

Wednesday 9th October, 2019

### RURAL ENTERPRISE EXMOOR LAUNCH EVENT

Entrepreneurs, business owners and managers from across Exmoor are invited to a free networking and workshop session to launch the Rural Enterprise Exmoor initiative on the 24th October at Wheddon Cross. Businesses of any size and from any sector who are active within Exmoor National Park are invited to the session to network and share challenges and opportunities.

A free buffet lunch will be provided during a networking session at the start which will include stands from a range of business support organisations. Presentations will then be given, including an introduction to the Rural Enterprise Exmoor project, case studies from local businesses grown on Exmoor, and an introduction to the work of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership from their Chief Operating Officer. The session will finish with an overview of the new research being undertaken by Wavehill, an independent research organisation, prior to a workshop.

“We are really excited to be able to bring together so many groups and organisations who are working to support enterprise on Exmoor,” commented Dan James, Exmoor National Park Authority’s Sustainable Economy Manager.

“Exmoor is a very special place and as well as being home to some of the most stunning landscape in the country it is also home to a range of enterprising people and businesses. Whilst Exmoor offers many benefits it is one of the most rural areas of England and so brings with it some unique challenges. We’re keen to help bring businesses together to share ideas and hear first-hand what more could be done to further grow appropriate business activity within the National Park.”

The workshop will mark the launch of a significant new business survey being undertaken across the length and breadth of Exmoor to capture business views. The research will map out business activity across Exmoor for the first time, providing a comprehensive picture of business activity and sectors operating in the area. The project will also look to broaden understanding of operating businesses beyond the national datasets which capture those who are VAT or PAYE registered and don’t provide a true reflection of the number of sole proprietors and small home-based businesses found across Exmoor.

The event takes place from 12.30 - 4pm at the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DU. Attendance is free but spaces must be booked in advance at [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/business-and-economy/rural-enterprise-exmoor](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/business-and-economy/rural-enterprise-exmoor). For further details email [ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk) or follow @RuralEntExmoor on Facebook and Twitter.

Rural Enterprise Exmoor is supported and funded by the Exmoor National Park Authority, Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, West Somerset Opportunity Area, Somerset County Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council and North Devon Council.

**ENDS**

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## **Notes to Editors**

**More about Rural Enterprise Exmoor:** [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/press-room/press-room/news-2019/new-initiative-will-give-smaller-businesses-a-voice](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/press-room/press-room/news-2019/new-initiative-will-give-smaller-businesses-a-voice)

Direct booking link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=vjzs4adab&oeidk=a07egknknicbcc03bdcd>

**About Exmoor National Park Authority -** [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

First designated in 1954, Exmoor National Park has an amazing variety of landscapes within its 267 square miles – stunning coast, moorland, woodland, valleys and farmland and more than 800 miles of rights of way to enjoy. It is one of 15 National Parks in the United Kingdom and in 2011 was designated Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve.

Exmoor National Park Authority works in partnership with the community, local councils, businesses and other organisations to look after the National Park and promote its conservation and enjoyment. Donations to [CareMoor for Exmoor](#) are gratefully received towards the upkeep of the National Park and its special qualities.

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