

Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting
 Thursday 6th September 2007 Wills Barn

Panel Members

Present:- James Small (NFU) Chaired the meeting, Nicola Epps (Mendip District Council) Simon Whitmore (Mendip Society), Tony Shepherd, Simon Gardner

Apologies: Cllr Harvey Siggs (Partnership Vice Chairman) Bob Handford (Bristol Water), Rachael Clarke, Ian Chedgy

Mendip Hills AONB Officers present

Sarah Jackson – Manager, Jim Hardcastle – Development Officer

Item		Actions
	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 21st May Note: meeting planned for 19th July was cancelled as no applications received.</p>	
2.2.0	<p>Burrington Combe toilets- Jim updated group on the bid to NE ALSF had been unsuccessful but had only missed out by slight margin. Having said that, having been invited to resubmit to NE Jim will do so on basis that bid would be smaller and not include the toilets as NE had indicated that they liked most of original bid as clear link with quarrying but not so with toilets.</p>	
2.3.0	<p>Drug Intervention programme – Sarah had met with the project officer of DIP and sites/work had been suggested by AONB/SWT but insurance is issue but may revisit this in new finance year.</p>	
1.0	<p>Update on existing grant offers</p>	
1.1	<p>Fernhill Farm – work completed on the hydro-geological survey but have yet to have EA approval and submit planning application but from initial report the project is still on. Andrew Wear had visited AONB offices this a.m and confirmed that he would get back to Sarah to update for next meeting on 8th Nov.</p>	
1.2	<p>Pen Hill Bridleway – Jim updated group and showed map of whole route along Mendip Hills. The SDF grant offer required SCC approval of the route but as they had concerns regarding the crossing A39 the grant has not been paid. Angela Yeomans one of the trustees of MCCT has commissioned work by consultant engineer</p>	

<p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p>	<p>to come up with a scheme and this is now for consideration by SCC. As the SDF funding is part of match funding to NE ALSF grant and a new partnership agreement has been drawn up with SCC– Panel agreed to request new application form to revise offer to MCCT.</p> <p>Strawberry Line Cheddar to Wells ecological survey – Tony updated group to say work completed and will chase for invoice to be submitted. The work was to complete sections that were not included in original report as the route had changed since the Sustrans route proposal. The planning application should now be resubmitted in the next couple of months.</p> <p>SW Wood Fuel initiative – promoting scheme and grants for wood fuel boiler. Andy Wear shown interest and me with advisors. Sarah will circulate recent press release with these minutes.</p>	<p>Request new form submitted For Nov meeting</p> <p>Tony to chase invoice</p> <p>Press release to be circulated</p>
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Applications – £19078.75 currently unallocated</p>	
<p>2.1.0</p> <p>2.1.1.</p> <p>2.1.2</p>	<p>Hawk and Owl Trust – 0708–008 Mendip Hills Community Owls project – to help sustain the current small population of Long eared owl through surveying and monitoring suitable habitats, recording breeding activity, providing artificial nest sites and advising landowners. Simon Whitmore declared interest as on board of HOT</p> <p>Rachael Clark had emailed query regarding delivery, liaison with landowners and usefulness of nesting boxes. Jim reported that all results of survey work are British Trust for Ornithology standard and are fed into BRERC. Chris Sperring HOT has contact with landowners and will visit any interested landowner. Agreed that data on this bird would be useful indicator for State of the AONB. Agreed it would be useful to have full national picture of species eg is it moving out of this area, are numbers likely to be affected by climate change.</p> <p>Panel agreed to offer grant of £2516.25 with condition that the group report summary of regional/national picture with local results.</p>	<p>Sarah to draft letter for Chair</p>

<p>2.2.0</p> <p>2.2.1</p> <p>2.2.2</p> <p>2.2.3</p> <p>2.2.4</p>	<p>North Somerset Council Strawberry Line Heritage Trail – access and sculpture project 0708–009 Project to improve 2km of bridleway leading to Trail and creation of sculpture and entrance to railway tunnel interpreting the geology</p> <p>Rachael had emailed to query cost of interpretation and sculpture and requested more detail. The Panel felt that the costs were not unrealistic and until an artist has outlined their proposals with costs the project cannot be expected to provide a breakdown of costs.</p> <p>Jim had concerns as to whether the cost of £15000 was enough upgrading the bridleways as they are in such a poor condition and the nature of the route being situated in a deep cutting that acts as natural drainage to surrounding land. Concerns that unless drainage properly dealt with and good quality surface the upgrade will not be sustainable.</p> <p>The panel agreed that they were supportive of the project and would consider funding at the level requested but need the project to consider the upgrading to a higher specification that might take up the total grant requested. The Panel also wished to know if the art element might be funded by existing match funding.</p> <p>Panel agreed that Andy Mallender be requested to provide additional information and attend next meeting to explain project in more detail.</p>	<p>Sarah to contact Andy Mallender</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th November 10.30am Charterhouse Centre</p>	