

Surrey Hills Trust Fund Update from Gordon Jackson – Chair of Advisory Panel

This report covers the period from 1 December until March 2019

1. The advisory panel has met once during the reporting period on 27th February 2019.
 - a) Our meeting was held at Denbies Wine Estate and the General Manager, Chris White joined the meeting to discuss ways in which Denbies might support the Trust Fund. Some of these remain confidential, but the hosting of the Surrey Hills Challenge is of particular importance and Jim McAllister reported that despite the foul weather the previous year, numbers were increasing, and the current year is looking as if it will be an even bigger event.
 - b) We were also very pleased to receive a presentation by James Winkworth from The South Downs National Park Fund. He provided us with the following information:
 - The Fund was established in 2018 with 8 Trustees and a strong link to the National Park Authority. Funding from the NPA also supports 2 fundraising officers.
 - **Objectives;** Philanthropy, Partnership, Awareness, Financial sustainability and Governance.
 - 100% of donations go to Park projects as the NPA pays all other costs.
 - Fundraising focused on major donors, legacies, corporates etc. Managed to bring in huge financial support through the Chairman and his contacts.
 - Focus on 1 appeal each year to raise awareness locally – single clear project across a geographical area. Targeting specific groups for funds e.g. Trail Riders Fellowship has worked well. Appeal has received 8% from crowdfunding and focuses on experiences e.g. a day with a ranger etc...
 - Project Shelf which is a spreadsheet of projects that can then be matched with funds and which is mapped along the South Downs Way so as to provide a geographical spread.
2. The panel has a special meeting scheduled for early April where it will discuss the emerging themes that tie in with those being suggested for the Society.

Namely:

- Communities
- Landscapes
- Access
- Youth
- Health & well-being

We are continuing our discussions with the Community Foundation regarding the way in which we handle smaller donations and manage grants. We have agreed to create a panel with representatives from the Trust Fund, the Society and the Board that can informally screen applications for grants and suggest the best funding approach so that smaller applications can be handled through the Society where appropriate.

3. Donations

We have agreed to give £2000 to the Field Studies Council (FSC) to fund a project that aims to provide a week of nature events and activities that engages with everyone in the local community of Mickleham and Westhumble as well as people from elsewhere in Surrey. Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore, and understand the environment. The project will be based on the FSC's premises at Juniper Hall. Not only will this project have a positive impact on children, but it will also benefit their families and other members of the community.

4. Prudential Ride London Surrey

Rob has secured 10 places for the Trust Fund. The Panel has agreed that a minimum figure per place of at least £500 will be required and that riders will be asked to sign a short agreement designed by the Community Foundation for Surrey.