

## **MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **28 April 2023.**

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND 2022/23 – FINAL REPORT**

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### **Recommendation**

#### **1.The Committee is requested to:**

- a) **Note and comment on the report;**
- b) **Consider changing the name of the grant fund to ‘MHAONB Community Grants’, bringing us into line with most other AONBs and simplifying the name for would-be applicants. The aims of the grant scheme would remain the same; and**
- c) **Bring project ideas to the AONB unit for 2023/24.**

### **Background**

2.The table below shows the Sustainable Development Fund’s grant expenditure for the financial year 2022/23. The budget was £12,190 and expenditure £11,533. This underspend was due to the re-allocation of a large project to another grant fund. Of 17 original enquiries 8 resulted in completed SDF projects, 1 was deferred to 23/24 and 1 was funded by the new DEFRA Access Grant.

3.The grants this year were awarded to a wide range of community groups. Their value lies not only in the community activity they support but also in allowing the AONB Unit to make contact with local communities and people who are not part of our more usual audience of farmers and landowners.

4.More information can be found at <http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/sustainable-development-fund-projects-22-23/>

### **Summary - SDF final account**

Ref	Project	Grant	Vol value	Notes
256	Colwall Hedgerows – contribution to Parish roadside	£2500 (Overall cost approx. £6660)	£2360 (111 hours vol time)	Report and interactive map will be on the Colwall PC website. To be used for planning considerations and hedgerow repair/planting.

	hedgerow survey and mapping			Vols will now carry out field hedgerow surveys.
253	U3A Natural History Group – ‘Ecology on our doorstep’ - surveying of two sites (Woodfords Meadow and Mill Coppice) and publication of results.	£800	£2494 (data for Woodford’s Meadow only)  £2710 (data for Mill Coppice )	Training of natural history vols and detailed species recording for both sites throughout the year. Talk given to U3A and booklets produced for sale/ give away to interested parties.
258	Colwall Car Club – contribution to ‘Bike to work’ electric bicycle	£1000 (£3200 overall cost)	£381	Part of a drive to help people find green transport solutions. 10 bikes are now available – ours was the 6 <sup>th</sup> – and in full use. Ledbury and Colwall have bike collection centres.
259	St. James the Great, Colwall – tools and courses for churchyard wildflower meadow volunteers.	£1935	£2397.60 (250 vol hours)	Funding has allowed the purchase of tools and machinery, some of which are shared with other local conservation groups. Castlemorton PC visited to learn more about the project, scouts and schools have also visited.
262	Colwall Greener Event – showcase and talks for local green groups to encourage them to work together under the banner of ‘Colwall Greener’.	£1000	£9173	30 stallholders, 6 talks, 590 attendees (43 people signed up to be part of the group – doubling the membership. Colwall Greener is planning monthly talks to keep up the momentum.
266	Malvern Green Space Seed Swap and Networking day	£750	£3,200 – from 8 volunteers	Talks on heritage seeds, soils, growing. Opportunities for seed and plant swaps. Four stall holders, including AONB. 136 people attended (despite snow) providing the opportunity for us to ‘reach out’ to a different audience.
260	Earth Heritage Geovols – work to AONB geology sites - purchase of equipment.	£1500	£1161.25 (15 vols gave 104 hours)	4 sites of geological importance cleared of soil and vegetation covering rock faces and report written.
265	Wellington Heath Local Nature	£1000	£250 est.	Volunteers have maintained the churchyard meadow

	Reserve – new explanatory board			which was awarded local nature reserve status last year. The new signboard will explain this to visitors and walkers on the adjacent Geopark Way.
		Grants Total = £10,485	Vol time total = £23,876.25	
	Admin = 10%	£1048		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,533</b>		

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

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### Specific Contact Points for this report

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