

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)**

### ***Purpose***

To inform members of the achievements of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in 2018/19 and recent applications in 2019/20 and to make suggestions for the co-option of a new SDF Assessment Panel member.

### ***Recommendation***

That the JAC welcomes the achievements of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to date.

### ***Key Issues***

- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is a delegated grant from Welsh Government administered by the Wye Valley AONB Partnership and confirmed for 2019/20 at £55,000 per annum.
- The achievements of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in 2018/19 are below and in Appendix 1.
- The current allocation of SDF grants is also appended with £16,100 remaining to be allocated in 2019/20.
- The local government elections created a vacancy on the SDF Assessment Panel for a co-opted public sector representative. Suggestions are welcome.

### ***Reasons***

Welsh Government (WG) provide the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) which is administered by the Wye Valley AONB Unit and the SDF Assessment Panel. WG have confirmed that the SDF for 2019/20 is £55,000 per annum, similar to the previous 3 years.

The SDF Assessment Panel is established as a sub-group of the JAC. The SDF Assessment Panel is made up of public, private and voluntary sector representatives with 2 appointees from each sector to ensure a balance across social, community, economic and environmental interests, with additional officers' support. The JAC nominates 3 members, one for each sector, to complement 3 independent co-opted appointees to the Panel. The current Panel members and Terms of Reference of the SDF Assessment Panel is attached (Appendix 2).

The local government elections in May have created a vacancy on the SDF Assessment Panel.

## ***Implications***

The value of projects receiving SDF in 2018/19 totalled £301,961.65. Fourteen projects shared £55,000 of SDF (see Appendix 1 below), with an average grant rate of 36.7% and leveraging in match funding totalling £262,214.74:-

<b>2018/19 SDF</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>	
<b>Cash</b>	Public sector	£186,468.00
	Private sector	£18,079.00
	Voluntary sector	£1,334.00
	Lottery	£0.00
	European - LEADER	£13,000.00
<b>Volunteer/In Kind</b>	time@£50/day	£3,456.24
	time@£100/day	£1,087.50
	In Kind Value	£38,790.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£262,214.74</b>

The current SDF allocations in 2019/20 are also listed below in Appendix 1. Grants to date total £38,900 with an average rate of 28.6%, towards projects with a value of £143,852. There is £16,100 remaining from the £55,000.

The AONB Unit and other partners promote the availability of the SDF to as many sectors as possible in Monmouthshire. Members are similarly encouraged to do so, and Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, is available to discuss and advise on potential applications (contact [community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](mailto:community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) ).

The SDF Assessment Panel has two representatives each for the public, private and voluntary sectors, along with officers from Natural Resources Wales and Monmouthshire County Council. There is currently a vacancy on the Panel following the local government elections in May. Therefore it is proposed that a new appointee is found and co-opted to the Panel as a Public Sector representative. These will be complemented by three members from the JAC, one for each sector, and two other independent appointees. The objective is to have a good balance across social, community, economic and environmental interests on the Panel.

## ***Background***

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has been available in the Wye Valley AONB for 18 years in Wales and but was a casualty of austerity in England, where it ran for 10 years.

**APPENDIX 1. SDF Approved 2018/19 & 2019/20 to date**

2018/19 Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		Total Cost	SDF Grant	%
			This	Total			
WV00 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	10% Admin	1	1		£5,500	
WV02 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Wye Valley River Festival 2018	2	2	£238,500.00	£26,000	11%
WV03 YR18W	Cadw & Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Tintern Abbey Beacon Technology	2	2	£22,800.00	£5,000	22%
WV04 YR18W	Arborealists	Exhibition	1	1	£4,438.75	£1,000	23%
WV05 YR18W	Tintern Festivals	Ways to Peace	1	1	£4,483.00	£999	22%
WV06 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Tintern Japanese Knotweed Project	1	2	£2,325.00	£1,725	74%
WV07 YR18W	Little Wren	Hedge-laying	1	1	£2,000.00	£960	50%
WV08 YR18W	Monmouth Town Council	Monmouth Lantern Parade	1	1	£8,000.00	£1,000	13%
WV09 YR18W	Edward Rodgers	Hedge laying at Trellech Barn	1	1	£2,000.00	£1,000	50%
WV10 YR18W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	GWT Trainees	1	2	£4,426.00	£900	20%
WV11 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Natural Flood Management Farm Advice	1	1	£9,234.90	£7,200	78%
WV12 YR18W	Chris Trow	Hedgelaying at Elm Farm	1	1	£1,514.00	£757	50%
WV13 YR18W	Anne Porter	Llanishen church yard	1	1	£240.00	£120	50%
WV14 YR18W	Suzanna Knock	Farm Hedge planting	1	1	£2,000.00	£1,000	50%
WV15 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Wye valley River Festival R&D	1	1	£238,500.00	£1,839	1%
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>£301,961.65</b>	<b>£55,000</b>	<b>av36.7%</b>

2019/20 Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		Total Cost	SDF Grant	%
			This	Total			
WV00 YR19W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	10% Admin	1	1		£5,500	
WV01 YR19W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	GWT Trainees	1	2	£2,192	£900	41%
WV02 YR19W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	GWT Machinery & Habitat Management Project	1	1	£35,360	£7,500	21%
WV03 YR19W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Wye Valley River Festival 2020	1	2	£106,300	£25,000	24%
<b>TOTALS (to date)</b>					<b>£143,852</b>	<b>38,900</b>	<b>av28.6%</b>
					<i>Remaining from £55,000</i>	<i>£16,100</i>	

## **APPENDIX 2.**

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)**

#### **ASSESSMENT PANEL**

#### ***TERMS OF REFERENCE***

##### **1. Objectives**

- a. The purpose of the Assessment Panel is to decide upon allocation of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) based on applications for the SDF in accordance with the SDF Guidelines. The SDF is a delegated grant from Welsh Government administered by Wye Valley AONB Partnership.

##### **2. Panel membership**

- a. The Panel is a task-group of the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and has executive powers and co-opted members.
- b. Membership of the Panel will be based on the thirds principle:- public, private and voluntary sector, to include those with experience through local and regional organisations and embracing a range of interests such as community, business, environmental, wildlife, agriculture, tourism and recreational interests. The current membership of the Panel is appended.
- c. Nominations and co-options to the Panel will be normally for three years.
- d. Nominations and co-options will be endorsed annually by the JAC in March for the forthcoming financial year.
- e. The Panel will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman at its first meeting. In the absence of both, those Panel members present will choose a Chairman for the meeting.
- f. If a member of the Panel has any direct and significant involvement with a proposed project being considered, then they should declare this at the appropriate point on the agenda, and revoke their voting rights for any vote on that project.

### 3. Meetings

- a. Meetings will be held at least once each year and will be serviced by the AONB Unit.
- b. The quorum for a Panel meeting shall be one-third plus one. However previously submitted comments on an application by a Panel member will be recorded as valid for that item. If at any time the number of members falls below quorum the meeting shall be adjourned.
- c. The order of business at each meeting shall be as follows:
  - to receive any apologies for absence
  - receive disclosures of interest
  - approve the Minutes of the last Meeting
  - dispose of business (if any) remaining from the previous meeting
  - report on progress of approved schemes
  - consider applications for grants
  - receive reports on grant applications fast tracked and /or under £3,000
  - any other business.
- d. Decisions by the Panel shall be made by show of hands with the Chairman having the casting vote, after consideration of any previously submitted comments by absent Panel Members.
- e. The AONB officers in attendance shall keep minutes of each meeting, which shall be circulated to Panel members as soon as possible after each meeting.
- f. The outcomes of the meeting shall be reported to the next meeting of the Wye Valley AONB JAC for information.
- g. A fast track process may be initiated in exceptional circumstances where an application needs to be determined before the next Panel meeting. The application will be circulated to members for comment before a fixed deadline. The determination of the application will be made by the AONB Manager and Chairman based on the comments received. The result will be reported to the next Panel meeting.
- h. Applications of less than £3,000 are delegated to the AONB Manager to determine following endorsement from the NRW officer. The result will be reported to the next Panel meeting.
- i. All decisions shall be communicated to applicants within fourteen working days of the Panel meeting, giving the reasons for the decision. Applicants will have a right of appeal to the Wye Valley AONB JAC.

**Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)**

**Members of the SDF Assessment Panel**

**Public Sector representatives:**

Cllr Mrs Ann Webb, Monmouthshire County Council (JAC)  
*vacant*

**Private Sector representatives:**

David Price, NFU Wales (JAC)  
Antony Smith, Wyastone Estates Ltd.

**Voluntary Sector representatives:**

Ashley Thomas: Monmouthshire voluntary conservation sector representative (JAC)  
*tbc – Herefordshire Community Foundation*

**Local Authority officer:**

Colette Bosley: Principal Green Infrastructure & Landscape Officer,  
Monmouthshire County Council

**Statutory Agency officer:**

Sarah Coakham, Partnerships Officer, Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

**Wye Valley AONB officers in attendance:**

Andrew Blake, AONB Manager  
Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer