

Date: 12th December 2018
Report: Surrey Hills Trust Fund Activity Report
Written by: Gordon Jackson

This report covers the period from 1 September until December 2018

1. The advisory panel has met once during the reporting period and our focus has been on identifying the future trajectory of the Trust Fund. Attached is a copy of the paper that I have prepared, which highlights the issues that we have been considering. There is a lot of detail, but the most important conclusions are that in conjunction with the AONB Board we need to identify a clear set of projects that the Trust Fund can support and to be clear as to who our delivery partners are in relation to each project. We also recognise that we should be open to bids from other organisations, who may have particular projects to promote.

In addition, we need to be more pro-active in relation to fundraising and that is going to be an important focus going forward.

2. The highlight of the quarter has been the Trust Fund Dinner, which was held, courtesy of the University of Surrey, immediately after the AONB Symposium on 28th November 2018. 32 people attended and there was a wide-ranging discussion and the feedback from participants has been excellent.

In order to facilitate this, we created 4 tables of 8 people each around a different theme. The four themes were:

- Inspiring Views
- Connecting with the Community
- Engaging with Young People; and
- Enhancing Environment

We asked each table the following questions:

- What projects could the Trust Fund support to promote the theme of your table?
- How could we raise money and help for those projects and in what way could you personally assist?
- Do you know of people who would be good ambassadors in this area and would you be happy to introduce us to them?

I am currently preparing a summary of the responses in order to feed this back to the advisory panel in the New Year.

3. Donations

- We have given £2000 towards a **Swift Tower** in Shalford. Each summer a small population of swifts return to Shalford to nest. The Parish Council are aware of the issue of the decline of suitable nesting sites for Swifts and the sharp decrease in their

numbers placing the bird on the amber list of Birds for Conservation Concern. The Parish Council wish to address this issue and commission an artist to design and construct a site-specific swift tower for the Parish.

- We have agreed to provide £2000 to **The Tales of the Wey Project**, which has a further £6000 provided by Guildford Borough Council and another Community Foundation Fund and is fully funded. Following on from the hugely successful Tales of The Tillingbourne Valley, Tales of The Wey aims to look deeper, not only into how the river supports the industries in the Surrey Hills, but also how The Wey supported industry into Guildford itself and how the river supported a busy, bustling town and how it sits within the ecology of a modern day Guildford.