

## **Report of the Gower AONB Officer**

### **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 September 2017**

#### **Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) – Selection of SDF Grants Panel and SDF Appeal Panel**

The aim of the Sustainable Development Fund is to support innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involve local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The funding is provided by Welsh Government.

The AONB Steering Group will nominate the following sub-groups to oversee the grant scheme:

**a) Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Grants Panel.**

- This panel will decide on grant applications to the SDF from funding obtained from the Welsh Government. It will determine how best to use that funding, and will operate an appeals process when considering how funding should be spent.
- This panel will comprise the Chair of the Development Management & Control Committee (who will act as Chair) and seven other members of the AONB Partnership.
- The panel will be supported by the AONB Officer, and a representative from NRW, as observers.

**b) The SDF Grants Appeals Panel**

- This Panel will handle disputes on how funding should be spent and will decide on appeals for grant applications refused by the SDF Grants Panel.
- The SDF Appeals Panel will comprise the Vice Chair of the Steering Group (who will act as Chair of the SDF Appeal Panel) and seven other members of the AONB Partnership that do not already sit on the SDF Grant Panel.
- The panel will be supported by the AONB Officer, and a representative from NRW, as observers.

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

- 9th October 2017 (training session)
- 11th December 2017
- 12th March 2018

Mike Scott  
Gower AONB Officer  
15 September 2017