

Summary of applications considered electronically by SDF Grant Panel
February 2007

Reference: 8/09/2006

Applicant: Beaumont College

Scheme Name: All Terrain Access Project

Outline:

The College is run by the charity Scope working with disabled people. We cater for residential and day students aged between 16 – 25 years with cerebral palsy and associated difficulties. The majority of our students have mobility problems and have to use a wheelchair. There are a variety of wheelchair designs to suit individuals. We want to purchase a number of all terrain wheelchairs that can have a general use and allow our students greater choice in where we can take them for outdoor activities - the ability of the proposed units allowing use both indoors and in "4x4" mode is an essential feature to allow use in college and out in the countryside. The project will allow the purchase of a number of all terrain wheelchairs, 2 manual and 1

These will be used to open up sites within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that so far have been inaccessible to our students. Students from Beaumont College have been visiting sites with the AONB for many years, enjoying access to the countryside, but in a restricted and limited manner. The ability to venture further afield, away from made paths, using the all terrain wheelchairs will increase their enjoyment and give enhanced opportunities for developing a greater understanding of the natural beauty of the countryside they access. Chairs will be available for use at Leighton Moss by the public on pre-booking with RSPB.

Expenditure:

2006/07	COST	VAT
Equipment costs:	£ 12,000	
Volunteer expenses/costs:		
Training costs:		
Other costs: <small>state what they are</small>		
Total cost of Project:	£ 12,000	

Requested funding: £9,000 – 75%

Decision: **Deferred** – further clarification required

Comment: The Panel wished to have more information on how implementation will be carried forward. The application did not include much detail of partners and of opportunities to involve the AONB Unit. The AONB Officer was asked to seek clarification on these issues. The level of support asked for was 75% which was considered too high in this case.

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Reference: 12/02/2007

Applicant: ASAONB Business Forum / AONB Service
Scheme Name: Visit Bittern Interactive webmap and leaflet
Outline:

The leaflet – produced in 2006 was a development of the existing AONB map as an A2 folding leaflet to feature walks, sustainable transport, visitor attractions and tourist businesses. The aim was to provide visitors with the information they need to organise days out within the AONB. The reprinted version will build on the success of the previous leaflet and will provide effective links to both the official AONB and the Visit Bittern websites. Both websites will be further developed, expanded and a considerable amount of interactivity built in the sites, particular the AONB map and guide based on the map printed in the leaflet, which will be added to the site. An initial print run of 30,000 is envisaged as strong demand for last years leaflet and all copies were gone before the end of the year with a print run of 20,000.

The project will provide a leaflet incorporating a map distributed at:

- visitor sites and on public transport within the AONB
- Cumbria & Lancashire Tourist Information sites
- AONB unit office

This will compliment the improved, interactive features of the Visit Bittern website, which will be added as part of this Project.

Expenditure:

Staff/contractor costs:	£ 800	
Volunteer expenses/costs:	£ 600	
Purchase of goods/equipment:	£ 2,673	
Other costs: – state what they are		
Distribution	£ 101	
Total cost of Project:	£ 4,174	

Requested funding: £ 960 - 23%

Decision: **Approved**

Comment: There were some reservations about funding the reprinting of a leaflet, especially one that has received previous funding. The leaflet would also be put on the website to be downloaded by users. One Panel member had found this to be a very informative and useful leaflet - especially as a 'hard copy and strongly supported the additional expenditure. Some of the Panel felt that while reprinting could be seen as mainstream AONB (and Lancs County) work, if SDF had had the fund confirmed for several years then we would probably have grant aided, not only the initial leaflet, but follow up reprints too. It was felt that the sums involved were small and offered good value.

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Reference: 03/03/2007

Applicant: Beetham CE Primary School

Scheme Name: Organic Vegetable Garden

Outline:

To develop two raised beds for growing organic fruit and vegetables in the school grounds. Capital funding is required for purchase of equipment and materials and contractors time, all of which will be spent by 31st March 2007.

We hope that through this project we will be able to teach the children about how to grow food crops using organic methods and the benefits that this has for the environment.

Children will learn about mini-beasts and companion planting and will develop their understanding of how plants grow and reproduce.

All pupils and staff will benefit from this project and also the local community. We are hoping as a result of our work during lesson times to extend this to an after school gardening club for parents and members of the village community, who will also be trained in the organic gardening methods. Other activities would include plant and seed swaps, plant sales and shared meals produced with some of our own produce.

Expenditure:

2006/07	Cost	VAT
Staff/contractor costs:	£ 650	
Volunteer expenses/costs:	£1,340	
Training costs:	£ 200	
Purchase of goods/equipment:	£1,100	
Total cost of Project:	£3,290	

Requested funding: £ 2,150 - 65.35%

Decision: **Approved**

Comment: One member of the panel raised an issue regarding the cost of materials for this project – however it had not been clear that the bulk of the cost was associated with the volunteer input and the actual material costs were quite reasonable. This application attracted wide support from all the panel and was unanimously approved. It was noted that the applicant had very little time to allow finding other sources of match funding leading to almost total reliance on the SDF Programme.

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February 2007

Reference: 8/12/2006

Applicant: AONB Service/Lancs County and Lancaster City Councils
Scheme Name: ASAONB Cycle Touring Leaflet

Outline:

The Cycle and See leaflet was a project part financed by the County Council and a range of other partners - with a 50% grant from the AONB SDF programme. The Leaflet has been very well received and demand for copies has been high. The costs of this project are only for re-printing as no redesign/amends are required.

By asking for a small grant from SDF we will be able to reprint more than double the quantity of leaflets than would have been possible just from County funds at this time. The County will take and distribute half the 7000 print run and the AONB unit will distribute the other half.

Expenditure:

2006/07	COST	VAT
Purchase of goods/equipment:	£ 1059	
Total cost of Project:	£ 1059	

Requested funding: £ 290 - 27.38%

Decision: **Approved under delegated rules –**

Comment: Decision by Andrew Dobson (Head of Planning) Lancaster City Council, under the delegated powers arrangements. Applicant notified of outcome prior to meeting of panel. Panel confirmed level of funding – noting it to be below normal minimum agreed.