

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

20 May 2020

Present: Councillor M James (Chair)
Councillor K Doolin, Dr R Plummer, Councillor M Williams,
Councillor S Yelland; Ms S Green, Mr P Howe (Pembrokeshire
County Council) and Ms C Marmara (Pembrokeshire Association
of Voluntary Services).

[Dr M Havard joined the meeting following consideration of the Minutes
(Minute 4 refers) and Mr I Thomas, Planed, arrived during consideration of the
Sustainable Development Fund update report]

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 11.30am)

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 January 2020 were presented
for confirmation and authentication.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22
January 2020 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Welcome

The Chair welcomed Mrs J Morgan, Grants and Funding Officer, who had
taken over responsibility for the Sustainable Development Fund.

NOTED.

5. Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Update Report

The report before the Committee provided an update on applications
approved previously and outlined one application made to the fund since
the previous meeting.

It was noted that the day to day administration of the fund had returned to
the Authority on 1st April 2020 following a 15 month period where
PLANED had administered the fund. The Authority would now review the
current SDF administration arrangements and prepare a review report for
consideration by Members at a future committee.

The Grants and Funding Officer advised that a total of £100,000 had been allocated to the fund for the 2020/21 financial year. The Authority awarded circa £5k for “Little Green” projects run via PAVS therefore, if the project before the Committee that day was approved this would leave £75,000 remaining for other projects.

Welcoming the Officer, one Member asked about the impact of Covid-19 on existing projects and how the Authority would be dealing with any slippage as regards claims. Officers replied that they had been contacted by a number of projects and an update on these would be provided at the next meeting. Another Member asked whether the underspend of the Fund from 2019/20 would be carried forward to the current financial year or ringfenced for future projects. The Finance Manager replied that the money had been returned to the Authority’s general reserves, however a sum of £30k from underspends in previous years had been placed in an earmarked reserve, and this could be drawn upon should the Committee wish to fund projects of merit over and above the current year’s budget.

Finally, it was noted by Ms Marmara that a Little Green Grant project being undertaken by Mencap at Stackpole Walled Garden was currently on hold, but was generally progressing well.

NOTED.

5. Exclusion of the public

It was **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, would be disclosed.

6. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered one new application for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). The application was considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by the project applicants. Members were reminded that the application included on the agenda that day contained commercially sensitive information and should therefore not be shared further or distributed.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF/2020/7	The Pembrookshire Remakery	Nicky Middleton-Jones Stephen Merrill	The Pembrookshire Remakery CIC

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of those Advisory Members present.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that application SDF/2020/7 be refused for the following reasons:

The Committee felt that further support should be sought from PAVS regarding Governance of the CIC. They were concerned at the reliance of the project on grant funding and the sustainability of this and also felt that there was a lack of clarity on the application form regarding milestones and funding streams over the next 12 months. It was suggested that if the application was further developed taking into account the feedback from the Committee that they would be happy to reconsider a revised application.