

Agenda Item 21

Name of External Body	Sustainable Communities Fund
Member	Doug Jones
Date of Meeting	22 March 2018
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).
Update since last NPA Meeting (December 2017)	
1	At the time of writing there have been no further meetings of either the full Panel or the Officers’ Group responsible for smaller grants. But there is a packed meeting of the main SCF Panel on 20 th March and so it will be possible to provide an update at the NPA Meeting.
2	There are six very interesting projects to be considered on 20 th March, seeking a total of £39,580 towards total project costs of £145,800: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ‘dining shelter’ for the Midhurst Youth Trust’s camping area at Stedham • an educational archaeological facility at Butser Ancient Farm • an exhibition to help secure the future of Gilbert White’s 1765 Brew House • planting disease-resistant elm trees in Adur to assist Hairstreaks and other species • a timber-framed information hut / shelter for educational purposes (Slindon) • an educational tool about the Beachy Head Marine Conservation Zone.
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/