

Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting  
 Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 10.00am – 12.30pm

Panel Members

Present: Cllr Harvey Siggs (Partnership Vice Chairman) – Chairman, James Small (NFU), Bob Handford (Bristol Water), Nicola Epps (Mendip District Council)

Apologies: Simon Whitmore (Mendip Society)

Potential panel members: Tony Shepherd, Ian Chedgy, Simon Gardner, Rachael Clarke

Mendip Hills AONB Officers present

Sarah Jackson – Manager, Jim Hardcastle – Development Officer

Item		Actions
	<b>Matters arising from meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007</b>	
Ref 1.1	Trilith – Sarah to reserve ticket for Nicola for Westbury Sub Mendip film show	Sarah to contact Barry Lane
Ref 4.1	<p>Sarah informed the panel that for 2007/8 the AONB will claim 10% of fund awarded for administration costs, due to pressure on core costs with the review of the Management Plan and the reduced funding available from B&amp;NES. This will equate to £10,000 if £100,000 is awarded to the AONB</p> <p>Grants agreed at todays meeting will be provisional offers that cannot be confirmed until the AONB have received confirmation of SDF funding from Natural England. This is likely to be May 2007.</p>	
1.0	Harvey welcomed and thanked new members for attending to–days meeting. All were invited to contribute to discussions on each application.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Applications</b>	
2.1.0	<b>Fernhill Farm Reedbed Wet System 07/08–001</b> Application for funding of hydro geological report required by Environment Agency and the construction of the reed beds.	
2.1.1	It was established that the reed beds although requiring planning permission had been subject to a pre application visit from local authority and no	

<p>2.1.2</p> <p>2.1.3</p> <p>2.1.4</p>	<p>problems were identified.</p> <p>Fernhill Farm is developing buildings for camping barn use and educational purposes that the reed beds would provide for. It was also identified that the reed beds would minimise the need for chemical toilets at the Big Gathering.</p> <p>It was agreed that as the hydro geological report was required to ensure that the reed beds could function on the site the Panel could only approve a grant towards the cost of this element at this stage but would earmark until end of August the other funding requested (£16000) should the report prove supportive of the development.</p> <p>Therefore agreed a <b>maximum of £4000 grant</b> based on 40% of estimated £10,000 cost of hydro-geological report. If the cost of survey is less than 10,000 the figure would be 40% of this.</p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for Chairman</p>
<p>2.2.0</p> <p>2.2.1</p> <p>2.2.2</p> <p>2.2.3</p>	<p><b>Mendip Cross Trails Trust – Pen Hill Bridleway 07/08–002</b></p> <p>This will provide permanent 2km bridleway over Pen Hill avoiding long sections of the A39 Wells Road.</p> <p>Panel considered this good value for money for a new route that was likely to prove popular with all users. Concerns were expressed about the entry/exist point onto the main road but there are two other bridleways that already join here.</p> <p>The panel <b>agreed to grant £11700</b> subject to written confirmation that Somerset County Council are happy with the route and will take on the future maintenance as part of the Rights of Way network within the County.</p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for the Chairman</p>
<p>2.3.1</p> <p>2.3.2</p>	<p><b>Cheddar to Wells multi-user path 07/08–003 – ecological survey and employment of consultants to undertake development work</b></p> <p>Harvey informed the panel that as a member of the County Regulatory Committee that he could not have a predetermined view on the planning application for the route that is currently with SCC. Tony declared</p>	

	<p>interest as the route goes at the bottom of his garden and Sarah declared interest in that she was a member of the advisory panel that was consulted on the route.</p>	
2.3.3	<p>Concern was expressed on the lack of commitment of SCC on how the proposal is to move forward should permission be granted.</p>	
2.3.4	<p>It was agreed that as a multi user path is desirable and the AONB Partnership have stated its support for such a link, the Panel wish to see the proposal encouraged.</p>	
2.3.5	<p>However as the planning application is yet to be determined the Panel agreed to offer a grant of <b>£1721.25 (75%) towards the ecological survey</b> that is required in order for the application to be fully considered. It agreed it was unable to consider the development work until planning permission is obtained.</p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for the Chairman</p>
<b>2.4.0</b>	<p><b>SW Coordinated Wood Fuel Initiative 07/08-004</b></p>	
2.4.1	<p>Phase 2 of two year regional project to encourage installation of wood fuel boilers.</p>	
2.4.2	<p>As part of a regional initiative with the majority of AONBs and National Parks contributing to draw down significant additional resources totalling £377,252 the <b>Panel agreed to grant £10,000.</b></p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for the Chairman</p>
2.5.0	<p><b>National Trust- Conservation and Heritage Involvement project (Year 2) 07/08-005</b></p>	
2.5.1	<p>Although it was recognised that the project officer had to respond to where there was interest there appeared to be no local people involvement or work occurring in the AONB.</p>	
2.5.2	<p>The costs applied for appeared to be same as current years costs that the AONB SDF had contributed to from 06/07 SDF with no indication of what was going to happen on the ground.</p>	
2.5.3	<p>Panel <b>agreed not to fund</b> but would consider a new application for a specific project that would give</p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for</p>

	clear outputs, say how many people it would involve, how it will bring people together and what work is to be undertaken.	Chairman.
3.0	<b>Light pollution grants</b>	
3.1.0	Panel agreed to <b>ring-fence £2500 in 2007/8</b> on same basis as last year.	
3.1.1	Charterhouse Centre request for <b>£149</b> at 50% of total cost for reducing light pollution agreed	
3.1.2	St Lawrence Primary School Westbury Sub Mendip request for maximum of <b>£250</b> at 50% of total cost of replacing external lights agreed subject to copy of invoice for work.	Sarah to contact both recipients.
4.0	<b>Potential panel members</b> Following departure of invited potential panel members it was agreed to retain all four and invite two to each of the four meetings timetabled allowing each to attend two meetings and develop their experience.	Sarah to liaise to agree rota
5.0	<b>Date of next meeting: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 - 12.30 Charterhouse Centre</b>	