

Updates from Adam Griffin Consultancy

Welcome to AGC News, the first of bimonthly updates on grants, funding and AGC services.

Forestry Commission Grants - *the last chance saloon?*

Grants and payments from the Forestry Commission are gradually being reduced with budgets for the grant portfolio not extended beyond the 12/13 financial year for most grants at present. Most grants are fully allocated for 11/12 already.

Key grants still attractive and available are, the Woodland Creation Grant, particularly with the Ancient Woodland Priority Area supplement makes this very attractive. The Woodland Planning Grant for management plans could well cover all costs for smaller woods and a new Woodland Improvement Grant for Woodfuel to come online in the summer will help create better access to all woods. However the Woodland Regeneration Grant was recently cut without any warning and the same could happen to these soon.

In addition to the current climate of cutbacks the FC are facing unprecedented cuts to staff and major challenges to its capabilities with the current outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum effecting Japanese Larch and other species.



To find out more about grants and payments for your woodland, land or holding contact AGC. The current offer of a free initial site visit has been extended to the end of July.

Woodland Trust – Call for views

In February there was a government u-turn against plans proposed to sell off England's public forests. Following the collapse of the consultation, an Independent Panel for Forestry was set up. The Panel's remit is to look not just at the future of public forests but at many aspects of forestry in England and it is really important that our voice's are heard. The Woodland Trust are now calling for views as part of this consultation.

Sue Holden Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust says:-

“As the Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust, I would like to stress how important your voice is. Your opinion is valuable not only as a supporter, but more, as someone who benefits from woods and trees, who understands the need to protect our precious and dwindling ancient woodland, and who appreciates the need to continue to have access to and create more woodland for future generations to enjoy.”



Lottery Funding – Heavily subscribed

Organisations applying for a Reaching Communities grant from the Big Lottery Fund have a chance of success of less than 10 per cent. The figure is contained in new application guidance published in April by the BLF in response to increased demand for funding. Reaching Communities awards grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for projects in deprived areas. Public and voluntary sector organisations can apply. The guidance reveals that in 2010/11 the programme received 5,730 outline proposals asking for a total of more than £1bn. Of these, 1,322 were invited to

apply formally and the programme made 500 grants, totalling just under £125m during the year. From 'Third Sector' news.

However the Awards For All grants that make awards of between £300 and £10,000 paid out nearly £490k to projects in the South West in April 2011 alone. For further information on grants for your project contact AGC.

AGC Updates & Services

AGC provides a very wide range of services from land management & forestry to community group funding project development. I also can carry out data analysis, searches and environmental assessments. Look out for my report 'The Value of Trees – a snapshot of internet claims' to be published with my next report on my website.

These updates are to keep in touch & keep you informed – I hope you like them – let me know if you do or would like to be removed from my list.

For more information on services that I can provide please go to www.adamgriffinconsultancy.co.uk , call me on 01392215899 or drop me an email.

Next update Aug/Sept

'The Value of Trees – a snapshot of internet claims' – an AGC published report

Current news from the environmental grants sector, including the new Woodfuel support, HLF & RDPE grants

And a few other bits and pieces of local interest.....