

NeighbourWood Scheme



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

Leaflet No. 5

Funded under the Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020



OAK AVENUE
700 metres STEEP

Introduction

Under the Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020, Ireland has adopted a balanced approach to developing our nation's forests, by supporting the economic, social and environmental benefits of this important resource. The NeighbourWood Scheme is focused on delivering social benefits of forestry to local communities by providing financial assistance to create 'close-to-home' woodland amenities for local people to use and enjoy.

These NeighbourWoods vary greatly in size and location, from forests in the countryside and on the outskirts of our villages, towns and cities, to woodlands located in more built-up areas. Often what sets these woodlands apart is the level of local enthusiasm and support for their development as an amenity – individual NeighbourWoods invariably become the focus for vibrant partnerships involving people from all walks of life intent on enhancing their local area and environment. These NeighbourWoods become part of the local identity and 'sense of place', and the benefits they create can be enjoyed by local people over many years.

Scheme Outline

The NeighbourWood Scheme supports the development of attractive and accessible woodland amenities (or 'neighbourwoods') for public use and enjoyment. The scheme is available to local authorities and private landowners, working in partnership with local communities. Applications from other landowners may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funding is available under three separate elements:

- NeighbourWood (NBR) Establishment funds the establishment of *new* neighbourwood on open 'greenfield' sites.
- NBR Enhancement funds the silvicultural enhancement of *existing* woodland already used as neighbourwood, or proposed for development as neighbourwood.
- NBR Facilities funds the installation and upgrade of appropriate recreational facilities within an area submitted under NBR Establishment or NBR Enhancement, or within an existing woodland suitable for recreation but not submitted under NBR Enhancement.

The NeighbourWood Scheme is operated by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and is 100% funded by the Irish Government under the Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020.

Grant Rates

The NeighbourWood Scheme offers funding of up to 85% of eligible costs (exclusive of VAT). The maximum available grant under each element – *payable as a single instalment* – is set out as follows:

- NBR Establishment: €5,000 / ha (plus an additional fencing allowance, as under the Afforestation Scheme)
- NBR Enhancement: €5,000 / ha
- NBR Facilities: €3,800 / ha

Individual applications can comprise a combination of NBR Establishment and NBR Enhancement subject to a limit of 12 ha in total, along with NBR Facilities subject to a limit of 12 ha.



Application Procedure

Applications are made by submitting a NeighbourWood Scheme Form 1 and accompanying plan and documentation to the Approvals Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford.

Work may only commence following written approval from the Forest Service. The measure shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and shall operate throughout the State.

Where To Go For Further Information

This leaflet provides an outline of the scheme and must be read in conjunction with the scheme documents. Application forms and further information are available from:

Approvals Section,
Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

Telephone 053 916 3400 or 1890 200 509

www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/grants-and-premiums-schemes-2015



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