

Note of SDF Grant panel meeting held on Friday 8th February 2008

Present: Joyce Lynch, Jack Ellerby, Peter Goulder, Colin Patrick, Ian Henderson and Barbara Henneberry

1. Apologies

Bill Grayson
Colin Peacock
Craig Russell

2. Financial update

Copies of a detailed spreadsheet, were tabled. These showed a total of grants awarded and administration costs incurred of £68,584. This leaves a balance of £1,416.

The AONB Manager advised members that whilst there was no guarantee that the fund would continue into 2008/9, an application had been submitted to Natural England for £100k.

3. Update on current projects

- a. **Bittern Bus** – meeting to be held with Lancs CC and RSPB on 19th February. IEH has attended CARP meetings. We know there have been problems with the bus drivers and despite repeating our offer on numerous occasions to teach the drivers about the AONB, no progress has been made.
- b. **Bittern Country DVD** – Almost finished. IEH has worked closely with Chris Abram on the script.
- c. **Arnside Educational Institute** – work due to commence 18th February
- d. **Climate Change Advice Centre** – appear to be very active with 13 dates planned between January and March around the area (though not in the AONB). They have also launched a new initiative promoting local food.
- e. **Conservation Grazing apprenticeship** – Ruth Dalton started at the beginning of October, working 4 days a week on the practical side and attending college every Tuesday. Have chased Cumbria Wildlife Trust to submit invoice.
- f. **Morecambe Bay safety leaflet** – project completed and a claim submitted for £171 against grant of £600. Wrote to the school 29th January to ask if they have developed the Project as proposed. Final claim?
- g. **Local Recipe book** – see separate Agenda item.
- h. **Conservation Growing Skills** – see report from Sabrina
Action: BH to circulate to members
- i. **Hedgelaying** – successful competition held on 17th November. 25 competitors took part. Project complete.
- j. **Age before Beauty** – meeting held with Zena Whitworth (Age Concern's project Officer). Very enthusiastic. Has had a good response

from initial enquiries. Working with volunteers from Lancaster University. First visit to the AONB is planned for Saturday 15th March

4. AONB Recipe Book Revised application

The AONB Manager explained that the original applicant wished to pull out of the project for personal reasons and so the Bittern Countryside CIC had stepped in and put together a revised bid, building on the work already done but taking it a step further to move to a web-based project

Members agreed to the revised bid and confirmed a grant of £8350.

** This is £1300 less than originally agreed and will mean an increase in the balance of the fund available for allocation to new projects.*

5. Wheely Good Communities Project Ideas Form

Comments

- a. The application is to develop the Project in 2008/9 but maybe we could help with capital items in this financial year
- b. Would like to see the expansion of the project into the whole of the AONB
- c. Agreed in principle to supporting the Project.
- d. The AONB Manager was asked to talk to the applicant to obtain further information and complete a full application if applicable. It was agreed that the panel should then be consulted via e-mail.

6. Any other business

- a. The AONB Manager advised members that RSPB may be submitting an application for funding to help with architect's drawings re the installation of a woodfuel boiler at Leighton Moss. Again, the panel requested that they be consulted by e-mail.
- b. Jack Ellerby confirmed that a meeting had been set up with other AONBs and National Parks to discuss renewable energy funding, sustainability criteria and best practice. It was agreed that the AONB Manager and Joyce Lynch would represent Arnside & Silverdale and Barbara Henneberry would attend in an administrative capacity.

7. Presentation

The AONB Manager gave a brief powerpoint presentation covering the projects which have received support through the fund over the last 2 years.

It was suggested that local estate agents be contacted with a view to giving out our leaflets (The Bittern and Gardening for Natural Beauty) and free low-energy light bulbs to people moving to the area.

Action: AONB Administrator to contact local estate agents.