

**IW AONB PARTNERSHIP  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND WORK GROUP MEETING  
FRIDAY 06 JANUARY 2006  
MINUTES**

**Present:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Denis Russell (Chair) | AONB Steering Committee - Vice Chairman, Community & Parish Portfolio |
| Tony Tutton           | AONB Steering Committee Chairman                                      |
| David Groves          | AONB Steering Committee – Rural Business Portfolio                    |
| Carol Flux            | Isle of Wight Economic Partnership                                    |
| John Brownscombe      | AONB Lead Officer   |
| Fiona Hanna           | AONB Communications Officer   |
| Carrie McDowell       | AONB Assistant  |

**1) Apologies**

Ashley Curzon            Isle of Wight Council - Planning Policy Manager

**2) Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising**

There should be an amendment to the previous minutes, that the Chairman should have been D Russell instead of T Tutton.

FH gave a brief update on current projects:-

- The ELS Farm Project is progressing well, and we have received an application for follow up work for 2006/07.
- Brading Town Council have had a very good response to their leaflet on Local Produce, with a final report being provided in due course.
- An application for the Water Works project will be submitted in 2006/07.
- The Island 2000 Trust archaeology project has now been completed and invoices submitted. A final report will be provided in the next two months.
- A follow up meeting was held with Mr Edwards from WaB Energy Systems which went well, and he is having discussions with other funding sources. He may come back to us with a revised scheme or joint project.
- The project on development of charcoal production has been deferred until 2006/07

There has been an excellent level of response to the SDF Fund, with many enquiries already received for 2006/07.

Following further discussions with the Countryside Agency, it is now possible to request additional funding. We therefore propose to request an additional amount of £30,000 to cover other applications received for this year, and the inclusion of 5% for administration costs.

**3) Report on 'AONB Discovery' Project**

The project has now been completed, and the meeting were shown a short clip of the DVD that has been produced; copies of the DVD were distributed for attendees to take away and view. The children at the school derived a great deal of enjoyment from the project, and we have received very supportive feedback from both teachers and parents. A final report is being collated, and will be distributed to panel members.

**4) Consideration of applications**

**SDF-0506/11 Valuing the Wetlands - Isle of Wight Council (Steve Blamire)**  
**Amount applied for : £7,000**

This application was discussed with the following points of note:

The project is part of a larger European project supported by Leader+ covering the production of a high quality bird and nature guide for the whole Island. Further funding is required, and it was agreed FH and CF would discuss the matter with SB to ascertain how much was required. The application was approved.

*Follow on consultation with CF/SB and FH has resulted in the funding request being increased to £10,000.*

**SDF-0506/12 Hanover Car Park: Trial Rubber Crumb Surface - National Trust**  
**Amount applied for: £5,820**

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

If the treatment proves successful, it could increase the car park capacity and alleviate the problem of parking on the grass verge. The use of a re-cycled product in a high landscape impact area is also an important part of the project. Concern was expressed, however, about the product being supplied from a mainland company rather than a local base on the Island. Regarding costs for the project, an error was pointed out regarding the price per ton. The meeting felt if the project is successful, research should be undertaken regarding licensing of the product on a local basis; this could be subject to a future bid to the scheme. A request was made for regular reports to be provided on the effectiveness of the rubber crumb treatment. The application was approved.

**SDF-0506/13 Needles High Down Restoration - National Trust**  
**Amount applied for: 6,042.50**

This application was discussed with the following points of note:

This project builds on the work undertaken by volunteers to open up more underground rooms to provide an exhibition area. Entry to the exhibition will be free and will include material on the landscape, wildlife, and awareness raising links to the AONB. Funding for this project has also been requested from Leader+, and the meeting agreed the SDF would support the work due for completion by 31 March 2006, with March to December 2006 being covered by Leader+. The application was approved.

**SDF-0506/14 Island Food and Craft Association Development - IFCA**  
**Amount applied for: £10,525**

This application was discussed with the following points of note:

The Island Food and Craft Association is an independent amalgamation of other organisations such as the Farmers Market, Sunshine Fayre etc. which intends to raise awareness and develop local initiatives to help businesses with self-promotion. It will have a criteria based membership attempting to link local producers to tourism using a website and database. There are also plans to produce a leaflet and also integrate with the South East Foods Group Partnership to promote local produce. It is also hoped the AONB will be a member of the IFCA Steering Committee. Concern was expressed about consultancy costs of £150 per day and what this actually covers. The meeting was referred to the letter contained within the application, which sets out the programme to be achieved before the end of March 2006. The meeting agreed the application in principle, but felt certain caveats should be confirmed:-

- The SDF only provides 75% of expenditure up to 31 March 2006.
- Payment will only be made on receipted invoices.
- Public tendering rules need to be satisfied regarding project management.

**SDF-0506/17                    Encouraging the market for Biomass Energy - Agenda 21**  
**Amount applied for:                    £5,200**

This application has only just been received, and copies were circulated to the meeting. An awareness raising event for 50 attendees is planned with six chosen to undertake feasibility studies - four conventional systems and two anaerobic digestion systems. A suggestion was made that SDF fund the initial event, with a joint project next year with Leader+. It was then pointed out the commencement date was March 2006, and it was agreed to submit the application next year. The meeting supported the application in principle, and details were taken away for consideration. A request was made for further documentation about the technologies.

**5)            Any Other Business**

It was confirmed we have applied for funding in the amount of £100K for both 2006/07 and 2007/08. We should receive our formal offer of funding at the end of March and once this is received, we will be able to consider projects funded over two years. There was a slight underspend nationally, although there has been a lot of competition within other AONBs where funds requested exceeded by 2-3 times the funding available.

Awareness of the SDF within the local media has increased, and it is intended to produce press releases to raise awareness of what the fund has achieved this year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.53 p.m.