

**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 £69,552 allocated from the £100,000 offered by Welsh Government for 2020/21, with £30,448 remaining.
- Four potential applications are anticipated shortly which if approved would account for full allocation.
- Welsh Government have confirmed an allocation of £100,000 of SDF in 2021/22.
- Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) host the Wye Valley AONB Fund which was established with £10,000 for immediate funding alongside an Endowment Fund of £50,000. The 2020/21 Quarter Three balances were £6,779.27 and £54,578.05 respectively. Subsequently grants totalling £1,500 have been awarded.
- Applications are welcome for both sets of funding for 2021/22.

***Reasons***

Welsh Government have confirmed that they are able to offer an allocation of £100,000 of SDF again in 2021/22. The SDF 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. Smaller applications are determined by the AONB Manager supported by the NRW Senior People & Places Officer, South East Wales. The list of approved grants totalling £42,056 is in the table below.

The Wye Valley AONB Fund with the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has a £5,279.27 Immediate Impact fund for grants for environmental, community and cultural projects. There is also a £54,578.05 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. Two recent grants have been issued by HCF, endorsed by the SDF Assessment Panel, both hedge-planting schemes in Fownhope under the Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement criteria, one for £1,000 and one for £500.

### **2020/21 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) grants approved**

<b>2019/20 Code</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>years</b>		<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>SDF Grant</b>	<b>%</b>
			<b>This</b>	<b>Total</b>			
WV00 YR20W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	10% Admin	1	1		£10,000	
WV01 YR20W	Wye Valley AONB Partnership	Wye Valley River Festival	2	2	£106,300	£25,000	23.5
WV02 YR20W	Friends of our Lady of Tintern	Words and Landscape - Poetry workshop walk	1	1	£5,857	£1,056	18
WV03 YR20W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	Documenting Now	1	1	£4,700	£3,000	64
WV04 YR20W	Jon Dunkleman	Drystone walling	1	1	£7,660	£3,000	39
WV05 YR20W	MCC	Wye Valley Villages Plan	1	1	£50,000	£25,000	50
WV06 YR20W	Claire Catto	Hedge Planting at Common Farm Barn	1	1	£3,000	£1,807.63	60
WV07 YR20W	Mon Life (MCC)	Tintern Old Station Family Pack	1	1	£1,377	£688.50	50
<b>TOTALS (to date)</b>					<b>£302,534</b>	<b>£69,552.13</b>	<b>Av43.5%</b>
					<i>Remaining from £100,000</i>	<i>£30,447.87</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) has been available in the Wye Valley AONB for 20 years in Wales. It supports living and working more sustainably in association with enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, culture, landscape, land use and community within the context of the 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.