

Gower AONB - Additional Welsh Government Funding 2019/20 Project Outlines

Following an inquiry from Welsh Government, the following projects were highlighted, based upon a site visit by WG staff.

- Gower Off-road cycle route. You may recall we talked about this on your visit. This project will develop and promote a network of bridleways as a way of enjoying the countryside by bike. The network will enable visitors to explore large areas of Gower AONB by bicycle and it crosses much of the landscape including the high points of all the major hills. Swansea Council will deliver the project by undertaking the physical works, legal processes and organise promotion of the network. Swansea Council will be responsible for maintenance of the network once completed. The breakdown of works is as follows:
 - Waymarking and signposts - £ 6 500
 - Promotion - £ 1 500
 - Legal orders and Landowner compensation - £18 000
 - Staff time (match funding) - £ 8 000
 - **TOTAL GRANT SOUGHT - £26 000**

(This project will not be creating new routes, but will concentrate on enabling existing bridleways to be used as a network for off-road cycling.)

- Coeden Fach Native Tree Nursery – Coeden Fach is a community tree nursery growing native species of trees and hedgerow plants from locally collected seeds in an environmentally friendly way. Working with volunteers and disadvantaged groups from all over Gower and Swansea, the Nursery provides therapeutic gardening and growing sessions to promote physical and mental health, well-being and self-esteem as well as providing new experiences and transferable skills which can improve employment prospects. The Nursery works with Swansea Council to plant large numbers of local provenance trees in community areas to re-establish or add to the tree canopy and improve wildlife corridors and connectivity. Coeden Fach was set up in their current site (Bishopston) with SDF funding almost 10 years ago; they are now about to move to a new larger site (in Clyne Gardens) enabling them to grow trees in much greater numbers. Coeden Fach has already attracted funding to support this move and work with volunteers at the new site. Currently the site is a grassed area with a water supply but no other facilities. Welsh Government funding of £10k would enable Coeden Fach to erect a polytunnel to increase the number of saplings that can be grown, and would also allow the purchase of essential equipment for site establishment and maintenance.
 - **TOTAL GRANT SOUGHT - £10 000**

- Walling – following on from the Mewslade Wall project, the AONB has established a follow up project with the National Trust and the Gower Society to fund a three-year drystone wall restoration programme in the Rhossili/Middleton area. The walls and field patterns are a fundamental component of the landscape character and historic landscape in this part of the AONB. Welsh Government funding of £5k in this financial year would enable additional capital restoration works to be included in the programme.

- **TOTAL GRANT SOUGHT - £5 000**

- Nitten Field – you will remember our walk around this field with the slow-worms a few weeks ago. The field habitat is in good condition, but the fencing (required to keep the sheep in the field when they graze it in Spring) is 15 years old and needs replacing before next spring. 460m of post and wire netting fencing at Glastir standard rate of £3.48/m is £1600.80. The fencing will enable the continued habitat management of the site.

- **TOTAL GRANT SOUGHT - £1600.80**

- Cwmlwyl Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – access improvement works. Please note that this is a project to improve access to the countryside, but it is in an LNR approximately 2km outside of the AONB. The works would be completed by contractors on behalf of Swansea Council, comprising:

- New plastic boardwalk - £ 19 300
- New plastic steps (135m of step fronts) - £ 5 271
- Timber LNR entrance signs -£ 1 500
- 3 no. Oak benches -£ 1 500
- 2no. Interpretation panels -£ 4 000
- **TOTAL GRANT SOUGHT - £31 571**

- **Project Summary**

Project	Cost (£)
Gower Off-road Cycle Route	£26,000.00
Coeden Fach Native Tree Nursery	£10,000.00
Gower Walling Project	£5,000.00
Nitten Field	£1,600.80
Cwmlwyl LNR	£31,571.00
Total	£74,171.80