

Cath Landles, Community Officer
Shropshire Hills AONB, Sustainable Development Fund



Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)



- Grant scheme to support projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the AONB
- 2008/9 - Fourth year of SDF
- Grants of £1,000 - £10,000
- Open to public, private and voluntary sectors, community groups, individuals and businesses
- Applicants must undertake a sustainability appraisal of their project
- Grant awards decided by SDF Panel

Sustainable Development Fund priority areas

- **Climate change, energy and transport.**
- **Sustainable farming, food and health, use of resources**
- **Increasing participation and involvement of under-represented groups**
- **Influencing patterns of recreation and tourism towards sustainability**
- **Developing local markets for wood products**
- **Conserving threatened wildlife or heritage features**
- **Community involvement, especially delivering actions from Parish Plans.**



Sustainable Development Fund

Started May 2005

2005-6

12 projects, grants totalling £49,077

2006-7

22 projects, grants totalling £85,500

2007-8

15 projects, grants totalling £62,000

2008-9

£64,000 to distribute. 16 projects awarded grants



Sustainable Development Fund



Number of projects	49
Amount of grants	£197,577
Overall % grant	33.5%
Total project spend	£589,881
Match funding total	£392,304
Match funding cash	56%
Match funding in kind	44%
Admin and project support	£35,000
Community groups involved	99
Businesses directly involved	965
Number of training sessions	57

Oak Farm Community Composting Scheme

- Community composting scheme for the village of Ditton Priors.
- Request from local people.
- Reduce carbon emissions by cutting the amount of transportation needed to get green waste to the local tip
- Reduces amount going to landfill
- Recycled waste can be converted into a useable by-product for local people.
- Educate and exhibit good practice.
- Oak Farm provides a day service for people with learning disabilities.
- Project gives meaningful work to users by creating a saleable product and increases community interaction by further involvement of the service users and local residents.



Soil Association – Field Days

- Followed on from 06/07 SDF funded workshops in schools
- Provided children with an opportunity to reconnect with fields, farms, wildlife, food and landscape in a creative way
- Covered where our food comes from, food miles, and how the origin of our food impacts on the landscape.
- Achieved 13 farm visits for 10 schools, 250 children. 30 community members involved.
- Held 1 field day for parents, children and the wider community
- Schools delighted to be able to claim bursary to cover transport costs - often the most serious obstacle to hosting farm visits.



Scrappies - Primary School Environmental Project

- To educate children, and staff, in a fun way on the benefits of recycling and the disadvantages of the continued use of landfill.
- 9 workshops. 292 pupils and teachers.
- Workshops included a craft session using recycled materials and a treasure hunt looking for letters which formed words on an environmental theme.
- Opportunity to include SH AONB - Children asked what they knew about the AONB and discussed the key landscape features in their local areas.



Stretton Climate Care

- Community project – tackling climate change and reducing carbon footprint.
- Campaigned for new development to incorporate renewable energy systems.
- Held sessions using library's internet suite providing advice on carbon footprints – national recognition
- Designed and developed web site - www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk
- Set up Home Energy Surveys, Market Stall and Mayfair Community Centre Advice Service
- Recruited, supported and trained more than 15 volunteers who deliver services to the community
- Worked with Church Stretton & Rushbury Schools on climate change issues
- Set up a low energy light bulb library and arranged for Clee Hill Electrics to stock full range of bulbs



Hopton Castle Preservation Trust

- Overall project – purchase and restore castle, make provision for public access and provide interpretation materials.
- Overall project budget is over £1million, HLF & EH main funders.
- SDF funding vitally important in helping to prepare for the restoration work which will take place in 2008-9.
- Architectural survey, structural engineers report and a quantity survey
- Produced visitor strategy for the site
- Plan to link up with other castles, such as Clun and Stokesay, to suggest an efficient tour route.



Church Stretton Area Tourism Group



- A Steering Group was formed to develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Church Stretton and the Shropshire Hills.
- With funding from SDF and South Shropshire Opportunity Fund, the Steering Group was able to recruit Alison Caffyn to undertake necessary research and facilitation of a range of stakeholder initiatives, as well as drafting the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
- A consultation exercise was held with local tourism businesses and the findings were fed in to a well-attended visioning event. This identified a number of work-streams which are currently being developed:
- Improve signing off the A49 into the town and improve the linkage of the town with Cardingmill Valley
- More visitor information about the history and heritage of the area
- With support from local traders, the AONB Partnership launched its Sustainable Business Scheme in Church Stretton in February 2008 and met with an encouraging response from local traders and businesses. This will help to link Church Stretton more closely with the Shropshire Hills branding.
- Familiarisation trip for local businesses to the variety of outdoor activities in the area
- Improve the pedestrian friendliness of the town and re-generate the local market
- Local events in attracting visitors.
- Improve e-marketing of the area's attractions, with improvements to the town's website

Thank you for listening

