

**IW AONB PARTNERSHIP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND WORK GROUP MEETING
THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2005
MINUTES**

Present:

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

1) Apologies

David Groves

2) Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

A brief note of the previous meeting was circulated, together with a summary of the applications received so far. Those highlighted green have been approved, those highlighted orange are scheduled for next year, and those in black are the submissions to be considered at the meeting.

FH updated the panel on the 'waterworks' application that was rejected at the last meeting. This is being further developed through discussions between FH and Ray Harrington-Vail. The proposal is for a person to be employed wholly on the project for a period of two years working with communities, garden centres, parks and gardens and schools. The meeting agreed they could support the project in principle on this basis.

We have had a very good response, with this year's funding total almost allocated. Defra have indicated that money will be available for next year and the year after, but we need to confirm how this will be fed down. When the Unit provide their core bid to the Countryside Agency they will also have to bid for the SDF, and we intend to apply for £100K next year and the following year. We only requested £50K this year, but the Countryside Agency are currently carrying out an audit of all AONBs SDF spend and should it be possible, we may bid for further funding for specific projects.

FH gave an overview of the AONB Discovery Project which has been very successful. There has been an official reception, with each class giving a presentation. Feedback from parents and teachers was very positive, with both Solent TV and the County Press in attendance. A full report will be provided in due course, together with distribution of a DVD.

The leaflet produced by Brading Town Council regarding the local food produce delivery scheme, has been distributed to all households. The Alverstone Archaeological project is proceeding well and if any additional funding becomes available, they would like to apply for a further £5K.

The European Island Farm Project operated by the Hants & IW Wildlife Trust is also proceeding well.

DR suggested that perhaps in future when projects are completed, a representative could attend one of our meetings to give a presentation.

3) Consideration of applications

SDF-0506/07 Dinosaur Remains at Compton - National Trust
Amount applied for : £3,375

This application was discussed with the following points of note:

The project is to cover initial data gathering, setting up a database, and providing an interpretation board. Concern was expressed about publicising areas where fossils can be found, but TT pointed out that publicity would lead to more rather than less protection. It was agreed that the project meets the aspirations of the Isle of Wight AONB Management Plan, and the Geodiversity Action Plan with regard to raising awareness. The application was approved.

SDF-0506/08 Windfall - WaB Energy (including DVD presentation)
Amount applied for: £9,000

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

The Panel all agreed there is great scope for the development of this technology, as an alternative to the current approaches to harnessing wind power and the emerging technologies seeking to harness marine currents for the generation of electricity. However, after an analysis of the application against the key criteria of the SDF a formal vote was taken, and the panel felt it would be inappropriate to provide funding at this stage. This resulted in a decision to refuse the application for grant funding. Particular areas where the application/proposal was weak in relation to the criteria of the SDF were:

- Direct demonstrable benefit to the Isle of Wight AONB
- Direct links to the delivery of the AONB Management Plan
- Lack of a joint funding approach - concern over the SDF being the only matched funding source, and a general preference for joint funding by other public sector bodies
- Strong commercial basis of the application - lack of strong links to community support and involvement
- Concern over the issue of planning consent for trial sites

SDF-0506/09 Isle of Wight HEAP - Archaeology Service
Amount applied for: £2263

This application was discussed with the following points of note:

This project builds on the work being undertaken by Vicky Basford on landscape characterisation, with a view to producing a future management plan on similar lines to BAP. The application was approved.

4) Consideration of 'Buddy' applications

a) Chichester Harbour - Wheelchair/Cycle Path

It was felt this was an excellent proposal. The project was supported.

b) Chichester Harbour - Habitat Prediction & Modelling

Also an excellent project which gets the message across to the public about how to embrace future coastal changes. The project was supported.

c) South Downs - Elm Aware Project

A worthy project covering future landscape management with links to the Dutch elm programme, containing a sound action plan. The project was supported.

d) South Downs - Open Access GIS project

Mapping areas of open access land in conjunction with the CrOW Act, which will be useful for the local community and visitors. The project was supported.

e) South Downs - Learning Zone, South Downs online

Similar to our Discovery Project using educational resources in a website format on places, landscape features, and habitats. This will be used by teachers, and conforms to the National Curriculum as part of a long-term plan. The project was supported.

5) Any Other Business

The meeting agreed that an additional £5K be provided to the Alverstone Archaeological project.

The project for the Children's Centre in Totland will be re-submitted next year under the SDF rather than the Small Grant Fund, as it was felt this would be more appropriate.

Discussions will take place with the National Trust regarding the long-term future of car parking at Compton Bay.

6) Dates of Next Meeting

It was suggested the next meeting be held in the first week of January 2006, actual date to be advised.