

**Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee**  
**19 September 2008**

**10. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND 2008/09 – PROGRESS REPORT**

**Background**

1. Natural England made a grant offer of £61,666 to the Malvern Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for use in 2008/09, (a reduction of £8,334 from 2007/08). The Sustainable Development Fund Panel has now met on three occasions since the start of April 2008 to consider applications. A summary of grant allocated thus far is provided in the following table.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Offer</b>
Malvern Hills Local Agenda 21	<b>Plastic Bags No Thanks</b> To reduce the use of and distribution of free plastic bags through liaison with providers and publicity (logos, website etc.)	£2,500
Herefordshire Amphibian and Reptile Team	<b>What's that Snake?</b> To promote awareness and understanding of reptiles amongst local schools and communities, to undertake reptile surveys and to develop conservation and management briefs for land managers	£3,000
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	<b>Farming, Biodiversity and History in the AONB</b> To visit farmers and land managers in the AONB to advise on conservation management, promote local grants and encourage uptake of agri-environment funding.	£9,329
Caring for God's Acre	<b>Exploring churches and church yards in the Malvern Hills AONB</b> Production of a guide to the churches of the AONB (incorporating sustainable transport), organisation of an information and training day to advise church yard managers	£5,000
Colwall Parish Council	<b>Colwall Community Orchard Project</b> Further surveys of orchards, preparation of practical management advice to owners and volunteers, public events for orchard owners, local people	£5,500

Further Information on the subject of this report is available from from Paul Esrich  
 ☎: on 01684 560616



	and visitors, promotion of Downs orchard as a community orchard.	
River Wye Preservation Trust	<b>Veteran trees of the Malvern Hills AONB</b> A survey to record and map veteran trees in Colwall, Mathon and Cradley Parishes using experienced surveyors and local trainees.	£4,480
Total		£29,809

## Summary

2. Unlike in previous years a relatively high level of interest was shown in the SDF fund in the early part of the current financial year. In addition to the funds allocated a number of other projects have also been discussed with a view to financial support. On current projections it is expected that a majority of the grant money available for local projects will be allocated. However, some funding is still available at this time.
3. The SDF scheme continues to be promoted on the AONB website and availability of funds was also highlighted in the last AONB ebulletin (sent to 176 recipients on 17 July 2008).

## Recommendation

**The Committee is recommended to:**

1. **Note and comment on the report.**
2. **Refer any potential SDF applicants to Kate Mustard ([kmustard@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:kmustard@worcestershire.gov.uk)) or to the AONB Unit.**

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