

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

28th January 2015

Present: Mr AE Sangster (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L Jenkins, Mrs M Thomas and Councillor M Williams; Ms S Coakham (Natural Resources Wales), Ms S Hughes (PLANED), Ms L Livock (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services), Ms A Robinson (Pembrokeshire County Council) and Ms L Williams (Pembrokeshire Tourism).

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 2.00pm)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor DWM Rees and Mr R Smith (Pembrokeshire Business Initiative).

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2014 were presented for confirmation and signature.

Ms S Coakham pointed out that her name had been incorrectly spelled in the list of those present at the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2014 be confirmed and signed subject to the above amendment.

4. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The report of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Administrator outlined the six applications before the Committee for consideration that day, and also updated the Committee on all current projects and their progress. Of those projects currently being progressed, she highlighted four in particular that had changed or been delayed since funding had been granted. The four projects were:

- (i) SDF 0339 Dr Beynon's Bug Farm Phase II: it was reported that, in accordance with the decision made at the meeting held on the 17th September 2014, the SDF grant had been re-issued to take account of the required amendment to project finances and to ensure clarity of compliance with State Aid Regulations.

In response to a question about the amount of money being granted to one source, and whether – as a result – additional requirements needed to be

considered, the SDF Administrator stated that the overall project comprised five phases, each of which were considered on a detailed evaluation of the submission. Funding of a programme of phases was admissible provided that the same work was not funded twice. Ms S Coakham added that she was aware that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority had funded a large phased project in the past, albeit a community project. The SDF Administrator went on to say that Dr Beynon had offered Committee Members to see Phases I and II of the project for themselves, but the offer had been declined whilst a Phase III application was being considered.

- (ii) SDF 0320 Woodland and Wetlands Project Manager: this project had been significantly delayed since funding had been approved, but a new Project Manager was now in post and a revised project plan, targets and financial information had been agreed for the remainder of the SDF project funding period (31st March 2015).
- (iii) SDF 0329 eduCAT: poor take-up in 2013/14 meant that there had been an underspend of more than £10,000 in that year; however, the project had since been modified and re-evaluated, resulting in a forecast that the majority of the funding allocated for 2014/15 would be taken up.
- (iv) SDF 0345 Biomass Firewood Kiln: difficulties had been experienced with the siting of the kiln, and the project manager was currently exploring various options. As a result, the SDF Administrator had agreed an extension to the project timescale.

The SDF Administrator went on to report the financial position for the financial year 2014/15. She referred to her report, which set out the summary financial position for the Fund. It showed a slight over-commitment of funding for the current financial year although, in reality, this was unlikely to present a problem as some of the approved projects were expected to marginally underspend. The summary also showed a request by one of the projects under consideration that day for funding in 2016/17. It was pointed out that any project approval beyond the 2015/16 financial year would be subject to the availability of a funding allocation from the Welsh Government.

Turning to the 2015/16 budget, the SDF Administrator reported that confirmation was still awaited from Welsh Government, but she estimated that the funding available would be the same as the previous year, i.e. £100,000. Of that expected £100,000 she stated that £25,659 had already been committed to projects that were currently ongoing, and she also recommended that £4,500 be allocated to the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) for funding the Little Green Grant scheme. She went on to say that, were the Little Green Grant scheme allocation to be agreed, only £69,841 would be available for new projects, resulting in a shortfall of funding were all six projects before the Committee that day to be approved at their required funding level. The SDF Administrator

reported that all applicants would be advised that any decision made that day would be subject to receipt of the expected Welsh Government funding.

With regard to the Little Green Grant scheme, it was reported that seven applications had been received, with six being approved. Of the six, two had not been allocated the full amount of funding requested as there was insufficient funding left within the £4,500 allocated to the scheme for 2014/15. One project was being adapted in order to absorb the shortfall, while the other was applying to other sources for the additional funding.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- (a) that the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services be awarded funding of £4,500 to administer the Little Green Grant Scheme on behalf of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, and
- (b) that the remainder of the report of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Administrator be noted.

7. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered six new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). The applications were considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by each of the project applicants. The SDF Administrator reminded Members that a number of the applications included on the agenda that day contained commercially sensitive information.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF 0346	Solva Care	Mollie Roach, Fran Barker and Bruce Payne	Solva Community Council
SDF 0347	Off Grid Street Food	Jonathan Williams	The Pembrokeshire Beach Food Company Ltd
SDF 0348	Medieval Kiln Project	Siobhan Ashe	Newport Memorial Hall
SDF 0349	Dr Beynon's Bug Farm: Phase 3	Dr Sarah Beynon	Dr Beynon's Bug Farm
SDF 0350	Grub	Andrew Holcroft	Grub
SDF 0351	Marine Energy – Education Development	Ceri Crichton and James Dyer	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

and Fisheries
Diversification

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of those Advisory Members present.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that, subject to Welsh Government confirmation of the 2015/16 funding situation:

- (a) the full amount of funding requested be granted to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of grant and any additional caveats agreed at the meeting (and detailed below):
- (i) SDF 0346: Solva Care, subject to the following additional caveats:
 - that the care provision delivered through the pilot project complied with all care sector relevant best practice guidance and advice;
 - that any regulatory and registration requirements pertinent to the pilot stage of the project, as required by the relevant regulatory authorities, be complied with, and
 - that Solva Community Council had, or would take out, appropriate and sufficient liability insurance provision.
 - (ii) SDF 0347: Off Grid Street Food;
 - (iii) SDF 0348: Medieval Kiln Project;
 - (iv) SDF 0351: Marine Energy – Education Development and Fisheries Diversification, subject to receipt of confirmation from the Head of Milford Haven Comprehensive School that the School was committed to the project.
- (b) funding in the reduced sum of £32,034 be granted to the following application, subject to the usual conditions of grant and the under-mentioned additional caveats:
- (i) SDF 0349 – Dr Beynon’s Bug Farm: Phase 3, subject to the following additional caveats:
 - that planning permission was secured for the Phase 3 development;
 - that the registration of the legal charges in connection with the previous Phase 2 funding award had been completed, and
 - that confirmation was received to indicate that the project was able to proceed despite the reduction in the level of funding offered, and how this would be achieved.

- (c) whilst the Committee acknowledged the Project Manager's passion and commitment to changing people's attitudes and promoting and raising the profile of entomophagy, the following application be refused as the funding requested was towards the fabric, fixtures and fittings of what was, in essence, a restaurant:
 - (i) SDF 0350 – Grub.