

Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 27 March 2017

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

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 seeks 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 were also important aims of this scheme.

Applications are 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.

Funding for 2016/17

Welsh Government had provided £55,000 for 2016/17, with an additional £15,000 confirmed in March 2017. These funds have now been spent, and the funding re-claimed from Welsh Government.

A total of 20 projects were funded by the SDF scheme during 2016/17, with a CCS Management Fee of £5,500.

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| Total Funds available | £ 70,000.00 |
| Committed Funds | £ 70,003.98 |
| Uncommitted Funds | - £ 3.98 |
| Applications in progress | £ 0.00 |

Funding for 2017/18

Welsh Government have not yet confirmed the SDF budget for 2017/18, but have verbally indicated that it will be £55,000.

There are currently 8 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with a further 3 applications in progress.

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

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| Total Funds available | £ 55,000.00 |
| Committed Funds | £ 31,410.00 |
| Uncommitted Funds | £ 23,590.00 |
| Applications in progress | £ 4,800.00 |

SDF Grants Panel

The grants panel meets quarterly to consider applications. The proposed dates for 2017/18 are:

- 12th June 2017
- 11th September 2017 (training session)
- 11th December 2017
- 12th March 2018

**Mike Scott,
15 March 2017**