



## MENDIP HILLS FUND - GUIDELINES

Grants or loans will be awarded to support community and voluntary groups working in the following areas:

- **Conservation and enhancement of the landscape** – activities could include landscape conservation grants to community groups and, in exceptional circumstances, landowners or land managers for:
  - Conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (as identified in the Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan) and the Mendip Hills NCA
  - Maintenance and management of natural features including coppicing, tree and hedgerow planting, pond restoration, grassland and wetland management and heathland conservation
  - Maintenance and management of historic features including viewpoints, former industrial sites, dry stone walls and historic settlements or buildings
  - Equipment to undertake conservation activities
  
- **Promoting public understanding and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills**, including:
  - Education visits and activities
  - Information and interpretation projects, eg notice boards, walking leaflets, websites, public transport promotion etc
  - Outreach projects, eg targeting disadvantaged groups
  
- **Supporting the social and economic wellbeing of the Mendip Hills.** Activities could include grants or loans to local communities for:
  - Enhancing community facilities, eg village halls
  - Start-up costs for new social enterprises, eg farm shops, local food initiatives
  - Community enterprises, eg village shops, village play schemes

**The Fund particularly welcomes projects that:**

- Demonstrate innovation or best practice;
- link community, economy, culture and environment;
- develop skills and 'capacity building' in the community;
- involve young people or older people;
- combat social exclusion and promote diversity;
- bring organisations and people together to cooperate in tackling problems or promoting new ideas;
- encourage links between rural and urban groups;
- lever in contributions from other sources;
- have little access to alternative public funding;
- add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects.

***Finally***

If you have any queries about any aspect of the application form or the Mendip Hills Fund, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01749 344949 or e-mail [kirsty.campbell@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.campbell@somersetcf.org.uk)