



Name of External Body	Sustainable Communities Fund
Member	Doug Jones
Date of Meeting	19 December 2017
Sustainable Communities Fund Information	
1	The Sustainable Communities Fund has a small budget of £20,000 for 2017/18 and makes awards ranging from £250 to £10,000 to a wide range of recipients, in a wide range of locations – often helping applicants to ‘lever in’ significant amounts of funding from other sources. A detailed presentation was provided prior to the September 2016 NPA Meeting.
2	Grants awarded in the year to date (2017/18) total to about £46,000 following awards in 2016/17 of about £47,500. These levels of funding continue to draw upon grants returned from previous years when the SCF budget was significantly higher.
3	The SCF grant fund is available to community and voluntary groups, social enterprise / ‘not for profit’ organisations and ‘for profit’ organisations delivering non-profit-making projects in the National Park. Projects should contribute to policies or outcomes in the Partnership Management Plan. Organisations that are outside the National Park can be funded if they demonstrate a clear link to priorities in the National Park area.
4	The SCF Grant Panel considers applications over £2,000 whilst smaller grants are decided by delegation to NPA officers. The Panel consists of eight people from various sectors and includes two NPA Members (Doug Jones and Pete West) along with other individuals with a variety of expertise and backgrounds. Applicants can apply for up to 50% of project costs and the remaining funding can include investment from their own organisation, other grants or contributions, and contributions in kind (including volunteer time or materials).
Decisions made at SCF ‘small grant meeting’ in October 2017	
1	Dark Skies Discovery at RSPB Pulborough Brooks: £780 awarded towards the costs of developing an ‘out of hours offer’ at the RSPB Nature Reserve. The project will purchase an astronomy telescope, parabolic sound dish and accessories to enable year-round stargazing events and night-time wildlife safaris. The location offers some of the best dark sky viewing in the Central Downs along with night-time wildlife which, currently, few people get the opportunity to experience. The project will allow monthly stargazing events (with links to the SDNP Dark Skies festival) and night-time safaris.
2	Flat Hills Cycle Hire Pilot Project: £2,000 awarded to the Flat Hills CIC towards a pilot study to help less able people get out and about using electric trikes/bikes. People will be taken out in guided groups, providing a sense of security and enjoyment with local guides explaining places of interest. The pilot study will investigate the viability for a service for the less able and will include identifying the type of customer who would take advantage of the service and the types of electric trikes/bikes that would be most suitable. Total costs of the pilot were estimated at £6,690 with inputs promised from a number of other local partners.
Related documents – e.g. reports or minutes – and / or Hyperlinks	
1	https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/
2	https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/criteria-and-detailed-information/

