

**Agenda Item 9**  
**Report NPA27/18**

<b>Name of External Body</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Fund</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Doug Jones</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>16 October 2018</b>
<b>Sustainable Communities Fund Information</b>	
<b>1</b>	The Sustainable Communities Fund has a small budget of £20,000 for 2018/19 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.
<b>2</b>	Grants already awarded in the year to date (2018/19) total to about £16,750 – towards total project costs of about £75,400. These levels of funding continue to draw upon grants returned from previous years when the SCF budget was significantly higher.
<b>3</b>	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.
<b>4</b>	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).
<b>Projects awarded grants during 2018/19 to date</b>	
<b>1</b>	The Living Coast Undersea Experience - £7,000 of £45,000 to support the outreach element of the production of an interactive 360 degree and VR educational tool to raise awareness of the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone
<b>2</b>	Easebourne Parish Wheelbarrow Castle Community Space and Playground - £2,000 of £3,774 towards the installation of a pond and native species planting for a new outdoor community space and playground
<b>3</b>	South Downs Celebration - £1,000 of £2,200 to help create an online education tool for schools and other users celebrating the rich cultural heritage through the medium of song from the area, as an element of the Bognor Regis Folk Festival
<b>4</b>	Stanmer Community Farm Land Feasibility Study - £2,000 of £5,485 – to help undertake a feasibility study to plan the future 4.5 acre site at Stanmer Park that supports existing users, increases community engagement/volunteer opportunities, increases biodiversity and provide sustainable management solutions

5	Meon Valley Archaeology & Heritage Group: Iron Age to Roman Landscape Project - £1,000 of £15,928 – towards a more extensive geophysical survey of two cropmark sites originally investigated in an earlier phase of the project and to give members of the community opportunities to develop some experience with geophysical surveys
6	Walk This Way Women's Walking Group - £1,000 to help produce a booklet containing the group's 12 favourite walks. They were offered more than their request as officers felt that the group should employ a designer to ensure a high quality product (rather than rely on volunteers as proposed).
7	Meon Valley Beekeepers - £2,000 of £4,000 to help purchase of a second hand horse-box type of trailer to store and transport equipment for users. The group has subsequently requested a variation so that the grant can be used to purchase a shed as they do not have enough members with tow-bars to make a trailer viable.
8	Easebourne School Pond Dipping Platform - £764.5 of £1,529 – to help build a pond-dipping platform and refurbish a disused pond in the school grounds.
<b>Related documents – e.g. reports or minutes – and / or Hyperlinks</b>	
1	<a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/</a>
2	<a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/criteria-and-detailed-information/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/supporting-communities-business/sustainable-communities-fund/criteria-and-detailed-information/</a>