

Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 19 September 2016

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND – UPDATE FOR STEERING GROUP

The AONB Team operate a small grant scheme - The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) – using funding provided by Welsh Government.

The aim of the fund is to support innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involve local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

The SDF aims through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in countryside of great natural beauty and diversity. The scheme will seek to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community. Sustaining the social well-being and economic viability of communities are also important aims of this scheme.

Applications can be for small grants of less than £3,000 or larger grants of up to £25,000. Applications over £3,000 are assessed by the SDF Grants Panel, which is a subgroup of the AONB Partnership Steering Group.

Report for 2016/17 to date

This year, the budget for the fund is £55,000. There are currently 15 projects being funded, with a further 4 applications either anticipated or under assessment. Currently £3,131.52 is uncommitted for 2016/17, but it is likely that this will be fully committed by the end of October.

The Committed Funds figure includes a CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 48,118.48
Under Commitment	£ 3,131.52
Pending Applications	£ 3,000.00

Projection for 2017/18

The budget for 2017/18 will not be confirmed until March/April 2017, however, there are 4 projects currently being funded for 2017/18, with 2 applications under assessment, and 3 more anticipated within the next 2 months.

A budget of £48,600 is anticipated, with £25,670 currently committed, and applications valued at £20,600 anticipated – it is likely that the fund will be fully committed ahead of 2017/18.

Mike Scott,
12th September 2016