

MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 10 NOVEMBER 2023.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE 23-24 – INFORMATION ITEM

Recommendation

1. **The Committee is requested to:**
 - a) **Note and comment on the report.**
 - b) **Bring further project ideas to the AONB unit for 2023/24 and for 2024/25**

Background

2. As agreed by the JAC at the November 2022 meeting the name of the Sustainable Development Fund has been changed in order to reflect the wider range of projects being funded, including several arts projects.
3. There is encouragement from the National Association for AONBs to increase the number of arts projects being supported. The arts are seen as a creative and inclusive way to encourage support for and stewardship of protected landscapes.
4. The National Association for AONBs has made a bid to the Arts Council England for £500,000 under a project entitled **Nature Calling**. This money will then be distributed amongst AONBs to be spent on eligible projects. The thrust is to get hard to reach groups into our landscapes and allow them to appreciate and value them through less conventional means. Arts Council England are due to make a decision on funding in mid-November 2023.

Table 1 - summary of current projects

Project	Likely Grant	Notes
Landmarking	TBC	We are currently liaising with a number of partners to investigate building an arts project around the temporary installation of a sculpture on the Malvern Hills. We are lucky to have the interest of an eminent sculptor, but we do not underestimate the number of consents and permissions, and indeed finance that will be needed to make the project successful.
U3A Natural History Group – ‘Ecology on our doorstep’ -surveying of Castlemorton watercourses .	£500	Training of natural history vols and detailed species recording for sites throughout the year. Booklets will be produced for sale/ given away to interested parties.
Tools for Self-Reliance	£600	This charity is based locally. It recycles old agricultural and workshop tools for sale locally. It is staffed by volunteers who restore the tools and sell them at local events. The money raised, and suitable tools go to help shamba farmers in Africa. The request for £600 is for shelving units for their new premises at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Colwall.
On the Bare Hill	£2000	We have supported a successful bid to the Arts Council for a graduate theatre group to produce a collaborative drama, working with local community groups to create and perform a theatre piece about the hills.
The Earth Heritage Trust	£2400	Support for the repair and clearance of geological sites.
Grounded conversations	£2000	A project working with photographer and social history recordist Geoff Broadway, to record conversations and take portraits of visitors to the AONB.
Malvern Cube – high level raised bed	£1000	This project will build a disability friendly raised bed for use by garden volunteers and Cube users. It will be built by men’s shed, repair café and Cube volunteers.
Land Art project	£2000	We will be working with a local artist to provide workshops for less able people, making art pieces out on the hills and commons or in community settings. These will be put onto a website map.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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