

## MEETING NOTES

### Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting

Wednesday 16 September 2009 10.30am- 12.30pm

#### Panel members

Present: Nicola Epps (MDC), Martin Grass, Rachael Clarke, Sheila Petherbridge (MDC) & Simon Gardiner (Environment Agency)

Apologies: Tony Sheppard, Ian Chedgy

#### Mendip Hills AONB Officer present

Gail Graham – Development Officer

Item		Actions
1.0	<b>Opening Presentation by Steve Egginton – Mendip TV</b>	
	Steve introduced himself and gave the background to Mendip Times & Mendip TV. He explained to the panel his reasons for setting up Mendip TV – a future change in the media landscape and how he saw it as a community based channel for the Mendips – particularly with the decline in local TV coverage. He already had good contact with local schools and colleges but the main issue was getting more content uploaded onto the channel. Mendip TV now needs additional staffing support to build further relationships with the local community and encourage growth in content from local sources. The panel discussed various proposals and felt the best way forward was for Steve to submit a small ‘pump primer’ application in December to help him focus on submitting a larger bid for the first SDF round 2010/2011. Steve left the meeting.	
2.0	<b>Minutes of Meeting held 15.07.09</b>	
	These were approved with no amendments. Martin added that the Wells Journal was happy to run a large article on the SDF fund to publicise it and would use some case studies of current/previous successful bids.	AONB to provide a selection of SDF contact details to follow up.
3.0	<b>Update on SDF applications</b>	
3.1	<b>Barton Camp Nature Trail 0910–001</b> Following a meeting with Gail, Barton Camp had submitted a third revised application which took into consideration many of the concerns that the panel had raised initially. The panel is very keen to support this work, but still feel that some of the costs submitted are excessive and could be sourced	

	<p>more reasonably. After a lengthy discussion the panel agreed to offer Barton Camp a slightly increased amount (re-installing one of the original proposals which had been dropped to reduce the costs of the bid) with an explanation that they wish to support further initiatives but that Barton Camp need to consider using a competitive tendering process for some of their work. The panel also noted the offer of a visit to Barton Camp and would like to take up this opportunity.</p>	<p>Gail to draft offer letter for approval and seek dates for a site visit.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Children's Walking Guide 0910-003</b> Rachel had spoken to Sue Gearing and the guide was progressing well. One more walk was planned, then the guide would be piloted around 4 local schools for feedback, amendments then to proofing.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>Green Hay Application 0910-004</b> Sheila had been out to see the work the SWT had completed and was very impressed with the project.</p>	
3.4	<p><b>Cheddar Parish Council Interpretive Sign 0910-006</b> Gail reported on the feedback received from the council about their chosen location for the sign. In addition they are happy to consider using accessible formatting. [NB Since the meeting a proof of the sign has been received]</p>	<p>Tony to follow up.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Ignite Woodfuel Training Course 0910-007</b> Gail had received a letter stating that the applicant was declining the funding offer as it was insufficient for the project to run.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Applications</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Expression of Interest - Wells Bishops Palace Garden</b> Gail had circulated an email with an idea for an SDF application and since then the Bishops Palace had also confirmed their HLF bid had been awarded. The panel discussed the ideas suggested but felt that in its current form not enough was made of the links between the AONB and the Bishops Palace. They felt a project could be worked up which took into consideration the relationship between the Banwell Bone Caves or other possibilities such as Mendip water sources, local biodiversity (such as the butterflies already identified) or stone used for building the Palace.</p>	<p>Gail to email with further advice.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Expression of Interest - Black Down</b> Gail provided a background to the setting up of the Black Down Advisory Group and explained that one objective was to identify short-term projects which could be put in</p>	

	place to help address the site management issues. One of these was to update and replace the PROW signage and a meeting had been held recently (with Sheila in attendance) to consider this proposal. The meeting would like to proceed this option, undertaking an audit of current signage using volunteers and then to submit an SDF application for the replacement/additional signposts. The panel is happy to receive this application.	Sarah to draft SDF bid application
4.3	<b>Parish Acre, Loxton 0910-008</b> The panel was unanimously in favour of supporting this application and wished to record that it was applications such as this they wanted to see increase in number.	Gail to draft offer letter for approval
5.0	<b>SDF Process Review</b> Gail had circulated the updated paperwork but due to lack of time between the panel receiving them and the meeting, most felt they needed more time to review the suggested amendments. Gail suggested it would be best to review these in time for the next meeting, with a view of accepting any changes and amending the documents in time for the new 2010/2011 SDF year. Nicola pointed out that she wished to see a minor amendment in the additional table Tony had suggested.	Panel to read through amended paperwork and note points for discussion.
6.0	<b>AOB</b>	
6.1	After the meeting, Gail received communication from Tony Shepherd advising the panel that he wished to stand down. Gail has written to thank Tony for his input but to also ask whether he could delay until the end of the current financial year (i.e. after 9 December meeting)	Tony to advise
6.2	The panel noted that this would be Gail's last meeting and wished to express their thanks for her involvement over the last year.	
7.0	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	09 December 2009 - 10.30am Charterhouse	