

SDF GRANT ASSESSMENT PANEL
24th February, 2012

Present: Councillor M Williams (Chairman)
Councillors RM Lewis and T Brinsden; Mmes A Robinson, C Daugherty, V Moller, W Marmara, S Hughes and Messrs D Ellis, R Smith and DP Lloyd.

(National Park Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00a.m. – 14.15p.m.)

1. Appointment of Chairman

It was reported that the Chairman, Mr E A Sangster, was unable to attend the meeting.

In view of the fact that the Panel's Vice-Chairman, Councillor RM Lewis, was directly involved with one of the projects under consideration that day and would, therefore, be withdrawing from the meeting altogether, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor M Williams be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr EA Sangster, Mr G Thomas and Councillor H George.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd November, 2011 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd November, 2011 be confirmed and signed subject to:

- a. The date of the meeting being corrected to 23rd November, 2011.
- b. Ms S Hughes (Planned) being included on the list of those present at the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interest

Councillor RM Lewis declared an interest in project SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project as he was the Project Manager for the proposal. As such, he would not take part in any discussions on any of the projects under consideration that day and he withdrew from the meeting altogether.

Ms W Marmara declared an interest in project SDF 0315 - Martletwy Sustainable Community Project and left the meeting while the matter was discussed.

5. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

It was reported that there would be £93,941.11 of uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year even if two projects which were requesting funding in the current financial year were approved. The figure also included £54,727 of funding which had previously been allocated to Newport Memorial Hall for spend during the financial year. Newport Memorial Hall was unsuccessful in attempts to secure match funding for their project and were unable to submit

further funding applications. As a result the SDF Administrator had been notified of a fundamental change to the project. A local private investor had provided capital which would allow the scheme to commence whilst the outcome of further funding applications and full planning permission were awaited. A thorough revised financial profile had been submitted. The amount of funding required had been slightly less than originally approved but the intervention rate had increased to above 50%. Guidelines permitted the normal rate of 50% to be increased up to 75% for voluntary and community groups however any projects funded in excess of the 50% rate had to be reported to the Welsh Government. It was proposed that we continue to support the project. Panel members were requested to advise the SDF Administrator if they felt that we should not continue to provide support and the reason why. If support is continued the balance of uncommitted funding would reduce accordingly.

The financial year had seen continued financial fluctuation and uncertainty which had an unavoidable effect upon SDF financial administration. Changes in Government Policy relating to the Feed In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentives and the associated consequences had adversely affected three projects – The People’s Power Station, Wildfuels and Newport Community Energy Project. The high value project Prototype Far Offshore Floating Wind Turbine had also terminated during the year because the project was unable to secure the significant shortfall in match funding, or a local construction site. The figures presented had taken into account all money previously committed that had subsequently been repaid and any revised project financial forecast.

SDF funding had been confirmed for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14, which meant that sufficient funding would be available if the five applications seeking funding in those years received approval. One project had sought funding into the 2014/15 financial year but no SDF funding had been guaranteed in advance. If this project were to receive approval for three years including 2014/15 it would have had to be subject to the availability of funding for the final year.

54% of revised funding commitments for the financial year had been paid out to date.

With regard to the Little Green Grant scheme, nine applications had been received and considered for funding in 2011/12. Five had been approved, one deferred, one withdrawn and two rejected.

It was **AGREED** that the report of the SDF Administrator be adopted.

6. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

Two applications, which were presented at the last Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Assessment Panel meeting in November 2011 had been re-submitted for further consideration - SDF0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project (LMN 2000) which was previously deferred and SDF0312 – Low Carbon Cook-Off (Eco Centre Wales) which was previously rejected.

The Assessment Panel considered six new applications for funding together with the above mentioned resubmitted projects under the Sustainable Development Fund. The applications were considered in detail against Welsh Government and Panel criteria, following a brief presentation by five of the project applicants.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF 0316	Wise up on Waste	Martin Lewis	Darwin Centre
SDF 0317	Green Apple Cross	John Hargreaves and Frederick Luckman	Green Apple Cross
SDF 0318	Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	Richard Hammond	Greentraveller
SDF 0319	ReFarm	Jake Hollyfield	Eco Centre Wales (ECW)
SDF 0320	Woodlands and Wetlands Project	No presentation given	Pembroke 21C, Community Interest Company (CIC)
SDF 0321	Mobile Application and Integrated Web Interface for recording Dragonflies	Colin Russell	West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC)

It was **AGREED** that the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) be recommended to approve:

- a) **SDF 0316 Wise Up On Waste.** It was felt that this was a very innovative project which had found a successful way to get young people involved with waste awareness.
- b) **SDF 0317 – Green Apple Cross.** It was felt that this was a good way to encourage children to grow their own produce and provide them with the land on which to do this. The grant was conditional upon educational groups being allowed to use the land and evidence of this being provided. The grant, which was specifically for the education part of the wider Green Apple Cross project would require the usual reports to the SDF Administrator to include evidence of which groups, educational or otherwise attend the site to use the land. The Project Manager/Owner was also advised to seek advice to ensure that he did not inadvertently fall foul of any child protection requirements, checks or compulsory training requirements. If required, contact details would be provided to assist with this.

- c) **SDF 0318 – Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park** as it was felt that this project could be hugely beneficial to tourism in Pembrokeshire. The funding was granted on condition that Greentraveller make contact with outside organisations who could help supply them with information on local business contacts.
- d) **SDF 0319 – ReFarm.** This grant was issued on condition that they did not duplicate work done by Farming Connect and also that the project be reviewed after its first year prior to funding being granted for the second year.
- e) **SDF 0320 – Woodlands and Wetlands Project:** Grant was awarded subject to a correction being made to the income figures supplied.
- f) **SDF 0321 – Mobile Application and Integrated Web Interface for Recording Dragonflies.** Grant awarded as it was felt that it was a useful device to attract younger people to record data using the latest technology.
- g) **SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project.** Grant was awarded but at the reduced intervention rate of 50%. It was felt that the project should be supported but the costs supplied were high and therefore the community should seek other sources of funding to reduce complete reliance on SDF and demonstrate their commitment to the long term vision.

It was further **AGREED** that the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) be recommended to refuse:

- a) **SDF 0312 Low Carbon Cook Off** as it was felt that, despite the reduction in scale of the project proposal, the sum of money required still did not represent good value for money for the stated outputs. The project proposal had not fundamentally changed to satisfactorily allay the previously stated concerns.