locations with opportunities

The first joint action with a CDB member was in November 2003 when a joint seminar was organised in the area on the future of farming post Fischler by TEAGASC and Curam Slieve Ardagh.