

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (FIPL) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) GRANTS

Purpose

To update members on the progress of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme and the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

Recommendation

That the JAC endorse the allocations of grants under the FiPL programme and SDF to date for 2023/24.

Key Issues

- The DEFRA funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in England had an initial allocation of £339,063 for 2023/24 which has subsequently been increased.
- The FiPL Assessment Panel has approved grants totalling £356,307 in 2023/24 having been able to access additional FiPL funding from the DEFRA National Pot.
- The FiPL allocation for 2024/25, currently believed to be the last year of the programme, is £362,384 of which £260,631 has already been allocated, leaving £101,753 remaining.
- The Welsh Government Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) currently has £82,961 allocated from the £100,000 available for 2023/24, plus £15,000 from a returned grant leaving £32,038 available. There is also £53,227 already allocated from the £100,000 available for 2024/25, leaving £46,773 available.
- The Wye Valley National Landscape Fund hosted by the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is currently closed for applications to allow the Endowment Fund to grow.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

The Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) programme currently runs until March 2025. DEFRA manage a National Pot to redistribute unallocated funds within any one year. The Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL Assessment Panel had fully allocated the funds available by December 2023. With further applications received the National Landscape Team applied for additional FiPL funding from the DEFRA National Pot and were successful. Consequently further applications were able to be approved totalling £17,244. This process can be repeated if there are sufficient funds and appropriate applications.

The FiPL Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on each application over £5,000. Application under £5,000 are determined by the AONB Manager. Since the last JAC the following FiPL applications have been approved:

Code	Applicant	2023/4 £	2024/5 £
WV056	Herefordshire Meadows Grasslands		19,450.00
WV057	Caswell Farm		1,244.30
WV058	Lewstone Farm	388.03	
WV059	Bryants Court	25,000.00	6,788.62
WV060	Caradoc River Meadows		4,828.78
WV061	The Dingle Veteran Trees	473.46	976.00
WV062	Wye and Usk Foundation - Farm Advice		35,000.00
WV063	Weir End Moor Meadow		6,879.15
WV064	Underhill Farm	25,000.00	1,987.40
WV065	Upper Pengethley Farm OSB	12,767.05	533.00
WV066	British Canoeing	4,300.05	2,248.00
WV067	Coxbury Farm OSB	10,680.28	447.00
WV068	Staunton Meend		6,722.00
WV069	Grazing Management Conservation Grazing	19,825.75	
WV070	WUF INNS Yr2		15,308.00
WV071	Rectory Orchard renewal Yr2		747.12
WV072	Dryslade Farm Educational Events	543.00	1,452.00

DEFRA recognise the positive feedback and outcomes delivered by the FiPL programme and are considering how the benefits can be carried forward beyond March 2025 into the Environmental Land Management (ELM) agri-environment scheme.

Guidance and assistance to farmers and land managers applying to the FiPL programme is provided by Anna Stankiewicz, AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, along with Farm Advisors from the Wye & Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Meadows. For advice or to discuss any project ideas, please contact Anna on farming@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

Welsh Government have allocated £100,000 of SDF each year for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The SDF Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on each application over £3,000. Application under £3,000 are determined by the AONB Manager.

The SDF for 2023/24 has been fully allocated. For 2024/25 the Panel has already awarded £43,227 to projects, and further applications are waiting to be assessed.

The following applications have been approved since the last JAC:

Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		Total Project value	SDF Grant
			This	Total		
2023/24						

WV11 YR23W	Monmouth Town Council	Monmouth Subway and Underpass Murals Project	1	2	£12,520	£9,020.00
WV12 YR24W	FoD & WV Tourism	Community Constellations	1	1	£5,200	£3,000.00
WV13 YR24W	Bee's for Development	Bees for Monmouthshire	1	2	£40,000	£19,033.03
WV 14 YR24W	Nelson Garden	Nelson Garden Britannia Statue	1	1	£1,320	£820.00
						£31,873.03
2024/25						
WV01 YR24W	Wye Coppice CIC	Wye Coppice Training	2	2	£20,000.00	£7,226.10
WV02 YR24W	GWT	Restoring The Wern	2	2	£6,000.00	£3,502.50
WV03 YR24W	Coed Lleol-Small Woods	Nature based wellbeing	2	2	£10,000.00	£6,285.00
WV04 YR24W	ACE Monmouth	Regen Farming Monitoring project	2	2	£18,186.00	£1,213.40
WV05 YR24W	WVRF CIC	The Earth Beneath Our Feet	2	2	£187,000.00	£25,000.00
						£43,227.00

Lucinda James, AONB Community Links Officer, assists applicants with projects. Community groups, local organisations and individuals are eligible. If you are interested in applying please contact Lucinda on community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk.

Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF)

The Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) was established with a £50,000 Endowment Fund. Project grants are awarded from the interest and any growth or donations above that base Fund. There is currently £10,000 also donated specifically for the Youth Rangers. The Fund is currently closed for applications to allow the Endowment Fund to grow. When funds allow, the National Landscape Team &/or SDF Assessment Panel, as appropriate, reviews and comments on applications to the Fund to advise HCF on awarding grants.

Background

For more details on grants and application processes see <https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/grants/>.