

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
WYE VALLEY AONB FUND**

***Purpose***

To update members on the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

**FOR INFORMATION**

***Key Issues***

- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) currently has £43,823.25 allocated from the £100,000 offered by Welsh Government for 202/22, with £ 56,176.75 remaining.
- This is the 21st year of the SDF and Welsh Government may make some minor modifications to the SDF Grant Guidance. These will be reported on in due course.
- Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) host the Wye Valley AONB Fund for which the 2020/21 Quarter Four balances were £2,916.19 for immediate funding and £54,531.59 in the Endowment Fund.
- Applications are welcome for both sets of funding for 2021/22.

***Reasons***

Welsh Government have allocated £100,000 of SDF again in 2021/22. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the SDF which continues to provide an exceptional opportunity for organisations, individuals and community groups to apply for grant aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which benefit the Welsh part of the AONB.

The Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) was established with a £10,000 Immediate Impact fund and a £50,000 Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is currently growing at a modest rate and is open to receive donations and legacies. Opportunities will be sought to grow the AONB Fund further over time.

***Implications***

The SDF Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on each application over £3,000. Welsh Government are considering making some minor modification to the SDF Grant Guidance. Application under £3,000 are determined by the AONB Manager supported by the

NRW Senior People & Places Officer, South East Wales. The list of approved grants totalling £43,823.25 is in the table below.

The Wye Valley AONB Fund with the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has a £2,916.19 Immediate Impact fund for grants for environmental, community and cultural projects. There is also a £54,531.59 Endowment Fund from which the income generated each year can be used to award grants once the Immediate Impact fund is exhausted. The Endowment Fund is able to receive donations and legacies so it is intended that the AONB Fund will grow over time, including donations via text messages by texting 'WVAONB' to 70085 to donate £5. The SDF Assessment Panel recommends applications to the HCF for funding.

### **2021/22 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) grants approved**

Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		SDF
			This	Total	Grant
WV00 YR21W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	Admin 10%			10,000.00
WV01 YR21W	Monmouth Climate Futures Festival	Climate Futures Festival	2	2	£6,968.00
WV02 YR21W	Wye Valley AONB & partners	Wordsworth Walk Improvements	2	2	£25,000.00
WV03 YR21W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	Pine Marten monitoring & survey training	2	2	£1,355.25
WV04 YR21W	Trellech Community Council	The Narth and District Footpath Project	1	1	£500
		<b>TOTALS (to date)</b>			<b>£43,823.25</b>
		<i>Remaining from £100,000</i>			<i>£57,176.75</i>

For more details on grants and the application process see <https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/grants/>. For further advice or to discuss any project ideas, please contact Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, on [community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](mailto:community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk).

### ***Background***

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) supports living and working more sustainably in association with enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, culture, landscape, land use and community within the context of the Wales sustainable development goals and principles in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Wye Valley AONB Unit administer the fund on behalf of Welsh Government. The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) host and manage the Wye Valley AONB Fund on behalf of the Wye Valley AONB Partnership.