

**IW AONB PARTNERSHIP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND WORK GROUP MEETING
FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2006
MINUTES**

Present:

Denis Russell (Chair)	AONB Steering Committee - Vice Chairman, Community & Parish Portfolio
Carol Flux	Isle of Wight Economic Partnership
Ashley Curzon	Isle of Wight Council - Planning Policy Manager
John Brownscombe	AONB Lead Officer
Fiona Hanna	AONB Communications Officer
Carrie McDowell	AONB Assistant

1) Apologies

Tony Tutton	AONB Steering Committee Chairman
David Groves	AONB Steering Committee - Rural Business Portfolio

Comments had been received on projects under consideration and were relayed to the Panel during the discussions.

2) Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

It was agreed the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

Regarding IFCA, it has been confirmed that R Oulton was recruited on a short term basis by the Association's Committee.

3) Update on previous applications and 2006/2007 Funding

Copies of an update on the projects for this year were distributed to the meeting, and the majority of the applications are on schedule for completion by the due date.

There are problems with two of the applications; the first is the National Trust application for the rubber crumb surface. The works have been delayed as requests for further information from the Planning Department have delayed planning permission. This has meant there is now insufficient time for the surface to bed in for the summer season. The application for this year has been withdrawn, and it is proposed the project will be deferred until Autumn 2006, with an application for funds being made in the 2006/2007 financial year.

Regarding the additional monies made available following this withdrawal, we have had discussions with IWEP, who have agreed to adjust their quarterly Leader+ contributions for this year for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife project should this be approved for further SDF funding. This would allow the SDF funding to be increased for 2005/06 to absorb any SDF shortfall. Thanks were expressed to Carol Flux for her help in resolving this matter.

The second application is also from the National Trust, which is the study and conservation of dinosaur remains in Compton Bay. Contact has been made with both Martin Munt and the National Trust to ensure it is completed on time. Should there be any problems, it is anticipated that we can absorb the cost of this application within our administration charge, which is currently far less than the permitted 10%.

Update: M Munt has since confirmed that this should be delivered on schedule.

A summary of the applications already received for the year 2006/07 was distributed to the meeting, and DR asked if the monies had yet been ratified by the Countryside Agency. It was advised that due to the change to Natural England, DEFRA are not prepared to allow the Countryside Agency to commit to funding SDF and other projects in excess of 80% in the year 2006/07. It is anticipated, however, that we will obtain the additional funding up to £100K, and that monies for the Sustainable Development Fund will also be available in 2007/2008.

4) Consideration of applications

SDF-0607/15 Island Hardwood Charcoal - Rural Ways Woodcraft
Amount applied for: £4,650

The application was discussed with the following points of note:

The project intends to complement an existing woodworking business as an add-on, by re-furbishing their kiln and purchasing an initial stock of timber. There are no other businesses like this on the Island, as in the past it has not proved to be commercially viable. A question was asked whether SDF funds could be given to a business, and it was advised that this could be allowed under the terms and conditions. Concern was also expressed about whether there would be any difficulties regarding environmental health. The application was approved in principle, with the caveat that checks would be made with the Planning Department and Environmental Health, to see if any permissions are required. If this proves to be the case, we will be flexible regarding the confirmation timescale.

SDF-0607/16 European Island Farm Project - Hants & IW Wildlife Trust
Amount applied for: £10,971 (possible change to £5,971)

The application was discussed, with the following points of note:

This is a request to fund the first year of a three-year project, and considerable interest has been expressed from other Islands such as Cyprus, Malta and Majorca. A meeting is scheduled for April, and JB will be one of the speakers. The results will be reported to the European Union, which it is hoped may influence policy for the next funding round. Concern was expressed about travel costs to other Islands, but it was advised Leader+ would be funding the European part of the project, with the SDF funding the local part. The application was approved.

SDF-0607/17 Waterworks - Footprint Trust
Amount applied for: £18,753

The application was discussed with the following points of note:

This is the final submission following several discussions with FH, and is a long term project to promote awareness of water conservation. It was felt this application was the way forward, and could provide the spark to get support from the Council especially regarding links into the Green Communities issue. It is also intended to provide a detailed report on water savings, which will provide useful baseline data. The suggestion was made that perhaps there could be a link to the Best Kept Village awards regarding sustainability. The application was approved.

SDF-0607/18 Ground Source Heat Pump - St Lawrence Village Hall
Amount applied for: £10,671.41

The application was discussed with the following points of note:

The project has been developed in conjunction with Jim Fawcett, Agenda 21 Officer with SDF and Leader approach for funding. It is a community-based approach to sustainable management, by replacing the existing system to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It is surrounded by the AONB although not in the AONB itself, and the conditions of the SDF provide greater flexibility to support this type of application. Leader have requested proof regarding

usage of the hall, before they will provide funding. The application was approved pending receipt of matched funding.

SDF-0607/19 Encouraging the market for Biomass Energy - Agenda 21
Amount applied for: £2,350

The application was discussed with the following points of note. AC declared an interest in this application and did not take part in the discussion. This is the second stage of the Biomass Awareness Project, to run feasibility studies following the seminar on 24 March 2006. The application was approved.

SDF-0607/20 Nature's Playground - West Wight Childrens Centre
Amount applied for: £12,500 (over 2 years)

The application was discussed with the following points of note. This has been developed further from the application received last year. They have applied for funding elsewhere, and received £45K from the Department of Education. A query was raised about whether they would require planning permission for the engineering works. Concern was also expressed about whether the project represented value for money, as it was felt some of the costs could be re-assessed. The application was refused.

SDF-0607/21 Event at Briddlesford - People's Trust for Endangered Species
Amount applied for: £5,316.88

The application was discussed with the following points of note. It was pointed out the date clashed with both Cowes Week and the Chale Show, and perhaps they should chose an alternative date. It is part of the criteria for their Heritage Lottery funding that they run events with links to the local community, and this project is focussed on conservation. The meeting felt it was a good idea but too expensive, bearing in mind they were already receiving funding from another source. It was agreed that contact would be made with the applicant to see if we can provide any other assistance. The application was refused.

SDF-0607/22 IW HEAP Study – IWC Archaeological Service
Amount applied for: £11,179

The application was discussed with the following points of note. AC declared an interest in this application and did not take part in the discussion. This is a well-crafted project covering many AONB objectives, and a lot of interest has been generated in the first stage. Concern was expressed about accommodation and staff costs, as the Council already receive income for the space under building re-charge, and it was felt they should make a contribution either monetary or in kind. AC returned to the meeting to discuss this point, and agreed the accommodation cost would be borne by the Council, with the SDF funding the staff costs. The application was approved.

SDF-0607/23 IFCA Development - IFCA
Amount applied for: £25,000

The application was discussed with the following points of note. Funds have already been granted for the development of a Business Plan, and it is now intended to recruit a Project Manager and Project Assistant to be in post by June this year. JB will check recruitment policy with Steve Blamire, and it was also suggested JB should have sight of the job descriptions, person specifications, and also sit on the recruitment panel. IFCA have also applied for DEFRA funding, which has not yet been confirmed. A question was also asked about whether they should be registered for VAT, and JB agreed to clarify the concerns raised by the meeting. Concern was expressed about whether any funding received from DEFRA

would be taken out of monies for the Island in general. It was felt that although this was of interest, it was not a matter to be pursued by the AONB Partnership. The application was approved providing satisfactory answers could be given to the queries raised by the Panel.

Action: JB to clarify VAT registration/recruitment policy

Update: Since the meeting, JB has been in discussion with Robin Oulton, who has confirmed that DEFRA have been requested to fund the Project Officer and Project Assistant parts of the IFCA Business Plan. A request has been made for SDF to cover other expenditure items such as office costs, part of the Publicity budget, management costs, IT, infrastructure etc. Having reviewed the terms and conditions of SDF funding, it is possible for us to fund these requested elements, and a delegated decision has been made to agree to fund the IFCA bid.

5) Any Other Business

No other business was raised at the meeting.

6) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was acceptable to Panel members in attendance, and is scheduled for Friday 12 May 2006.

The meeting closed at 4.02 p.m.

cdm/14 March 2006