



Cronfa Datblygu
Cynaliadwy

Sustainable
Development Fund

**Sustainable Development Fund
Report for Year Ended 31st March 2020**





Cronfa Datblygu Cynaliadwy

Sustainable Development Fund

Contents

Chair's Foreword

Page 3

Executive Summary

Pages 4-9

Picture on cover: "Get into the Brecon Beacons" trainees and Ilona Carati, Project Supervisor and Volunteer Development Officer dry stone walling on Allt yr Esgair

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

It is an honour and pleasure to have been elected by the BBNPA as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Fund Committee for the coming year. I would also like to congratulate Cllr Malcolm Colbran on his election as Vice Chairman and welcome Mrs Liz Davies, Cllr Edwin Roderick and Cllr Ann Webb to the Committee. I wish especially to thank the former Chairman Mrs Deborah Perkin whose enthusiasm and passion for the work of the SDF was inspirational. I would also like to thank former committee members Cllrs Karen Laurie Parry (Vice Chair), Ian McIntosh and Kevin Madge for their input and considerable expertise and Mr. Chris Coppock for his continuing work on the Fund. Furthermore I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable advice of the GAP members. Also a huge thank you to NPA officers Ceri Bevan and Helen Roderick without whose hard work the remit of the Fund and Committee would not be possible.

I have pleasure in presenting the 2019/20 annual report.

Cllr Michael J Jones

SDF Chair

SDF Annual Report 2019/20

I. Executive Summary

The Sustainable Development Fund paid out £222,596 in the year to 24 projects and awarded grants to 9 new applicants. A range of conservation and enhancement projects were supported including the Cwm Bwchel Himalayan Balsam eradication, Allt yr Esgair habitat management, Pine Martin Conservation volunteer project, the restoration of an Ancient Woodland by community volunteers at Talgarth and Amman Valley Community Connections near Brynaman.

The aim of the Sustainable Development Fund, first established in 2000, has been to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in a countryside of great natural beauty and diversity in which the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community are conserved and enhanced. The objectives of the Fund are:-

- To explore innovative ways of contributing as far as practicable to the Welsh Government's vision of a sustainable Wales and of breaking down barriers that can act as obstacles to sustainability
- To integrate sustainable development with the special qualities of the National Park and demonstrate the contribution of a strong sense of place and local identity to wellbeing and sustainable living.
- To build capacity in local communities and to develop and support community based projects promoting sustainable development objectives.
- To generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainability amongst residents and visitors and facilitate positive behaviour change.

SDF Projects are assessed against, and make a significant contribution to, the Well-being Goals, as set out in the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act, whose goals inform the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan, which puts well-being at the heart of managing the landscape.

The projects supported in this financial year led to the creation or preservation of 9 jobs. The match funding ratio on a grants paid basis in 2019/20 basis is 4:1 which means that for every 1 of SDF spent this brought in a further £4 to projects. The projects supported in 2019/20 have provided volunteering opportunities to the value of £451,819 which represents a significant contribution to life across the National Park by volunteers.

Of the £222,596 paid out to projects, £44,545 was spent on projects led by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority including the Get into the Beacons Cohort 5 Princes Trust project, Active Park for All Ages and volunteer projects on Cwm Bwchel, Allt yr Esgair and Pine Marten conservation. In addition the construction of the new toilets at Llangorse was coordinated by the Sustainable Development Team.

7% of projects supported this year were primarily aimed at land use and nature recovery and 54% focused on inspiring people and places, creating opportunities for people to gain knowledge and skills. The remaining 39% sought to support communities and rural enterprise across the National Park.

The Sustainable Development Fund has supported projects which meet a variety of well-being goals as demonstrated below.

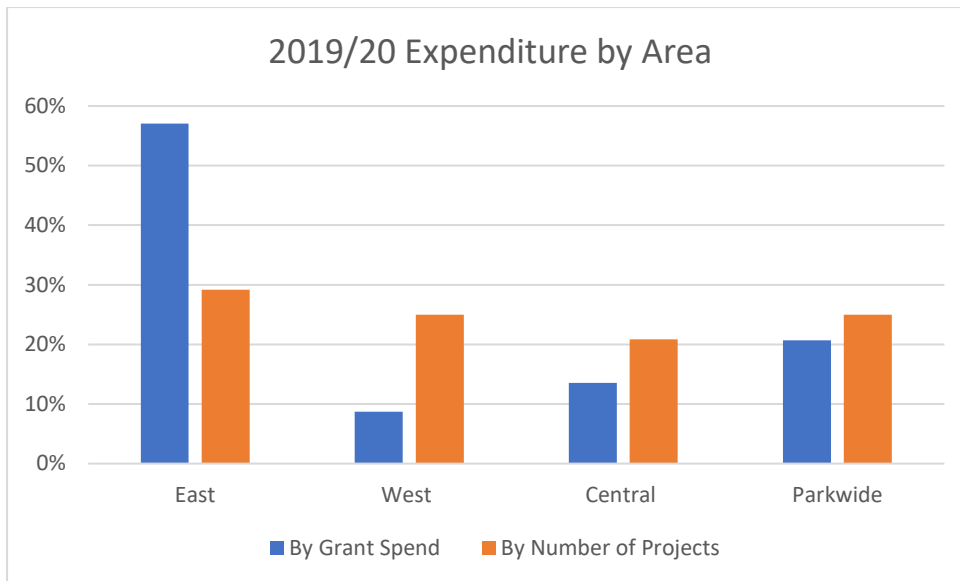
SDF Annual Report 2019/20 – Projects which meet the Well-being goals

Well- being Goals							Project name	Brief Project Description
Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	Equal	Cohesive	Vibrant	Globally		
							Get into the Beacons (Cohort 5) Princes Trust	A trainee development programme in partnership with the Princes Trust providing skills and work experience for NEET (not in employment, education or training) young people
							Theatr Brycheiniog – Multiuse & Wet Craft Rooms	Upgrading changing rooms to enable a wide variety of uses & to enable increased revenue generation for the theatre
							Big Pit Apprenticeship Scheme	SDF is supporting an apprentice at the Big Pit to undertake mining works and guiding in order to maintain the underground experience at this major Welsh attraction.
							Ystradowen Intergenerational Community facilities	A development worker at Ystradowen has facilitated the opening of Café Henllys at the centre and grown the luncheon club, the fuel club and Ti a Fi (welsh playgroup)
							Black Mountains College	The feasibility of establishing a University in the National Park and options for its location has been explored during this project.
							Active Park for All Ages	This National Park led project encourages people to get out into the Park and enjoy walking.
							Pine Marten Conservation Project	Volunteers will make & install pine marten boxes in the National Park. Monitoring of the wildlife using the boxes will take place using camera technology.
							Henry Vaughan Garden - Talybont	A group of volunteers from across the community have restored this community garden for the local community and visitors to enjoy.
							Brecon Business Improvement District	SDF is match funding Welsh Government funding into the feasibility of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) in Brecon

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	Equal	Cohesive	Vibrant	Globally		
							Stroke in Young Adults – Outdoor Rehabilitation Project	Outdoor Rehabilitation to improve outcomes – Manchester Metropolitan University examining the effect of outdoor activity & green exercise on the quality of life of young people who have suffered a stroke.
							Llangorse Common Community Toilets	Initially this project established the design & permission for building new toilets at Llangorse Common
							Amman Valley Community Connections Project	Bringing together volunteers from across the community this project will see the making, installation & monitoring of birds at various locations in the Amman Valley.
							St Cattwg's Church Feasibility	This project is to support a feasibility study to review options for using the local church and/or field in Llanspyddid for long term community use.
							Nutcracker – Brecon Festival Ballet Ltd	This project aims to produce Wales' first production of the well-known ballet "The Nutcracker" for 5 performances in December 2019 and each Christmas thereafter.
							Muddy Care	This project supports Muddy Care project, a long term rehabilitation programme for people with chronic medical & health conditions of working age.
							Cwm Bwchel Himalayan Balsam eradication	This project is aims to contain and eradicate the distribution of Himalayan balsam in a control area of the Black Mountains.
							Allt yr Esgair Habitat management	This project will support volunteers to receive training in dry stone walling, habitat management and species on a Scheduled Ancient Monument site
							Our Food Brecon Beacons	Our Food Brecon Beacons is a community driven approach to invite new local people, young and old, to become food producers and supply locally.

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	Equal	Cohesive	Vibrant	Globally		
							Community Hub Rainwater Harvesting	Installation of a rainwater harvesting system at this new community hub at Cwmtwrch Rfc will lead to savings of up to 40% in water usage.
							Sustaining Salisbury Hall	This project is a one-off capital project to renovate the community hall using sustainable building materials to re-clad & insulate the hall.
							Waterfalls Future	This project aims to undertake a full feasibility study including visitor survey to support and develop the vision and objectives for a 'Waterfalls Country' social enterprise.
							Restoration of Ancient Woodland & Woodland Products	This project aims to support the restoration of ancient woodland through increasing group capacity, improving access, low impact extraction methods and training opportunities.
							Dwrgwn Sawdde Tree Planting Scheme	This project aims to establish a local group of volunteers to plant trees on the banks of the River Sawdde to improve the environment for the fish and to improve their survival rates and also increase biodiversity in general.
							Seed Calendar	The development of a seed calendar to encourage local people to collect and grow local provenance trees

Expenditure on projects takes place across the National Park; this year the East of the Park, where the majority of people live, received the most grant aid. By area within the Brecon Beacons National Park the expenditure was as follows:-



Fund Management

The scheme is administered by the Sustainable Development Team. Applications are put before a joint meeting of the Grants Advisory Panel, made up of members of the community and the SDF Members Committee. The Grants Advisory Panel vote initially on applications and the final decision is made by the six Members of the Authority.

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Fund, since its inception in 2000 has followed the sustainable development principles and operational guidelines developed by the Welsh Government. These guidelines and the fund criteria have further been developed to include the Well Being of Future Generations goals and the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan. Further work to redefine the fund in line with the Authority's priorities to deliver economic and social benefit through delivery of the 1st purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife & cultural heritage and the 2nd purpose of promoting opportunities for public enjoyment & understanding will be completed in the autumn of 2020. SDF is an important fund for communities across the Brecon Beacons National Park. Its main strengths are that:-

1. SDF is part of the BBNPA delivery in line with the Sustainable Development principles which form part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Projects support all three BBNPA well-being objectives.
2. SDF often acts as seed-corn funding, with our initial modest investment in a feasibility study or pilot project resulting in a lasting impact over the **long term**. Projects may attract substantial resources and/or develop into a self-financing model. Examples include the Nutcracker, Llangorse Common Community Toilets and the Black Mountains College. These are pioneering projects which are demonstrating the aspiration and entrepreneurialism which exists across the Park.
3. SDF acts as a catalyst to attract support from other funders and through donations. This year's ratio is 4 : 1 thereby directly supporting in excess of £1 million of funding across the National Park
4. Officer support helps build capacity within projects and communities making both more resilient. The SDF officers' support of **collaboration** between applicants, other organisations and funders is well respected and valued by projects.

5. **Involvement** of a wide cross section of the community is ensured through the excellent knowledge provided by the Grants Advisory Panel which forms part of the assessment process.
6. The formation of **partnerships** to execute projects is widely encouraged. For example the Henry Vaughan Garden Project saw the local community including community council, litter pickers, businesses, WI, Gardening club, Navy and 1st Llangynidr Scout Group and BBNPA all working together to complete the project.
7. It is focused on Authority priorities and the Well-Being Act and the criteria can be adjusted to ensure that social & economic benefit is delivered while delivering the Authority's two purposes.
8. It is a very flexible and responsive tool to help support community, environmental, economic and cultural projects, some of which are directly managed by National Park staff.
9. SDF is an important vehicle across the Authority's key work areas of land use & nature recovery, inspiring people and places and communities & rural enterprise.