

Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting
Thursday 18th September 2008 10.00am- 11.30am

Panel members

Present: Cllr Harvey Siggs (Partnership Vice Chairman) – Chairman, Nicole Epps (MDC), Ian Chedgy

Apologies: James Small (NFU) Simon Gardiner (Environment Agency), Tony Shepherd, Rachael Clarke

Mendip Hills AONB Officers present

Sarah Jackson Manager

Item		Actions
1.0	Update	
	Sarah confirmed that there is currently £33,323 to allocate having increased the grant offer to East Harptree shop project to £10,000 as agreed with the Panel via email	
2.0	Applications	
2.1	<p>Hawk and Owl Trust – Mendip Hills Community Owls Project 0809–008</p> <p>Sarah apologized for not having attached this application with email – the application is therefore attached with these notes. Panel considered this a good application based on successful project that the SDF part funded last year. There had been an excellent community response and the need for a project officer role had been identified to coordinate the amount of volunteer interest.</p> <p>Agreed to offer grant of £2425.50</p>	SJ Draft offer letter for Chairman
2.2	<p>Mendip Cross Trails Trust – Pub n Ride 0809– 009</p> <p>Concerns were expressed regarding the costs of the project officer when the proposal was to use existing PROW. There was no evidence of liaison with the pubs regarding parking for horse boxes or hitching rails when it is known that car parks usually full at weekends and current issues with parking in Priddy exist. Cost of sale price £5 seen as too expensive for 5 local rides. Essence of a good idea but not thought through fully.</p> <p>Agreed not to fund</p>	SJ Draft offer letter for Chairman
2.3	Avon and Somerset Constabulary –	

	<p>Horsewatch 0809-010</p> <p>Start up costs of Horsewatch in Cheddar Valley. Based on conditions that liaise with Les Davies regarding holding event at local riding school in Mendip Hills. Ebborlands at Wookey another possible location to hold event suggested. Request feedback on numbers attending Horsewatch events and seek publicity in Mendip Times and other local media</p> <p>Agreed to offer grant of £600</p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
2.4	<p>Bracken Burn Ltd – Bracken Burn 0809-011</p> <p>Bracken as a biofuel – pilot project– Panel felt that they would like to see some link with local universities or other educational establishment to be involved with the research. Ian who has some experience of biofuel with his work with B&NES explained reducing water content to increase how well the pellets will burn. Ian has worked with Ian and declared this interest. Concerns were expressed with regard management of the habitat and did not want to see situation in which Burrington Ham damaged through over working. Sarah explained that whole site under environmental stewardship and wouldn't be allowed to happen.</p> <p>Agreed to offer grant of £12040 on condition that 1. work was carried out in harmony with HLS scheme 2. Findings of research are made available 3. SDF is publicized in any publicity or on machinery purchased etc</p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
2.5	<p>Somerset Wildlife Trust – Mendip Hills Conservation Volunteers 0809-012</p> <p>Discussed figures that in Section C 3. had counted £1495 contribution in twice against SWT support in kind. Panel agreed that SWT ought to make financial contribution and therefore agreed to offer grant of £3500 at 23% of the costs.</p> <p>Conditions that tools purchased would also be made available to other volunteer tasks as part of People and Places Project would apply.</p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
2.6	<p>Somerset Wildlife Trust – Removal of hut in Velvet Bottom 0809-013</p> <p>Site has been eyesore for some years. Sarah explained that other sources of grants for this type of work difficult to find. The sustainability links were making</p>	

	<p>what is currently an unsustainable use of the site – sustainable by restoring the site as part of the scheduled SSSI and scheduled monument. Young Somerset has been disbanded but own the building on SWT land. It was agreed that SCC should take some responsibility as they helped set up Young Somerset and have links through the Youth Service. Also we should have confirmation from Young Somerset or SCC that no future use of the building is proposed before we approve grant.</p> <p>Agreed to support grant offer of £4860 in principle subject to the above being pursued.</p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
3.0	<p>£23425.50 allocated today £9897.50 remains to allocate</p>	
4.0	<p>Meeting ended at 11.30am when visit took place to Fernhill Farm to see reed bed system and camping barn</p>	
5.0	<p>Date of next meeting: December 11th 10.00am Charterhouse Centre</p>	<p>All</p>