

Date: 6th December 2017

Report: Surrey Hills Trust Fund Activity Report

Written by: Neil Maltby

The Panel met on 28th November 2017. The main focus of the meeting was to review the Fund Development Strategy under the title “Enhancing Landscapes and Lives”. A draft of the Development Strategy is attached for comment. The aspiration is to effectively re-launch the Fund in 2018 as part of the 60th Anniversary with a new fit for purpose micro web-site that will focus on giving and the projects supported.

The Strategy identifies the following themes as the basis of fundraising and allocating grants:

- Landscape & Nature
- Share with Care
- Community, Health & Wellbeing

As I will be stepping down as Chairman next October, there will be an opportunity to review the membership of the Panel to ensure that we have the right philanthropic interests, skills and experience represented. Our ability to generate donations is dependent on our network of contacts and ensuring we are support projects that will generate great interest and further giving. The panel needs to be expanded and, perhaps, does not need to include the Chair people of the other Surrey Hills bodies.

As the available funds are limited, the Panel agreed in principle to allocate a maximum grant of £5k per annum to a project until the fund is collecting more per annum and/or the endowment fund is large enough to generate a balance. A contribution of £3k towards a ‘Delight in the Woods’ educational project for disadvantaged children at Box Hill was agreed. The Panel also agreed to invite the following prospective projects to bid for grants in 2018, with the potential for further grants in following years:

- Cycle Surrey Hills - £3k proposed for a leaflet, with Cycling UK.
- Single Track Bike network - £5k over 3 years proposed towards assistant ranger role, with Friends of the Hurtwood.
- Surrey Unearthed – subject to Arts Council England funding, up to £5k with Surrey Hills Society
- Into the Hills – subject to HLF funding, up to £5k with Surrey Youth Focus.

- Hacking Trails - £2k contribution to Horseman's Sunday & way-marking with the British Horse Society

The Panel is also keen to work with the Surrey Hills Society to develop the Inspiring Views programme across the County. Donations for artwork, access and viewpoint enhancements will be sought. There is the opportunity to encourage memorial funding for benches with an endowment contribution for maintenance, to support the programme. This will be considered at the next meeting on 18 January 2018