

Date: 12th September 2018

Report: Surrey Hills Trust Fund Activity Report

Written by: Gordon Jackson

The Panel last met on 12th July. At the meeting, Neil Maltby formally handed over Chairmanship of the Surrey Hills Trust Fund Panel. Neil was thanked for all his hard work in establishing the Fund and providing a good base from which to take it forward.

The focus of the meeting was on the Project Development Plan. It is proposed to identify a pipeline of projects that would support the implementation of the AONB Management Plan that the Surrey Hills family could sign up to. I am in the process of preparing a paper for consideration at the next meeting with a view to agreeing a more formal structure in relation to the process for assessing relevant projects and ensuring that funding is channelled through the most appropriate member of the Surrey Hills Family. For example, as the Community Foundation does not have the ability to collect small donations, it has been proposed that the Surrey Hills Society could collect smaller donations for projects that it could deliver itself, with an option of transferring donations into the Trust Fund providing there was a clear audit trail based on the reason for the donation. In terms of giving grants, the Community Foundation has a robust process for administering funds, which in turn provides a high level of confidence to donors.

Mrs Mittal kindly hosted a donor event at the Alderbrook Estate on 21st June. This was an opportunity to profile the Inspiring Views project to get more landowners and donors interested in opening up views, enhancing access and public art installation. The aim is to increase contributions to the permanent endowment to maintain the Views in perpetuity through a simple agreement with landowners, as has already been established with the Mittal Foundation funding. The Leader of Surrey CC, David Hodge, and the Watts Gallery also used the occasion to profile the Physical Energy public art commission for the A3 and invited some of its major donors. We need to capitalise upon the Alderbrook event and agree how the Trust Fund will promote itself going forward and the best approach to attracting additional donations.

The Surrey Hills Challenge and the inaugural Festival of Sport will be taking place on the 23rd September at Denbies Wine Estate. Bookings for the Challenge event are up 200% on this time last year and plans for the Festival are progressing well with a wide range of outdoor sporting activities being planned including the British Horse Society national road show, mechanical horse, cycle hill climb, cycle pump track and cani-cross. The Festival should help to support the Trust Fund in the long term by generating footfall, income and sponsorship opportunities. In the meantime, it will be a great opportunity to raise the profile of the Surrey Hills as an outstanding area for outdoor sport and exercise.

Finally Max Lu, the Vice Chancellor of Surrey University, will be hosting a dinner after the Symposium on 28th November. This will be an opportunity to raise the profile of the fund amongst civic guests, business leaders and philanthropists. If possible, we would like to highlight a specific project that could be conducted in conjunction with the University. One

idea is to develop a project around citizens' science and disadvantaged young people accessing the Surrey Hills.

The only grant awarded since the last meeting is £2,000 towards a Swift Tower in Shalford.