Sustainable Development Fund Committee

16th January 2013

**REPORT OF SDF ADMINISTRATOR**

**SUBJECT:**

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE REPORT

## Project Applications

**There are five new applications for consideration:**

**SDF 0326** **–** Wyndrush Wild Meadow Seed (Wyndrush Wild Products)

This project seeks funding to purchase specialist seed harvesting equipment that will assist other land owners to restore flower-rich hay meadows and adopt more traditional ecological management of their land. Funding is sought in the 2012/13 financial year. Any grant assistance approved for this project may constitute State aid as defined under Articles 87 and 88 of The Treaty of Rome and would therefore be offered as ‘de minimus’ aid under the Commission Regulation EC/69/2001.

**SDF 0327 –** Affordable Solar Home (Western Solar Ltd)

This project seeks funding to research, develop and build a working prototype of a solar powered two storey 100sqm home to level 4/5 of the sustainability code at under £50,000. Funding is sought over two (2012/13 and 2013/14) financial years. Any grant assistance approved for this project may constitute State aid as defined under Articles 87 and 88 of The Treaty of Rome and would therefore be offered as ‘de minimus’ aid under the Commission Regulation EC/69/2001.

**SDF0328 –** Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project 2013 (St Dogmaels Community Association)

This project seeks funding in the 2013/14 financial year to undertake additional and follow on work, to realise even greater success in their attempts to eradicate the invasive species Himalayan Balsam from a 30 acre area on Cemaes Head.

**SDF 0329** **–** eduCAT (TYF Connect)

This project seeks funding to deliver an education project, based on sustainability challenges, into the County’s secondary schools. It is a three year project but funding is sought over four financial years (2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16).

**SDF 0329** **–** Cardigan Community Regeneration Options Appraisal Study (4CG Ltd)

This project seeks funding for a feasibility study and fully business planned options appraisal exercise to determine how they can best deliver commercially viable sustainable development. Funding is sought in the 2013/14 financial year.

Project summaries of the five projects above, together with the full applications and supporting documentation are provided in the meeting pack.

## Ongoing Project Delay

**SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project**

The community group ‘LMN 2000’ are developing and investigating the feasibility of a project to deliver affordable sustainable housing, a community facility, a market garden run by a social enterprise and an energy centre comprised of a combined heat and electricity biomass boiler. SDF funding was requested for a comprehensive feasibility study to include an in depth energy analysis, business plan, full plan drawings and planning permission for the proposed development on an identified seven acre site on the outskirts of the village of Martletwy. Funding was sought at an intervention rate of 90% on the grounds of exceptional circumstances. After initially deferring the project application to enable the applicant to demonstrate wider community support the project was approved but at an intervention rate of 50%. The project has therefore not commenced because the community is still trying to secure the shortfall in funding necessary to allow the study to proceed. The £14,941 of committed SDF funding was therefore not spent before the end of the 2011/12 financial year and to date it appears highly unlikely that it will be spent this financial year either, therefore releasing it so that it becomes available for other projects. The SDF Administrator is currently awaiting feedback on the outcome of meetings that the group have held with a local business enterprise.

## SDF Annual Report to Welsh Government for 2011/12

The annual SDF report to the Welsh Government detailed progress of the fund from April 2011 to March 2012.

£202,653 was paid out to support 21 projects, which delivered a variety of sustainability objectives for the benefit of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and its communities, also contributing to the Welsh Government’s vision of a sustainable Wales.

The following summarises fund activity, including the Little Green Grant (LGG) (SDF grants of £1,500 or less):

* 25 applications for SDF funding were received (13 SDF and 12 LGG)
* 21 projects (including 6 LGG) were supported
* 11 projects (5 SDF projects and 6 LGG) were completed
* 2 SDF projects were delayed
* 1 project terminated
* 3 projects ended the financial year with a balance surplus
* 3 SDF projects had an intervention rate >50%
* £202,653.13 (including £6,824.95 to LGGs) funding was paid to projects
* £117,442.2 (including £5,188 from LGG) of cash match funding was achieved
* £103,881.39 (including £1,000 from LGG) of In-kind/ voluntary contributions were received
* The ratio of levered in funds was 1:1.1 with SDF contributing 48% of total project costs
* Personnel time accounted for 46% of in-kind contributions

At the end of the year there was a balance of £121,275. Changes in Government Policy, shortfalls in match funding, and consequent inevitable project delays caused considerable uncertainty and fluctuations in the finances of a small number of medium to high value projects. This had an impact upon financial planning, which resulted in this underspend of committed funds.

Project and scheme evaluation acknowledged the many values and benefits of the fund. These include the relative simplicity of the applications and claims process, the ability to support more risky but truly innovative and developmental projects, flexibility and ongoing help and assistance throughout the project lifetime. The wide range of projects supported, which would not have been possible without SDF funding, show sustainable development in action, allowing best practice to be shared for wider benefit.

Copies of the full report are available upon request.

## National Sustainable Development Workgroup Meeting

The two day National Sustainable Development Workgroup meeting took place in the Yorkshire Dales National Park during November 2012. The group is chaired by Aneurin Phillips, Chief Executive of Snowdonia National Park. PCNPA SDF Administrator did not attend the meeting due to its location and consequent time that would have had to be taken out of the office in order to attend, but from feedback and meeting notes the main points of interest are as follows:-

* The Terms of Reference of the group are to be updated to reflect changes to the way in which the English Parks deliver sustainable development funding. These changes have been driven by significant changes to National Park Finances in England, with some Parks now operating merged funding pots and allocating dedicated amounts of money to sustainable development.
* Following a review of the work and function of the group, the scope and remit will change to reflect the wider range of sustainable development activity beyond the SDF.
* An update from the Head of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Defra highlighted Defra’s position as keen to support economic growth
* English National Park Authorities are currently carefully scrutinising the Growth Infrastructure Bill because under clause 7 it is proposed that the statutory duty to pay regard to the protected areas is lifted for a period of five years.
* There is a proposal to put together a fact sheet on each of eth English Parks, covering social, economic and environmental development and how each area contributes to the national economy. In Wales we are about to start an investigation into the economic value of the National Parks.

## SDF Surgery

Thanks to the generous offer of support from PAVS, there is an SDF funding surgery planned on 6th February 2013

## SDF Financial position

The table below shows that the five applications under consideration are requesting £137,076.08 of funding in total but spread over four financial years.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Reference** | **Planned 12-13****(£)** | **Planned13-14****(£)** | **Planned14-15****(£)** | **Planned 15-16****(£)** |
| SDF 0326 | 7,135.20 |  |  |  |
| SDF 0327 | 8,000.00 | 39,000.00 |  |  |
| SDF 0328 |  | 13,670.00 |  |  |
| SDF 0329 | 4,659.32 | 20,316.80 | 20,316.80 | 13,977.96 |
| SDF 0330 |  | 10,000.00 |  |  |
| **Total** | **19,794.52** | **82,986.80** | **20,316.80** | **13,977.96** |

The table below gives a summary financial position to date for this (2012-13) financial year:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2011/12****(£)** | **2012/13** **(£)** | **2013/14****(£)** | **2014/15****(£)** |
| WAG SDF grant | 208,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |  |
| Funding carried forward from  | 95,688.86 | 121,274.76 |  |  |
| Total Funding available  | 303,688.86 | 321,274.76 |  |  |
| Small Grant (Little Green Grant) commitment | 6,824.95 | 6,000 |  |  |
| SDF Admin costs | 37,500 | 0.00 | 0.00 |  |
| Total committed Project spend | 201,297.15 | 225,969.96 | 51,122.45 |  |
| Projects for consideration  |  | 19,794.52 | 82,986.80 | 20,316.80 |
| Total paid to Projects | 195,828.18 | 107,398.64\* |  |  |
| Refund | 57,739.03 |  |  |  |
| Balance/Uncommitted funding | 121,274.76 | 69,510.28 |  |  |

\*To date 18/12/12

The table shows that there would still be £69,510.28 of uncommitted funding at the end of this financial year, if the three projects under consideration by the SDF Committee that are requesting funding for 2012/13 are approved. This figure also assumes that all the funding already committed will be claimed and paid but as mentioned previously it now looks extremely unlikely that Martletwy Sustainable Community Project will spend the £14,941 committed to it. This means that the amount of uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year may therefore be as much as £84,451.

The table also shows that there is already £51,122.45 of funding committed to projects in 2013/14 and this figure would rise to £134,109.25 if the projects under consideration are approved. Potentially there are five new project applications that may be submitted for consideration at the SDF Committee in May 2013.

SDF funding is confirmed for next financial year (2013/14), which means that sufficient funding will be available if the four applications seeking funding in these years receive approval. One project is also requesting funding for a further two financial years and therefore any approval would have to be subject to the availability of funds allocated from the Welsh Government.

To date this financial year 47.5% of the total committed project spend has been paid out to projects (excluding Little Green Grant).

A more detailed breakdown of the current financial position can be viewed in Annex 1

## Little Green Grant – Funding for a sustainable Pembrokeshire

The **Little Green Grant (LGG)** helps to deliver the fundamental principles of the SDF. Applicants may apply for up to £1,500 towards a project. The grant is administered by Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS).

To date six applications have been considered and three awarded funding in 2012/13.

The following table provides summary detail of the three projects that have to date received support in 2012/13:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Project Title | Applicant | Project Description | Funding(£) |
| LG27 | Talks/Workshops | Quiet Earth Association | To deliver 6 talks and workshops at 3 different locations on a range of sustainability topics, for example low impact building and off grid living, GM engineering, biodynamic farming, creating a forest garden and wild food foraging and medicinal herbs | 1,050 |
| LG 28 | Hoot – Helping our Owls thrive | PCNP | Purchase of wood to work with local school children to construct 20 Barn Owl boxes and associated health and safety equipment essential to site the boxes at 20 locations in the Gwaun Valley. To help children from the local school to connect with and understand their local area and natural environment. | 1,500 |
| LG 29 | Conservation/Restoration of Dovecote in Manorbier | Manorbier Medieval Landscape Restoration Group | Remove vegetation from the walls of the dovecote, protect the mortar and erect scaffolding to consolidate the building. The building has significant historical value and this work is part of a wider project to increase access to and understanding of the building. | 1,500 |

A summary of LGG finances is provided in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2010/11** | **2011/12** | **2012/13** |
| **Committed to PAVS for LGG Projects** | £4,500.00 | £6,000.00 | £6000.00 |
| **Money committed to approved projects** | £4,500.00 | £6,824.00 | £4050.00 |
| **Balance** | £0.00 | -£824.00 | £1950.00 |

There is one more LGG project application deadline before the end of the financial year.

## Future SDF Committee Meeting Dates

8th May 2013 10:00hrs

### Annex 1

###



## Annex 2

# Sustainable Development Fund

# Project Summaries

The following projects are active projects at various stages of completion:-

**SDF 0303 - Stackpole Gardens Centre**

Pembrokeshire Mencap Ltd lease six acres of historic walled gardens from the National Trust Estate in Stackpole. Using the site Mencap provide work experience and horticultural training to local adults and young people with learning difficulties. A huge variety of plants, fruit and vegetables are grown and sold in their garden shop. Within their 6 acre walled garden at Stackpole, Pembrokeshire Mencap are using SDF funding towards the construction of a sustainable new building.The building will provide a focal point, serving as a new shop, office, community space, tea room and kitchen. It will provide a valuable facility where locally grown produce and plants can be purchased, advice and training given, and environmentally sensitive forms of building construction, heating and water use be demonstrated to adults, students with learning difficulties and visitors to the gardens. It will also allow for the development of a new course for prospective students interested in catering and retail services.

The building is being constructed over two years, using straw bales with lime based rendering and other traditional building materials. It will also incorporate sustainable technologies including geothermal heating, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.

To date the construction work is proceeding according to the planned programme of work. Volunteers from the Princes Trust cleared an area and constructed an access road before services to the site were connected. The base, timber frame and straw bales are in situ. A group of Army cadets training at Pembrokeshire College harvested Ash and Hazel stakes from the National Trust woodland and these stakes were used to secure the straw bales. Mencap staff constructed the timber “Bucks” which formed the framework for the doors and windows and, aided by a team from the Prince’s Trust erected the straw bale walls. Roofing and lime mortar rendering work commenced in June 2012.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £223,120 | £349,801 | £100,410 | £84,475 |

## SDF 0314 – Ty Unnos Development of Building Components from Low Grade Timber

Coed Cymru secured further SDF support towards the development of a homegrown cross laminated timber panel which will form part of the platform of components comprising the Ty Unnos housing system but will also be a product in its own right. Cross laminated timber involves taking short lengths of timber and laminating them together to form panels for construction. The project aims to bring to market low value homegrown timber in high value construction applications by helping to deliver affordable, sustainable housing and other buildings. The funding will be used to address the main research, development and testing requirements. This project is a progression from the successful outcome of work to date, including that previously supported by SDF to achieve technical certification for box and ladder beam components of the housing system and demonstrating the new, innovative approach to building low cost, high performance eco housing with Welsh materials.

Coed Cymru have identified a potential system of manufacture which could increase the viability of the product for businesses in Wales, and businesses in Pembrokeshire already engaged through previous developmental and demonstration work linked to the Ty Unnos system are ideally placed to take this forward. Immediate aims will be to replace Oriented Strand Board (OSB) completely in the Ty Unnos system but also to bring to market cross laminated timber as a product in its own right with wide application. Increasing the use of homegrown timber in construction will lead to more localised processing and conversion. Coed Cymru will also strive to bring timber from local woodlands into the supply chain involving private sector contractors and businesses, which will ensure that the benefits of the project extend back into local woodlands through an already established channel.

To date, using a straightforward manufacturing technique and basic equipment, they have succeeded in producing a consistent product from low grade timber that is tough, stable and can be finished to give a good appearance. The simplicity of the manufacturing process so far developed is promising and the use of automatic equipment appears to be a practical option, capable of producing up to 100 m2 per hour. The range of uses identified by manufacturers and project partners has expanded and at this stage estimated suggestive costsings appear competitive compared to imported product.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £120,000 | £60,000 | £40,484.55 |

## SDF 0316 – Wise up on Waste

The Darwin Centre secured SDF support to develop and deliver a new educational programme called ‘Wise up on Waste’, to expand its already broad and highly successful portfolio. Using their tried and tested package of field experience and carefully designed engaging workshops they plan to take groups on a journey of understanding and appreciation of one of Pembrokeshire’s (and the world’s) most important and current sustainability issues, viz waste and what we do with it. ‘Wise up on Waste’ will be developed and then delivered, in partnership with Withyhedge landfill site and Pembrokeshire County Council’s (PCC’s) Waste Awareness Officer, to approximately 500 people over two years. Through site visits, participants will learn about the landfill process and the processing of the ‘Orange’ recycling bags. Methods of separating recyclable materials will be demonstrated, leading to an appreciation of why certain plastics are recycled and some not and the issue of value/demand affecting the market for recycled goods. A follow up workshop will explore the production of commercial plastics, including a hands-on experiment making plastic from milk and vinegar, which will help groups to understand that the process uses vast amounts of oil (fossil fuel). The inert organic plastic made by individuals can be moulded into a biodegradable key ring for them to take away. Participants will also be given an item (pencil, rubber) that has been made from recycled material (sponsored by PCC) aimed at drawing attention to the types of product that recycled plastics end up making.

The project has commenced and is going well to date. Over two financial quarters the programme was delivered to three primary schools and two community groups.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £12,788.8 | £5,600 | £1,365 |

## SDF 0317 – Green Apple Cross

The owner of Green Apple Cross near Cosheston is striving to develop his site into an exemplar of sustainable living by creating a carbon-neutral, self-sufficient, organic smallholding. The site has been planned on the principles of sustainability and will include woodland coppicing, an orchard, fruit tree nursery, vegetable garden and wildlife area. In addition the site will provide local schools and communities with a valuable educational resource as an outdoor classroom. To achieve this goal SDF assistance is required to build an all access compost toilet and recover an existing twin–span polytunnel, which will provide an essential covered area and convenience for visiting groups. By demonstration and direct involvement the project will promote a wider understanding of sustainability through the growing of fruit, land management, water conservation and the careful use of resources. Schools will have their own plots of land to work and as well as growing fruit and vegetables be given the opportunity to grow plants that will increase the site’s biodiversity. An Open Day to raise awareness of the project and demonstrate the potential for outdoor education was planned for July 2012 with invitations extended to 20 local schools and community groups. Unfortunately this did not take place due to inclement weather. Construction is progressing well and the compost toilet has been completed successfully. Work to cover the polytunnel is all that remains outstanding.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £6,230.50 | £3115.25 | £1,743.71 |

## SDF 0318 – Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

‘Greentraveller’ received SDF support to feature a dedicated section on ‘Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP)’ on their website greentraveller.co.uk.

In June 2012 the online guide was published, ([www.greentraveller.co.uk/green-holidays-pmbrokeshire](http://www.greentraveller.co.uk/green-holidays-pmbrokeshire)) showing residents and visitors how to make the most of PCNP in a way that has a low impact on the environment and a positive impact on the local economy.

Greentraveller is a website for those wishing to minimise their environmental footprint and have a positive impact on the livelihoods of the local people and on local landscapes. The guide features over 75 recommendations for where to sleep and eat and what to do in our special landscape, from visiting award winning beaches and island RSPB reserves to the traditional towns and villages, ancient woodlands and historic sites. The guide also includes an interactive map of the featured businesses, videos celebrating the unique landscape and information on how visitors can reduce their environmental impact by travelling to and around the area by public transport, walking or cycling.

The Guide showcases online - in an inspirational and aspirational way - the best sustainable travel and tourism choices in the PCNP, as endorsed by Greentraveller.co.uk.

Supported by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Greentraveller’s team of professional travel writers has picked out some of the top places to stay, from an innovative ecolodge to self-catering barns, cosy cottages, luxury yurt camps, award-winning B&Bs and organic farms. The Guide also features some of the best spots to find local produce, a range of outdoor activities from exploring the famous Pembrokeshire Coast Path to kayaking and coasteering around the Preseli Hills, and family days out at wildlife parks, adventure centres and gardens, including the award-winning Castyll Henllys iron age fort. The final funding payment will be made once the final report and project evaluation has been submitted.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £7,500 | £3,350 | £2,925 |

## SDF 0319 – ReFarm

The aim of the Eco Centre Wales’ (ECW) ReFarm project is to support a significant increase in annual generation of renewable electricity from the farming sector in Pembrokeshire. With SDF funding, ECW will assist Pembrokeshire farmers to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, reduce their costs and their impact on the environment. Importantly the project will also contribute to the ‘green sector’ of the local economy, increase the training and employment opportunities for renewable energy technology installers and contribute to Pembrokeshire’s renewable energy targets. The project also aims to diversify farm income through renewable electricity and heat generation.

This will be achieved through:

* Site visits to farms and agricultural holdings at the request of the land owner/farmer, and subsequent report summarising the suitability of the property for renewable energy technologies and any other potential energy efficiency measures.
* Engagement with the farming sector in Wales exploiting existing links and networks such as PLANED’s Sustainable Agriculture network
* Introduction to suppliers and installers e.g. through local trade events

Eco Centre Wales has been at the forefront of support for small scale renewable energy in West Wales for more than three decades. In the last ten years it has developed a range of projects that have each improved the depth and quality of the service it provides and has increased the numbers of people it reaches. They have purposefully evolved this service from supporting householders to community groups and now to the farming sector. This project is the next step in the logical progression of renewable energy projects in the National Park.The Eco Centre's charitable status allows it to work free of any commercial imperative that may influence the advice it gives. This allows them to give independent and impartial technical advice that many farmers are seeking when considering capital investment in renewable energy technologies.

Since project commencement there has been a good take up of the service, largely from word of mouth recommendations. The number of advice contacts and site visits has been exceeding targets and engagement with partner organisations is ongoing. Originally the project was being delivered by two ECW Technical Officers but one Officer has left which means that the project is currently being delivered by one Technical Officer employed on a 0.8 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) basis.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £94,590 | £46,781 | £10,058.14 |

## SDF 0320 – Woodlands and Wetlands Project Manager

Pembroke 21C, Community Interest Company (CIC), began a project called “Training in skills for the management and maintenance of woodland and wetland habitats” in 2011, with the aim of using two sustainable projects to develop a training programme for local people in traditional woodland and wetland management skills. The two projects are the Hentland Willow Coppice Scheme next to Pembroke Refinery and Kingsmill Woodland on the National Trust Stackpole estate very close to Castlemartin. The Willow Coppice scheme is planting willow and hazel for short rotation coppice to be used for environmental projects, in particular river bank stabilization. The woodland is being thinned, paths cleared and laid and bridges built over ditches and streams. Areas of the woodland are being coppiced in rotation. In addition to the training programme both projects also provide opportunities for volunteering, employment and raising revenue for the benefit of the local community. To develop this work further so that the projects become economically sustainable in the long term, Pembroke 21C CIC have secured SDF funding to assist with employment of a dedicated project manager. With a consistent and professional approach the project manager will:-

* Develop the training and volunteering opportunities and open the projects up to the local community
* Develop the revenue raising opportunities of both projects
* Develop the potential for establishing the carbon sequestration benefits of the site and establish a viable and sustainable corporate social responsibility scheme
* Seek opportunities to bid to carry out this work on other sites in and around the National Park.

Despite changing personnel the project is progressing well. Maintenance tasks on the two sites are ongoing with ‘Volunteer Tuesdays’ continuing to have a good and increasing attendee base. Through negotiation a lease for additional land and buildings on another site near Pembroke Power Station has been secured. This, together with additional funding obtained for a Project Administrator and a Woodland Project Assistant, will help the CIC to bid for larger woodland management contracts and grow the business. Discussions have been held with ‘Salix’ regarding the willow harvest schedule for winter 2012 and 420 broadleaf native saplings were expected November 2012.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £183,430 | £45,000 | £6,354.25 |

## SDF 0321 – Mobile Application and Integrated Web Interface for Recording Dragonflies

Through this project the West Wales biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC) aim to increase the amount and involvement in biological recording in Pembrokeshire, by creating an integrated mobile recording application and website interface and making this available to volunteer recorders. It will do this by developing the application to send dragonfly records captured by field recorders to their database at the Local Record Centre for West Wales, using the cellular network or a wireless broadband connection. The integrated web mapping interface will allow records to be viewed and verified by experts. Dragonflies have been selected as a group for their ease of identification and the limited number of species native to Pembrokeshire. This unique and ground breaking project, when completed, will allow other recorders in Pembrokeshire and neighbouring counties to access the application and it will pave the way for the development of applications for other species groups. Their approach will be to develop the application with experienced recorders and volunteers, who will use a mobile device with built in GPS on which sits an application tailored to recording dragonflies. Biological records will be entered directly onto a map and into a user friendly data entry interface, which stores and uploads the records to the WWBIC database when a signal is available. The application will then be extended to a wider group of volunteers for further trials and by use of the website interface; data can be remotely verified and edited by an expert. The software to be used is designed for ArcGIS Mobile and ArcGIS Server, part of a proprietary software suite used by WWBIC, and which is employed by other organizations using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map biodiversity information. Proof of concept has already been demonstrated by the successful development of a mobile cetacean recording project developed with Sea Trust for use in the marine environment.

Technical issues have put the project slightly behind schedule and are proving challenging but not insurmountable. It has now been decided to use a windows platform rather than the android platform originally planned. This is necessary to allow recorders to be able to work offline if there is no mobile signal available.

Further investigation and work with the developers is ongoing and the project manager is also working with recorders to plan trials which will take place as soon as practicable.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £8,195 | £3,968 | £2,293 |

## SDF 0322 – Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project

Cymdeithas Llandudoch/St Dogmaels Community Association are using SDF funds to help them to eradicate the invasive plant 'Himalayan Balsam' from a 30 acre site on Cemaes head and in so doing prevent any further spread. Cleared land may be returned to productive agricultural land or allowed to regenerate to a more natural wildlife habitat supporting native species and improving biodiversity .

The group are building on the success and experience gained from clearing 18 acres of the invasive species in Cippyn and other areas last year. This was achieved mostly by hand with volunteer working parties contributing the labour. The Cemaes area is however very different terrain with different habitat, steep slopes and decades of bramble and blackthorn growth. It therefore necessitates employment of specialist contractors and machinery to undertake much of the initial and difficult clearance work. This has then been complimented by regular volunteer working parties pulling the plants by hand. The project was planned following advice and guidance from the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), PCNPA Rangers & input from the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre. Importantly Cymdeithas llandudoch have tirelessly raised awareness about the project, the problems caused by himalayan balsam and recommended actions for the public to take if they come across the plant either here or in other areas. The project has also provided four people with training in brushcutting and two people received chainsaw training. In exchange for the cost of training and equipment, labour is being given to the project whilst valuable practical work experience is gained.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £20,453 | £9,719 | £8,747.10 |

## SDF 0323 – Economic Valuation of Marine Recreation Activity

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF), utilising specialist Consultant expertise will provide an economic value to mapped areas of marine recreation in two pilot areas of Pembrokeshire. This will provide clear evidence and methods to state how much individual activities are worth to the local economy and provide a repeatable process to expand the project geographically. The work will be an extension to existing sustainable recreation management work, including the Wales Activity Mapping (WAM) project. A consortium of leading experts will devise methods to place £s in all of the mapped areas of activity and activity pathways for each pilot area, which will enable a direct value to be placed on the local economy for activities such as wildlife boat trips around Ramsey, coasteering on St Davids Head, sea angling in Dale etc. The work will take place using a phased approach by firstly assessing a suitable draft methodology which would be informed through literature review and then testing and applying this to two sites of relevance to national policy viz, Dale and St Davids Peninsula. Identifying areas of high recreational use/value has many potential benefits. For example, it will provide an evidence based approach to marine and coastal planning processes and assist coastal communities, activity providers and the recreation and tourism industry to engage with upcoming policy consultation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £41,650 | £20,650 | £0.00 |

## SDF 0324 – Marine Wildlife Awareness Schools Road Show

This project proposes to bring a marine life ‘road show’ by ‘Silent World to You’ to 20-25 primary schools in Pembrokeshire. Targetted at the Foundation Phase (3-7 year olds) the outside world will be brought into the classroom (in several aquaria!), along with simple supplementary resources to make the most of the experience, and with the potential for follow-up by local marine biologists. A pack will be provided with extension ideas including associated curriculum-linked activity suggestions, guidance on fieldwork, list of fieldwork sites and further information links.The objective of the project is to raise awareness of local marine wildlife, and to highlight that human use of the marine environment and adjacent coast can affect marine life.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £4,958 | £2,400 | £0.00 |

## SDF 0325 – Walking with Wheels

This project will build upon work already being undertaken through the existing National Park Authority ‘Walkability’ Project, which is partly funded by Hywel Dda Health Trust and encourages people with limited mobility to get out and enjoy the countryside. It has also identified a much greater demand for organised walks and events for those with mobility problems. ‘Walking with Wheels’ will increase the number of participants and reduce some of the barriers the less mobile have to overcome in order to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors by:

1. Providing an electric mobility scooter at both Tenby and Newport Visitor Centres

2. Developing a circular mobility path at St Davids Airfield

3. Developing a series of suitable 'walks' in these locations

4. Providing additional transport capable of carrying wheelchairs for mobility walks to key locations

5. Providing suitably qualified and experience 'walk' leaders

It will enable residents and visitors who feel they are excluded due to their health and mobility problems to enjoy the outdoors with potential benefits for their physical and mental well being as well and to develop new social connections. Some of the organised walks will introduce the participants to areas of the National Park with significant biodiversity and historical interest and the leaflets for the walks will include points of interest en route.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £40,450 | £21,860 | £0.00 |

## Delayed Project

## SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project

LMN 2000, a community Group representing the communities of Landshipping, Minwear and Newton, are developing and investigating the feasibility of a project to deliver affordable sustainable housing, a community facility, a market garden run by a social enterprise and an energy centre comprised of a combined heat and electricity biomass boiler. SDF funding was requested for a comprehensive feasibility study to include an in depth energy analysis, business plan, full plan drawings and planning permission for the proposed development on an identified seven acre site on the outskirts of the village of Martletwy. It is envisaged that the energy centre would supply the eight proposed affordable dwellings and the community facility with clean green energy and excess heat will heat the glass houses. Any excess electricity will be combined with that produced by photovoltaic panels and exported to the national grid. Solar hot water panels will also be used to supply the houses and community facility with hot water. Funding was sought at an intervention rate of 90% on the grounds of exceptional circumstances. The project was considered to fully meet the objectives of SDF but the applicant was unable to secure other resources so that without a higher rate of SDF funding it would not be able to proceed. After initially deferring the project application to enable the applicant to demonstrate wider community support the project was then approved but at an intervention rate of 50%. The project has therefore been delayed because the community is trying any way it can to secure the shortfall in funding necessary to allow the study to proceed. The SDF Administrator is currently awaiting feedback on the outcome of meetings that the group have held to discuss possible options in conjunction with a local business enterprise.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £29,882 | £14,941 | £0.00 |

## Completed Project

## SDF 0313 – Newport Community Energy Project

Newport Community Energy Project’s (NCEP) aim was to renovate the much used but energy out-dated Newport Memorial Hall, so that it is a model of reduced energy consumption with users taking part in conscious energy management. Initial calculations from an energy audit indicated that savings of up to 50% of current carbon dioxide emissions from energy used in the Hall could potentially be achieved. To achieve their goal NCEP teamed up with Newport Area Environment Group (NAEG) and the Eco Centre Wales (ECW) to help deliver their three part project which comprised of saving energy through insulation and low energy lighting, generating renewable energy by installing photovoltaic panels and instituting a behaviour change and education programme to transform awareness and energy use patterns. SDF funding contributed towards insulating the building using natural material, low energy lighting and also through the Little Green Grant (LGG) Fund towards the behaviour change and education element.

The original intention was that Feed-in Tariff from pv panels will be used to part finance future green community projects for the next 25 years but NCEP was unsuccessful in attempts to secure match funding for their project before the end of the 2011/12 financial year. This fact together with a reduction in the Feed-in-Tariff and continued uncertainty due to the pending appeal by the UK Government to the Supreme court meant that the community was unable to use their back-up position of a loan to fund the photo-voltaic (pv) panels. This caused fundamental changes to project plans and a consequent delay to the project start date

To resolve the problem and allow the project to proceed, a local private investor paid the capital cost of a 10kwh pv array as opposed to the 17KWh array originally proposed. The reduction in size was in response to the increased risk but this gesture allowed the hall renovation to proceed still in a sustainable way. Community groups using the hall will benefit from free electricity and the investor will reinvest some of the feed in tariff into ‘green’ community projects. Initial discussions have indicated that the sums for reinvestment are estimated to be between £300 and £1800 per annum depending upon the tariff rate. NCEP held an Upgrade Launch in the hall on Friday 13th July to thank the hall users and funders and also to explain the work carried out by showing the local community what had been achieved. An energy display that shows generation and consumption is situated by the main entrance for all to see on a daily basis. NCEP now plan to set up a “Green Hub” i.e. an office, showcase and cooperation centre for a number of small businesses which currently work from home and would benefit from linking to each other and to the social networks using the hall.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **Revised SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Total Grant paid**  |
| £131,744 | £87,587 | £54,727 | £47,158 | £46,713.05 |