

Note of SDF Grant panel meeting held on Friday 30th November 2007

Present: Joyce Lynch, Jack Ellerby, Peter Goulder, Colin Peacock, Bill Grayson, Ian Henderson and Barbara Henneberry

1. Apologies

Colin Patrick
Craig Russell
Val Histed

2. Financial update

Copies of a summary of agreed projects, together with a detailed spreadsheet, were tabled. These showed a total of grants awarded and administration costs incurred of £63,316. (To date £17,069 has been claimed.) This leaves a balance of £6,684.

3. Update on current projects

- a. Bittern Bus – numbers of passengers have increased but are not yet at sustainable levels. CARP Ltd are being encouraged to take a more proactive approach to marketing the service.
- b. Bittern Country DVD – Most of the filming has now been done. IEH has helped with the script.
- c. Arnside Educational Institute – see item 5.
- d. Climate Change Advice Centre – meeting many of their targets. Attended Apple Day, coffee morning and Arnside Village market. Have submitted an interim report with claim.
- 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.
- f. Morecambe Bay safety leaflet – project completed and a claim submitted for £171 against grant of £600. Have suggested they run another workshop to use up the grant. Panel members would like to see them run a workshop for other primary schools in the Area.
- g. Local Recipe book – making progress. Recipes have been collected and now looking to quotes from designers/printers.
- h. Conservation Growing Skills – led very enthusiastically by Sabrina, there have already been several visits by the group to the AONB. Usually 8 – 12 participants each time.
- i. Hedgelaying – successful competition held on 17th November. 25 competitors took part.

4. Age before Beauty application

Comments

- a. Concerns re ‘development’. Will it continue beyond pilot? Are participants just to be given a taster and then expected to come back on their own?
Yes, definite plans to continue and develop. Hope initial visits will be popular and then the scheme will open up to a wider audience on recommendation. Many benefits re cultural aspect. (JL)

- b. Suggest schoolchildren get involved.
JL will feed this suggestion into the project development
- c. Should be sustainable as once the project is up and running it should attract funding from other sources.
- d. Publicity/marketing costs seem high. Can these be reduced and an equivalent amount spent on outputs – recording of conversations/memories etc.
- e. Agreed - £2195

5. Request for additional funding from Arnside Educational Institute

Comments

- a. Project may not go ahead without the additional £3,000
- b. Still only 35% of total costs
- c. Agreed to increase in grant offer to £9500 but should get added value for extra money – ask for report on the ‘whole experience’.

Should there be a ceiling for future renewable energy applications?

- d. The grant panel decided against this
- e. JE advised members that the LDNP is hopefully to get a Renewable Energy Fund through the Development Agency next year. It was suggested that we try to arrange a meeting with Richard Leaf and other AONBs to establish a coordinated approach. FLD will also have £20k for renewable energy schemes.

Action: Administrator to contact Richard Leaf

- f. Thought worthwhile to share best practice with other SDF grant panels.

Action: JE to arrange meeting

6. Any other business

It was pointed out that after today’s decisions, the fund’s remaining balance for allocation stands at £1,489.

7. Date of next meeting

Friday 8th February 2008 at 3pm at the AONB Office