



Press release
22 August 2011

Southerndown beach among most-loved places in Vale

Residents and business owners in Vale of Glamorgan gathered in Cowbridge last week (19 August) to receive advice and guidance from Creative Rural Communities about applying for its new funding programmes worth a combined £3.7m.

Creative Rural Communities, the Vale of Glamorgan Council rural regeneration initiative, recently announced its six new projects to support farming families, villages, heritage, basic services, tourism and community grown food, which will strengthen communities and businesses in the rural Vale.

And when local people were asked at the event what they loved most about the area, Southerndown beach, Ogmore by Sea and Beaupre Castle were among the favourites.

Phil Chappell, Principal Rural Regeneration Officer at Creative Rural Communities, said: "We're delighted that so many people came along to the open day today to find out more about the projects that Creative Rural Communities can support and to get advice on the application process for our grant schemes.

"It was great to hear what the local community love most about the Vale, and through our diverse range of grants, we hope to support much-loved places, that local people are so passionate about, in the future.

"If you were unable to come along to the event, you can still find out about what we do by visiting www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk or by calling Creative Rural Communities on 01446 704754."

Since 2007 Creative Rural Communities, supported by the Rural Partnership, has invested more than £2.6 million in developing 131 innovative projects and ideas which have improved the long term social and economic wellbeing of the rural Vale.

Councillor Rhodri Traherne, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, said: "These new funding programmes give residents and businesses the opportunity to

apply for grants that will make a real difference to the quality of life of people living and working in the rural Vale. The range of projects available will also make a significant contribution to our tourism industry, which is so important to the economy of the county.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

Image captions:

Image 1 and 2: Elliott Rabaiotti, aged 5, from Penarth gets to grips with Creative Rural Communities’ food programme, encouraging local people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Image 3: Phil Chappell and Rebecca Haves with 5 year old, Elliott Rabaiotti.

The new Creative Rural Communities funding programmes include:

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR FARMING FAMILIES: Grants of up to £40,000 are available to farming families to supplement their income by diversifying into non agricultural activities.

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE: Grants of up to £70,000 are available to support investment in natural, cultural and built heritage.

TAKING PRIDE IN THE VALE: Creative Rural Communities are also developing initiatives under the themes of Community Engagement and Tourism.

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR VILLAGES: Grants of up to £40,000 are available to support physical improvements to your village and projects that help to ‘green’ community facilities.

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR SERVICES: Grants of up to £40,000 are available to support new footpaths to link villages and the conversion or diversification of existing service facilities to offer new services for the community

GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD: Creative Rural Communities and Bridgend Rural Partnership are able to offer support to communities wishing to grow their own food.

For further information please contact Helen Newton at Equinox Communications on 02920764100 / helen@equinoxcommunications.co.uk