

Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting

Wednesday 26th May 2010 10.30am, Charterhouse Centre

Panel members

Present: Nicola Epps(MDC)- Chairman, Sheila Petherbridge, Rachael Clarke, Dr Simon Gardner, Martin Grass, Chris Head (SWAN)

Invitee; John Coote, Hutton Parish Council

Apologies: Rachael Clarke

Mendip Hills AONB Officers present

Sarah Jackson Manager

Item		Actions
1.0	Declarations of interest -none declared	
2.0	Comments received from absent panel members - Chris suggested this is clearly recorded to make it clear that the person is not present. Web site - notes of meeting numbering jumbled on SDF page. Sarah to check <i>(Note: this has since be resolved)</i>	SJ SJ
3.0	Introductions - John Coote responded to publicity for new panel member with ecology/wildlife interest and living in the western part of AONB. John has had a life long interest in natural history and served on the Council of the Pheasant Association. He has also been involved in hotel, restaurant trade and worked in marketing with Whitbread's wine division. John is Chairman of Hutton PC. John was welcomed to the meeting and was asked to contribute along side other panel members on applications. Each panel member introduced themselves and Chris head explained his new role - Community Action has gone replaced by SW Action with Communities in Rural England Network (SWAN) with Chris as Director.	
4.0	Notes of last meeting	
4.1	Skills audit - Nicola to send in her update Sarah will update and re-circulate	NE SJ
4.2	Projects awarded grants - at last meeting we had not assigned Panel members to projects. Agreed that Nicola would be contact for Music on Mendip and would attend event on 5 th July. All were happy with additional information provided by Music on Mendip regarding programme and	NE

	evaluation. Chris would be contact for Blagdon and Compton Martin Pond.	CH
4.3	Nicola had received a reply from Sue Gearing– Seriously Not boring walks and was expected response with an invite to attend a talk at bookshop in Bristol. Nicola had declined invite as not appropriate and had reiterated need to publicise SDF support.	RC
	2009/10 project updates:	
4.4	Rachael had agreed to attend St Hughs service on 30 th June Martin reported that Bristol Exploratory Club having obtained 3 valuations were talking with Hawk and Owl Trust and SWT.	
4.5	Sarah reported that Priddy Village hall are repaying £200 as did not require all the contingency funding.	
4.6	John asked what happens if SDF not spent. Sarah explained that it cannot be claimed from Natural England unless spent but that the AONB is allowed to claim up to 10% of grant fund for admin costs but only done where there has been under spend to ensure AONB draws down max grant. This year the AONB has set aside £6500 for admin as short staffed and is looking at possibility of sharing admin costs with Quantock Hills AONB who are in similar position.	
5.0	Current SDF Fund position is £45580 remaining to be allocated.	
6.0	New Applications	
6.1.0	01011– 07 Waste reuse and outreach project	
6.1.1	Sarah explained that there had been no pre-application discussion.	
6.1.2	Nicola had checked out grant from MDC that was £10,000 last year and £10,000 this yr. The application to SDF appears to make up the short fall in their budget and had made little effort to meet the SDF criteria. There are no clear benefits to the Mendip Hills AONB. There is no reference to local companies in the Mendip Hills who might provide waste and no reference to local groups and how they may benefit from the project. All agreed that Scrapstore is an excellent facility and local resource but does not meet our criteria.	
6.1.3	Application refused	SJ to contact
6.2.0	01011–08 Woolcake	

6.2.1	Agreed that Woolcake required business funding and that SDF should not be the primary funder. Suggested Rural Development Programme for England funding via Regional Development Agency. Sarah to provide contact.	SJ to provide contact with Somerset LAG
6.2.2	Currently two sisters running hobby/business that needs marketing outlets. Martin mentioned Wells Museum have £70,000 funding for feasibility study and the museum are aware of Bishops Barn, Wells as a potential temp exhibition place/retail outlet. Just the sort of place that Woolcake could market/sell its products.	
6.2.3	The Panel were not clear on how and when farmers would benefit from business as currently proposed and no detail on proposed cooperative.	
6.2.4	Application refused	
6.3.0	01011-09 Archaeological Interpretation	SJ to inform
6.3.1	All agreed an interesting project but concerned on lack of partners and plans for continuation of the work after the event in July.	
6.3.2	There was also concern that for such an expensive event to stage there was to be no entrance charge and no marketing plan yet event only 2 months away.	
6.3.3	Question was also raised about timing of the event as it would not be dark until 9.30pm, therefore possibly would fail to attract family audience.	
6.3.4	Application refused	
7.0	Promotion of SDF to potential applicants Agreed all to promote fund. Sarah to produce press release and include reference to SDF in next email update sent to all parishes amongst other partners.	All SJ
8.0	Date of next meeting 21st July 2010 10.30 Charterhouse Centre	All