

Individual Project Summary Report 2006/07

1. Project summary and information about the grant holder

Project title	Tom Pickering Benchwalks		AONB Proj. No:	SDF/067/1
Overall objectives of the project	<p>1. To provide older and less mobile residents and visitors with attractive places to rest along established walking routes or specific walk destinations around the distinctive northern edge of the AONB.</p> <p>2. To encourage walkers of all ages and abilities to linger longer at specific locations of AONB related landscape interest and better appreciate their value.</p> <p>3. To develop a wider understanding of 'place' through better interpretation of all facets of the local AONB and adjacent landscape.</p>			
Start date	14/06/2006	End date	31/03/2007	
SDF grant holder	Little Wenlock Parish Council			
Contact details	George Chancellor, c/o Cath Landles, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. Tel (01588) 674084. Email: cath.landles@shropshire-cc.gov.uk			

2. Funding information

SDF funding received this year	£ 6,221.50	SDF funding received last year	£ 0
Total cost of the project this year	£ 10,124.07	Any special funding arrangements <i>(such as staged payments or financial conditions required by funders)</i>	No
Sources of other funding <i>(funding body or volunteer activity)</i>	Value of other funding where contributed in cash	Estimate of value (£ equivalent) where contributed in kind	
Volunteer time	£ 0	£ 2,552.57	
Eon (Ironbridge Power Station)	£ 1,000	£ 0	
Little Wenlock Parish Council	£ 350	£ 0	

3. Achievements of the project

What were the specific objectives that you set for the project in the grant application form?	How well were the objectives met?	What issues affected the achievement of the objectives?
Produce and install wooden benches, made by local craftsmen out of locally grown sustainable woods, in eight or nine key locations, with views of the AONB and its setting within easy reach of the parish's main settlement.	Eight wooden benches made and installed by local craftsmen out of locally grown sustainable wood from Harris' coppice, affording views of the AONB within easy reach of Little Wenlock.	This part of the project was under the expert guidance of a local woodsman. Sites were selected by Tom Pickering and the Parish Council and written permission secured from the local landowner involved together with Telford and Wrekin Rights of Way and Highways departments. The benches were installed by a team of local volunteers.
Produce and distribute attractive and informative landscape interpretation materials, linked to the bench locations, to provide residents and visitors with a broader understanding of the AONB and its setting.	Attractive informative leaflet produced and dedicated Benchwalks pages on parish website.	Following extensive consultations with local historians, landscape and wildlife specialists and AONB staff, a wide range of materials were boiled down into a simple text describing the project, landscape and individual bench locations.

4. Lessons learned

What were the key lessons you learned during the project?	The importance of involving the community from the outset. From the start the benches have been a source of great pride to the parish and well used by residents and visitors alike. A high profile launch the project has attracted substantial publicity from the local media, widespread enthusiasm and support throughout the community and great interest from a broad range of local organisations and groups.
What would you do differently next time?	
Do you have any further comments?	The project demonstrates the extent to which local resources and skills can be harnessed to benefit the local community in the most sustainable way possible.