



# New Forest National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund

## Annual Report 2010 - 2011



Prepared by:

***Claire Gingell,***

**Project Delivery Manager**

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

# Foreword

by Vicky Myers

Over the past year the New Forest Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has helped fund 15 projects which encourage innovation and promote best practice in sustainable living. The broad range of schemes funded indicate the highly accessible nature of this fund, which is proud to have a minimal administrative burden. Over the past financial year, a total of £227,776 was allocated to projects which help deliver the purposes and duty of the New Forest National Park. An independent assessment<sup>1</sup> of this fund in 2010 recognised that the SDF draws down high levels of funding, creates jobs and stretches the aspirations of projects. Successful applicants benefit from officer support and partnership arrangements which assist delivery. In the New Forest, the SDF continues to focus on supporting projects that address the challenges we face from climate change and this is reflected in the range of projects funded. This report details those projects, explains how they meet SDF scheme criteria and why they benefit the New Forest National Park. Whether you are one of these successful applicants or considering submitting a grant application yourself, I hope you find this annual report inspirational reading.

**Vicky Myers, Chair of Sustainable Development Fund Panel**

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<sup>1</sup>*Evaluation of the Sustainable Development Fund in English National Parks 2002 - 2009.*  
Land Use Consultants March 2010.



Biomass boiler, Lyndhurst Community Centre



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“Our farm will enable young children to develop a real understanding of the cycle of food production and the importance of eating both seasonally and locally.”

**Claudia Bailey, Lymington Montessori School.**

# Background

The Sustainable Development Fund was introduced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to English National Parks in 2002 following a similar scheme that had been successfully established in Wales. The purpose of the SDF is to encourage individuals, community groups and businesses to develop practical, sustainable local projects; to develop and test new ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in National Parks; and, in particular, to change the attitudes and behaviour of individuals and communities. The SDF provides a flexible and non-bureaucratic means of funding projects that aid the achievement of National Park purposes and enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.

Each National Park authority operates its own SDF independently and according to its own local circumstances but within national Defra guidelines. The New Forest National Park was designated in March 2005 and the National Park Authority took up its powers in April 2006. The SDF was first launched in the New Forest in November 2005 and began receiving and appraising applications in April 2006.

## SDF Criteria

To be eligible for a grant from the SDF a project must further at least one of the National Park purposes:

- **to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park; and**
- **to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public.**

Projects must demonstrate that they will promote or support sustainable living in the National Park by having a positive effect on the environmental, economic *and* community wellbeing of the New Forest. They also need to have the support or involvement of local communities.

In addition, Defra has stated that priority be given to projects that:

- **involve young people**
- **promote social inclusion**
- **promote understanding and support of the New Forest amongst our urban neighbours**
- **demonstrate new ways or best practice in sustainable living**
- **encourage people to work together in tackling challenges or promoting new ideas**
- **lever in contributions from other sources or have little access to alternative public funding,**

The New Forest SDF focuses on supporting projects that help to meet the challenges we face from climate change. When appraising applications to the SDF, consideration is also given to how well a project meets the objectives of the New Forest National Park Management Plan, which are detailed at Annex 1.

## SDF Panel

Applications to the SDF are appraised by a Panel of representatives from the local area who were selected to the Panel to represent particular areas of knowledge or expertise including business, environmental issues, conservation and wildlife, tourism, sustainable building technologies and local communities. The Panel Chair is a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority.

Representing	Name	
Chair	Vicky Myers	Vicky works as a Ranger in the New Forest and studied conservation in Africa for her PhD. She was born in Salisbury and has lived in or close to the New Forest for most of her life. She is a Member of the National Park Authority.
Conservation, wildlife, agriculture and commoning	Phil Marshall	Phil is a Countryside Manager for the National Trust.
Conservation, wildlife, agriculture and commoning	John Durnell	John is Head of Conservation for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
Wider environment and sustainability	Robert Pratt	Robert is a Chartered Engineer specialising in sustainable building design with particular experience of low and renewable energy systems. He lives in Redlynch.
Wider environment and sustainability	Jessie Rogers	Jessie has considerable experience of campaigning and raising awareness about global and local environmental issues. She lives with her young family in the New Forest.
Local business and economy	Rob Dewing	Rob is vice-chair of the New Forest Business Partnership and Chair of the New Forest branch of the Federation of Small Businesses. He lives and works in Lyndhurst.
Sustainable tourism	Charles Oswin	Charles has over 30 years of experience in the tourism business having worked for the English Tourist Board and on a wide range of sustainable tourism projects throughout Europe. Charles now lives in Lymington.
Wider community interest	Sophy Robinson	Sophy is a freelance writer and business coach, living and working in the New Forest. She is involved in a variety of community issues and is a governor at Brockenhurst College.
Wider community interest	John Sanger	John is a parish councillor for Woodgreen and an active member of the Association of Local Councils New Forest District. He is also a Member of the New Forest National Park Authority. John has lived in Woodgreen for over 25 years.

# Achievements of the SDF in 2010 - 2011

The SDF supported 15 projects during 2010 – 2011 allocating a total of £227,776.

## The projects supported during 10 – 11 were:

- 1 Nappy Bliss Business Development
- 2 New Forest Outdoor Centre Green Energy Project
- 3 Lymington Montessori School Farm
- 4 South Coast Osprey Project
- 5 New Forest Centre Solar Energy Project
- 6 Minstead Study Centre Community Courses
- 7 South Baddesley Primary School Eco-Discovery Centre
- 8 Out of Town Centre Green Energy Project
- 9 St Katherine's Church, Exbury Compost Toilet
- 10 Ashurst Allotments
- 11 Wheels to Work
- 12 New Forest Land Advice Service
- 13 Sunrise Bushcraft
- 14 Lepe Country Park Compost Toilet
- 15 Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre- Sustainability Improvements Phase 2.

## A brief summary of each of the projects is provided below:

### 1 Nappy Bliss Business Development

SDF grant £6,200, 27% of total project costs £22,547

Nappy Bliss is a locally owned and based real nappy service, the objective of which is to promote the use of real nappies in the New Forest in order to reduce waste, improve water quality and reduce the overall 'carbon footprint' of each nappy-wearing child. By offering both a laundry service and a retail arm, Nappy Bliss provides a one stop shop for New Forest parents and carers wishing to use real nappies. Funding from the SDF has enabled the company to promote real nappies to a wider audience and expand into larger premises.

### 2 New Forest Outdoor Centre Green Energy Project

SDF grant £6,146, 40% of total project costs £15,366

The New Forest Outdoor Centre delivers bespoke team building events in the heart of the New Forest. A grant from the SDF has enabled the centre to install a biomass heating system, fed by locally-sourced wood to provide heating and domestic hot water to centre users, and a rain water harvesting system with a 3,759 litre water tank which will be used for toilet flushing.

### 3 Lymington Montessori School Farm

SDF grant £13,832, 51% of total project costs £27,324

It is Lymington Montessori School's aim 'to become a beacon of best practice' and funding from the SDF has enabled the school to meet this aim in relation to food. Through this project, the school has developed its farm in order to improve the educational experiences of the children and improve the sustainability of the school by increasing food production. The funding has enabled the use of rainwater harvesting for irrigation and the use of wormeries to recycle food waste and produce compost. A greenhouse, composting toilet, fruit cages and a mobile chicken coup have all been installed. All of the children at the school regularly work in the school farm.



Nappy Bliss



New Forest Outdoor Centre



Lymington Montessori School Farm

#### 4 South Coast Osprey Project

SDF grant £5,000, 75% of total project costs £8,220

It is over 400 years since Ospreys last bred in Southern England and the New Forest coast has been identified as an area for potential recolonisation as the Solent provides ideal feeding grounds. As Ospreys that are breeding for the first time always inhabit an existing nest rather than building their own, installation of artificial nests is a key part of any recolonisation effort. The aim of this project is to identify suitable nest sites along the New Forest coast and create 13 artificial nests.

#### 5 New Forest Centre Solar Installation

SDF grant £8,029, 75% of total project costs £10,705

The New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst is a key visitor attraction, receiving over a quarter of a million visitors every year. The Centre is keen to reduce its environmental impact and has used SDF funding to install a photovoltaic system on its south facing roof that is capable of producing over 3000kWh per year, which will reduce the Centre's emissions by 1900Kg annually. An interpretation panel explains the need for renewable energy sources and shows the amount of energy produced to date.

#### 6 MSC Community Courses

SDF grant £6,165, 75% of total project costs £8,220

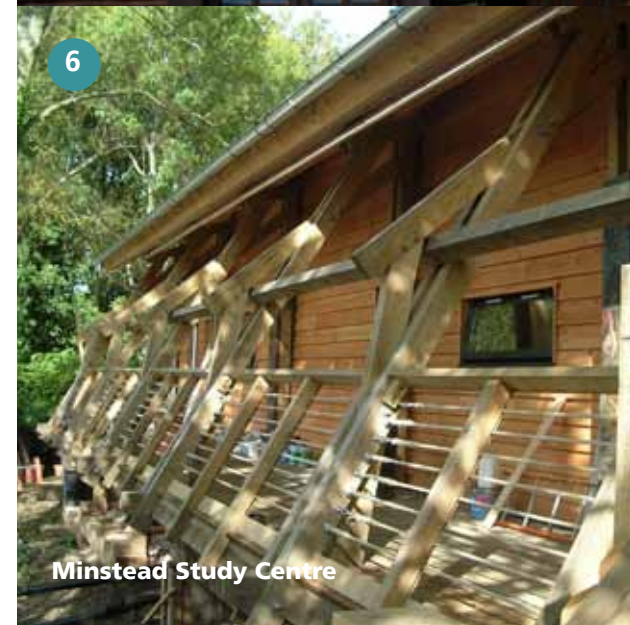
One of the side effects of recent decades is that many people no longer have the skills that older generations learned from their parents, skills such as how to grow and cook your own food. Minstead Study Centre has worked with New Forest Transition to identify a number of areas where 're-skilling' is required to enable people to move to a lower carbon lifestyle. The Centre has used SDF funding to develop a programme of community courses covering topics such as bee keeping, edible gardening, coppicing and coppice crafts, jam making and eating seasonally. The courses have been very successful and it is intended that following initial support from the SDF, the course programme can become self-financing.



Osprey habitat, Solent coastline



The New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst



Minstead Study Centre

## 7 South Baddesley School Eco Discovery Centre

SDF grant £26,000, 13% of total project costs £196,910

Over the last few years South Baddesley Primary School has undertaken a lot of work to reduce its energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels and to teach pupils about environmental matters. To further this work, the school plans to build an Eco Discovery Centre that will sit within its discovery outside space and be the base for the reception class. SDF funding will enable this building to embrace low carbon and renewable energy technologies with demonstration areas to encourage users to think about the impact of the built environment around them. Some of the features of the building will be; electricity generated from solar energy, Hemcrete walls, super insulation, daylight tubes, a timber frame, local materials, a sedum green roof and mechanical ventilation with a heat recovery system.

## 8 Out of Town Centre Green Energy Project

SDF grant £10,430, 71% of total project costs £14,690

The Out of Town Centre at Beaulieu has 2,000 residential visitors every year. As an education provider for children and young people the Centre is keen to incorporate low carbon technologies into its buildings and use them in their teaching programmes. Using funding from the SDF, old electric heaters have been replaced by efficient air-to-air heat pumps, reducing electricity consumption by two thirds. An old solar system has also been refurbished and new panels installed to provide hot water for the Centre.

## 9 St Katherine's Church, Exbury Composting Toilet

SDF grant £8,407, 75% of total project costs £11,210

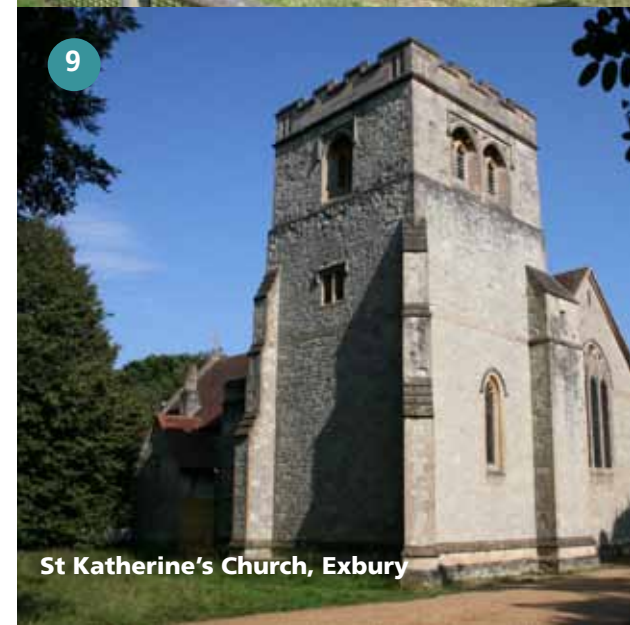
St Katherine's Church at Exbury wished to install a toilet facility in order to better cater for the congregation and meet demands from the community. SDF funding has enabled them to install a composting toilet requiring no mains water, rather than a standard facility.



Architect drawing of Eco-Discovery Centre



Out of Town Centre, Beaulieu



St Katherine's Church, Exbury

## 10 Ashurst Allotments

SDF grant £28,748, 75% of total project costs £38,330

Following high demand in the community for allotments, Ashurst Parish Council was gifted two acres of land for conversion to allotments. SDF funding is being used to create up to 60 plots on the site that will include a social area, a communal composting area and raised beds for use by children, elderly and disabled people.

## 11 Wheels to Work

SDF grant £2,550, 75% of total project costs £3,400

Wheels to Work is a scheme run by Community First New Forest that provides moped transport to young people who are struggling to find or attend work due to a lack of transport. Two of the mopeds are in need of replacement and funding from the SDF has enabled Wheels to Work to purchase two electric mopeds rather than standard ones. If this trial of the electric mopeds, which have much lower carbon emissions, proves successful than it is hoped to replace all the fleet over time.

## 12 New Forest Land Advice Service

SDF grant £50,000, 30% of total project costs £165,418

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a key partner in the New Forest Land Advice Service. Funding from the SDF has enabled the Trust to continue providing a full-time advisor to the service for another two years. The service supports land owners and managers in sustaining the special qualities of the New Forest through the provision of specialist advice, support, training and grants which promote sustainable land management practices.



Ashurst allotments site



Electric mopeds



New Forest Land Advice Service team

### 13 Sunrise Bushcraft

SDF grant £18,000, 35% of total project costs £51,329

Sunrise Bushcraft is a local company that delivers outdoor activities in the New Forest. Funding from the SDF has enabled the company to develop a project especially for individuals and groups within and around the New Forest who have mental health problems. A range of outdoor activities (rhododendron clearance, nature walks, wild food forays, outdoor cooking etc.) will provide the opportunity to learn and develop as healthy members of society. A core aim of the project is to enhance the use, understanding and management of the National Park.

### 14 Lepe Country Park Composting Toilet

SDF grant £8,027, 75% of total project costs £10,703

Lepe Country Park has a lot of visiting school groups and public to the Lepe Point part of the park, which is adjacent to the classrooms. SDF funding has enabled the installation of a NATSOL composting toilet (the type that has been successfully used in other New Forest locations) as an alternative to continually hiring in portaloos. An interpretation panel will be fitted inside explaining the energy saving and environmental benefit of the facility compared with the previous facility.

### 15 Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre – Sustainability Improvements Phase 2

SDF grant £30,242, 60% of total project costs £50,403

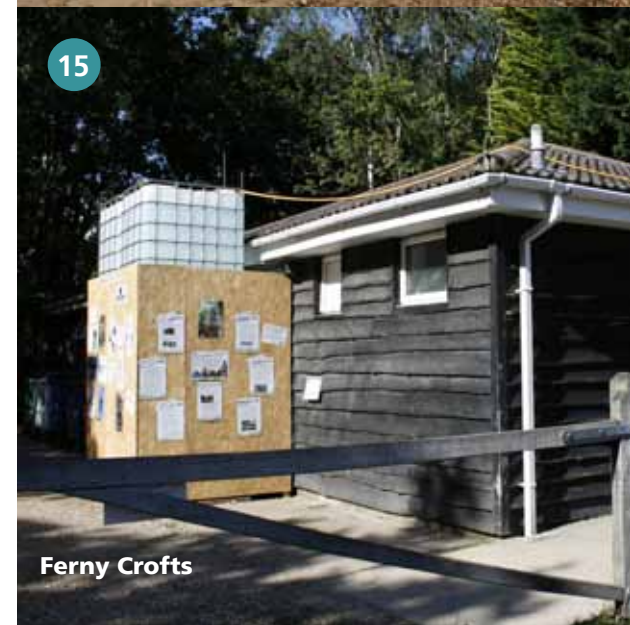
Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre near Beaulieu has previously received SDF funding in order to install ground source heat pumps, solar hot water panels and rainwater harvesting as well as improving the insulation and lighting in residential buildings. This was phase one of a large and commendable project to drastically improve the long-term sustainability of the Centre. Funding has now been provided towards phase two of the project. This incorporates the installation of a grey water recycling system which will recycle the water from the showers and washing up sinks for flushing the toilets, reducing water consumption by up to 30%. In addition, the actual amount of water used to flush the toilets will be reduced by building a bespoke system with a central reservoir to replace individual cisterns, which could reduce the amount of water used by a further 25%. Water efficient tap and shower controls will be installed and better use made of the existing under-floor heating system and hot water system. Buildings not tackled in phase one will be insulated and low energy lighting systems installed.



Sunrise Bushcraft



Marine Wonders event, Lepe Country Park



Ferny Crofts

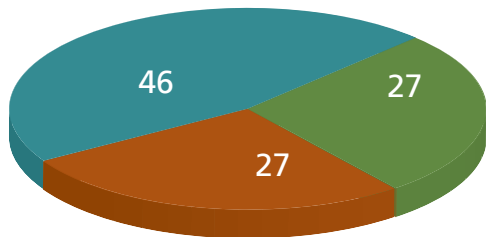
# Evaluating and measuring performance

## Applications to the Sustainable Development Fund

The SDF is open to individuals or organisations from the public, private or voluntary sectors from within or outside the National Park. The charts below show the breakdown of grants allocated across the different sectors during the year 2010 - 2011 and by the SDF overall. Funding for projects from private sector applicants is usually limited to 40% of the total project costs in recognition of any potential future financial gain by the applicant.

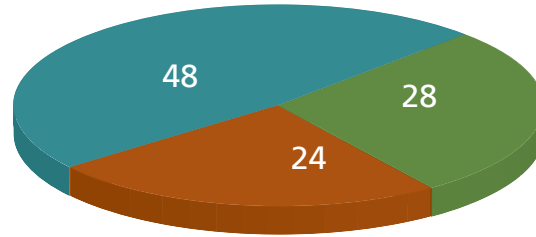
**Fig. 1 Projects supported during 2010 - 2011 by sector**  
(based on number of projects)

- Public sector 27%
- Private sector 27%
- Voluntary sector 46%



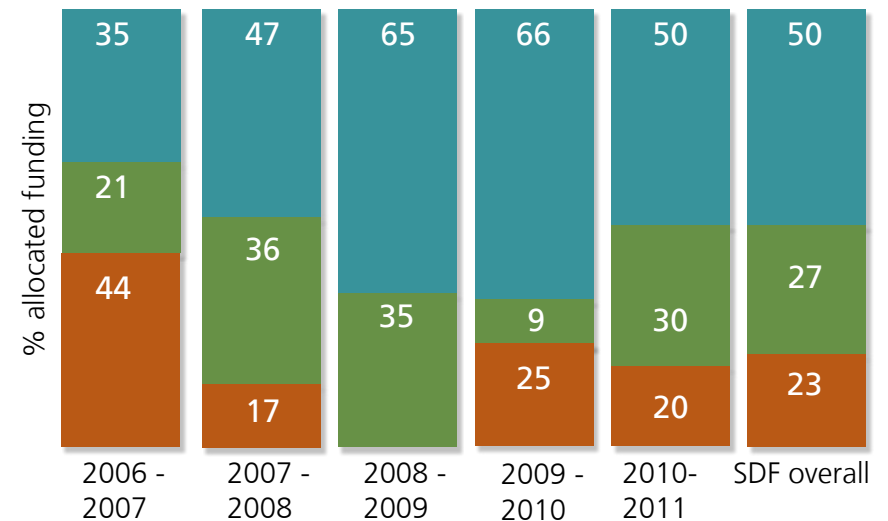
**Fig. 2 Projects supported by the SDF overall by sector**  
(based on number of projects)

- Public sector 24%
- Private sector 28%
- Voluntary sector 48%



**Fig. 3 Projects supported by sector**  
(based on amount of grant)

- Public
- Private
- Voluntary



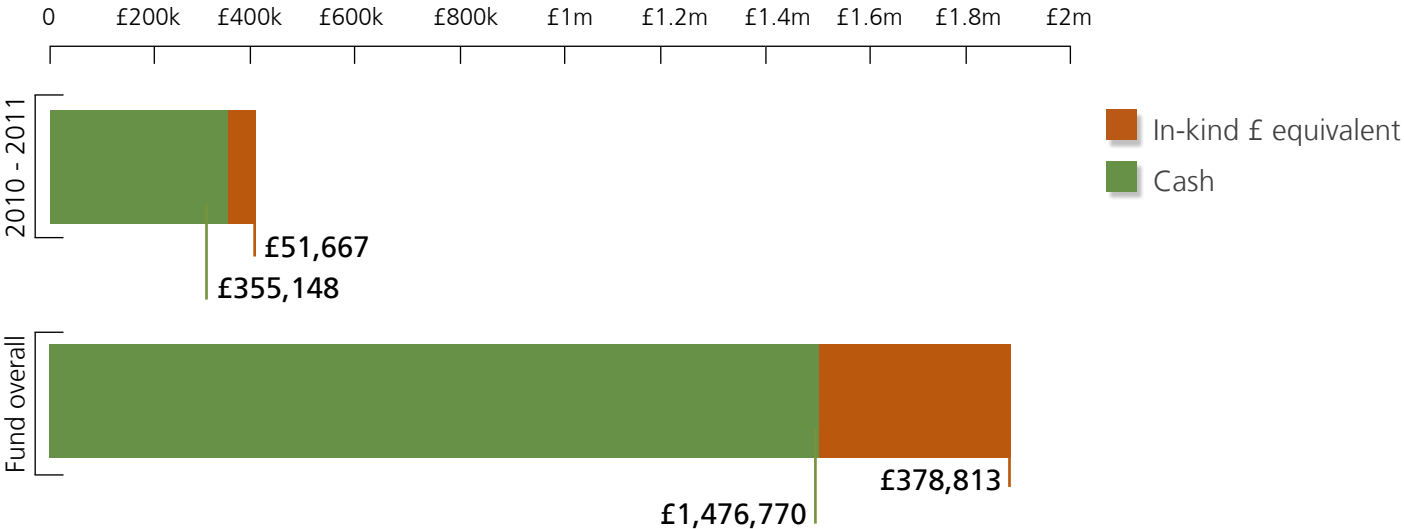
The voluntary sector is clearly the greatest beneficiary of support from the SDF in terms of number of projects supported and amount of funding allocated, as can be seen in figs 1-3 above. Half of the total funding during the lifetime of the SDF has been allocated to the voluntary sector.



## Match Funding

Defra requests that the SDF supports projects that lever in contributions from other sources. During 2010 - 2011 £406,815 was levered in from match funding, either in the form of cash contributions to projects or the provision of in-kind contributions such as volunteer time or donated materials (£ equivalent). The chart below shows the breakdown of match funding contributions for this year and the SDF as a whole. The total amount of match funding levered in by the SDF to date is £1,871,186 - this represents around £1.85 for every £1 of grant allocated.

**Fig. 4 Match funding levered in by the Sustainable Development Fund**



## Measuring project success

In keeping with the 'light touch' and non-bureaucratic nature of the SDF, monitoring and evaluation of projects is carried out mainly through regular contact with the project applicants, supported by a system of regular progress reports. Key dates and project outcomes are agreed with applicants at the start of a project and progress against them is used to measure project success. In addition, each project is required to submit an end of project report that reviews the most and least successful aspects of a project and the overall benefits to the New Forest National Park. Each project also monitors the number of local businesses, community groups, participants, young people and volunteers involved.

**Over 400 local businesses have been involved in projects supported by the SDF and almost 300 local community groups. Well over 6,000 children and young people have benefitted from SDF projects. To date, almost 53,000 people have participated in or directly benefitted from SDF projects. See annex 2 and 3 for more details.**



The building will embrace low carbon and renewable technologies.

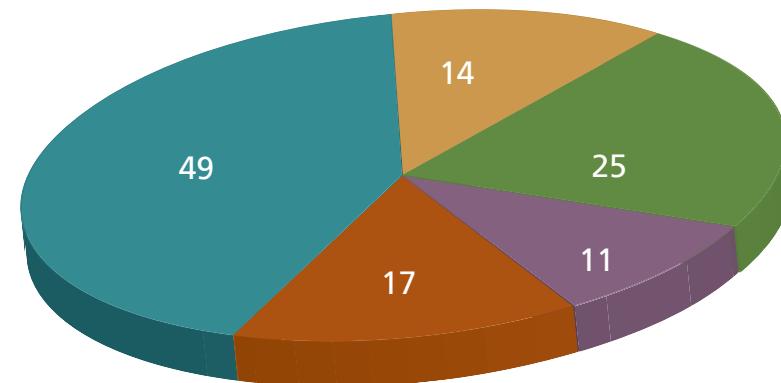
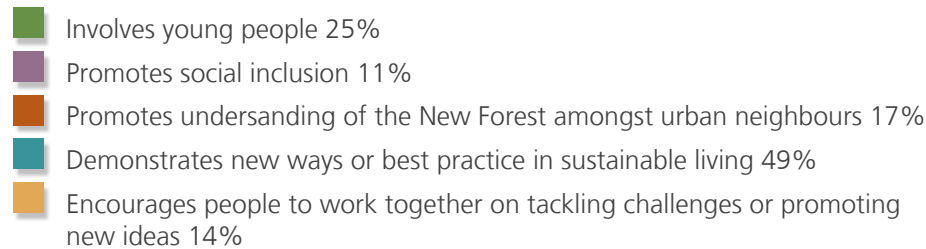


**Sue Whitehead, South Baddesley Primary School, Eco-Discovery Centre.**

## Delivering against Defra priorities

The wide variety of projects supported by the SDF during 2010 - 2011 has, to varying degrees, addressed the whole range of priorities identified by Defra for the scheme, with the majority of projects addressing more than one priority (see page 4 for list of priorities). The chart below shows how these priorities have been supported during 2010 - 2011.

**Fig. 5 Proportional impacts of projects against Defra priorities 2010 – 2011**



The chart demonstrates that projects that either involve young people or demonstrate new ways or best practice in sustainable living have been particularly well supported, although all of the Defra priorities have been addressed to some extent.

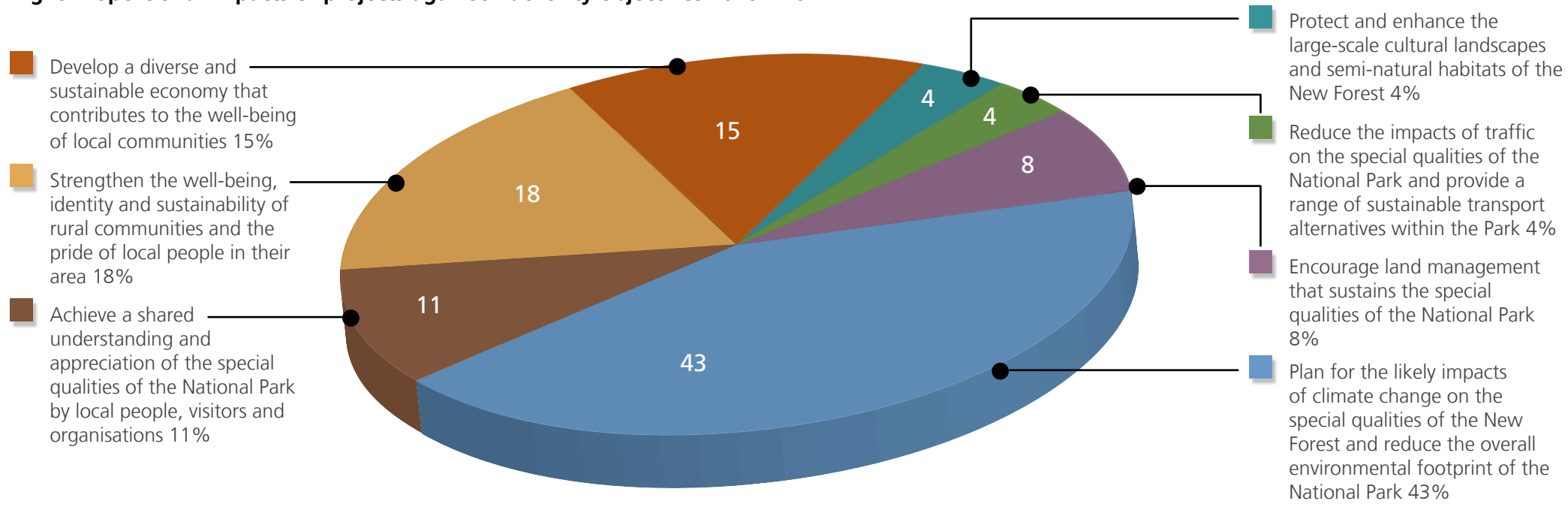
“The allotments will provide growing facilities to encourage local children and their families.”

**Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council, Ashurst Allotments.**

**Delivering against New Forest National Park Management Plan**

During 2010 – 2011 the SDF has continued to be successful in addressing many of the objectives in the New Forest National Park Authority’s Management Plan (these are detailed in Annex 1), with the vast majority of the objectives being delivered to some degree. Some of the Authority’s objectives fall outside of the remit of the SDF and it is therefore not expected that it should address them all. The chart below details the breakdown of how projects have addressed the Management Plan objectives during 2010 - 2011.

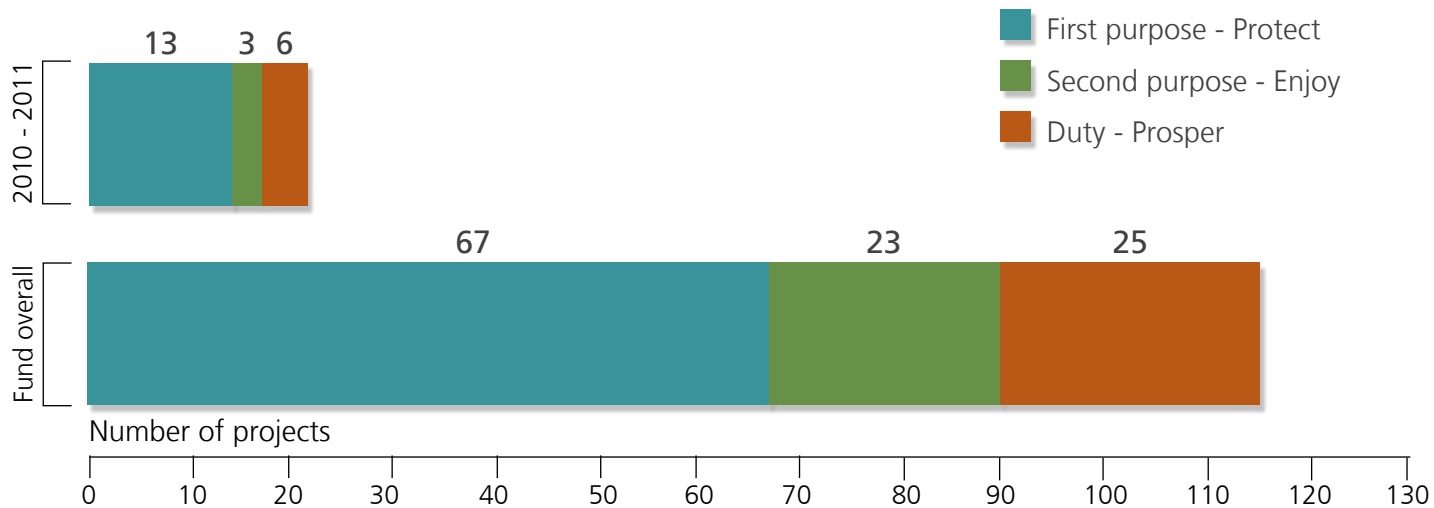
**Fig. 6 Proportional impacts of projects against Authority objectives 2010 – 2011**



## Furthering National Park Purposes

Projects receiving grant support from the SDF must demonstrate that they further at least one of the National Park purposes. In reality the majority of projects deliver benefits, either directly or indirectly, that further both purposes and the socio-economic duty. The chart below shows how projects have furthered National Park purposes based on their main focus. More projects have been supported that further the first purpose, which is to be anticipated given that the remit of the SDF fits particularly closely with first purpose objectives. In addition to furthering National Park purposes, at least 25 projects have contributed to the National Parks socio-economic duty to support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways that sustain the National Parks special character.

**Fig. 7 Projects furthering National Park purposes**



# Conclusion

During 2010 – 2011 the SDF awarded **£227,776** to support 15 projects that provide community, economic and environmental benefits to the New Forest National Park. This brings the total amount awarded by the SDF to **£1,015,658** and the total number of projects supported to 92. The projects supported have delivered a wide range of benefits across both Defra priorities and the New Forest National Park Management Plan objectives and have contributed to furthering both the National Park purposes and the duty.

Supporting projects that address climate change was a focus for the SDF during 2010-2011. As can be seen from fig 6, 43% of the projects supported addressed these issues, for example, by increasing the use of renewable energy, encouraging local food production and consumption, and promoting the uptake of more sustainable, lower carbon lifestyles. Many of the projects are influential in encouraging others to undertake similar projects, which leads to a cumulative increase in sustainability within the New Forest National Park.



Carpenter's bench, Outdoor Centre near Minstead

## Annex 1 – New Forest National Park Management Plan Objectives

- Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest
- Protect and enhance the large-scale cultural landscapes and semi-natural habitats of the New Forest
- Encourage land management that sustains the special qualities of the National Park
- Plan for the likely impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the New Forest and reduce the overall environmental footprint of the National Park
- Maintain and enhance the tranquillity of the National Park
- Achieve a shared understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park by local people, visitors and organisations
- Enhance people's enjoyment and quality of experience of the National Park, while safeguarding the special qualities of the area
- Strengthen the well-being, identity and sustainability of rural communities and the pride of local people in their area
- Develop a diverse and sustainable economy that contributes to the well-being of local communities
- Reduce the impacts of traffic on the special qualities of the National Park and provide a range of sustainable transport alternatives within the Park.

## Annex 2 Defra Table of Indicators 2010 - 2011

Indicator		number	£ total	Your comments
1.No. of enquiries or expressions of interest received		39		All enquiries relating to the Fund made by phone, letter, email or in person were recorded.
2.No. and value of grants awarded under the fund	Total, of which:	15	227,776	
	up to £1,000	0	0	
	from £1,001 to £5,000	2	7,550	
	over £5,000	13	220,226	
3.Amount of match funding levered in by the fund	as cash		380,305	
	in kind (£ equivalent)		53,890	
4.Amount spent on administration & delivery	from the fund		20,000	
	from other sources*		16,316	
5.No. of new partnerships created due to the fund		5		At the time of writing five projects had made new partnerships. The exact number created will be recorded in end of project reports that are submitted on completion of the project.
6.No. directly involved (in funded projects +/- or in operation of the fund)*, of;	local community/ voluntary groups			Projects are asked to record this information in their end of project reports. The projects detailed in this report had not been completed at the time of writing.
	young people or youth organisations			
	local businesses			
7.No. of projects that would not have occurred or would have been significantly diminished without the fund*		15		
8.No. of projects that are likely to continue beyond the life of the fund*		15		
9.No. of projects that provide models of sustainable development applicable to other areas*		8		
10.No. of training/awareness raising sessions or other events held re sustainable development/ the fund		6		

\*Estimate/ opinion of responsible SDF/ NPA officer

### Annex 3 Defra Table of Indicators – Total for the SDF (2006 – 2011)

Indicator	number	£ total	Your comments
11.No. of enquiries or expressions of interest received	308		All enquiries relating to the Fund made by phone, letter, email or in person were recorded.
12.No. and value of grants awarded under the fund	Total, of which:	92	1,015,658
	up to £1,000	17	8,632
	from £1,001 to £5,000	21	74,363
	over £5,000	54	932,663
13.Amount of match funding levered in by the fund	as cash		1,090,959
	in kind (£ equivalent)		373,412
14.Amount spent on administration & delivery	from the fund		60,000
	from other sources*		121,580
15.No. of new partnerships created due to the fund	34		
16.No. directly involved (in funded projects +/- or in operation of the fund)*, of;	local community/ voluntary groups	274	
	young people or youth organisations	6887	
	local businesses	433	
17.No. of projects that would not have occurred or would have been significantly diminished without the fund*	74		
18.No. of projects that are likely to continue beyond the life of the fund*	67		
19.No. of projects that provide models of sustainable development applicable to other areas*	53		
20.No. of training/awareness raising sessions or other events held re sustainable development/ the fund	31		

\*Estimate/ opinion of responsible SDF/ NPA officer



**Who to contact for further information**

Sustainable Development Officer,  
New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall,  
Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9GZ.

Tel : 01590 646660

Email : [sdf@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:sdf@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

Web : [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)



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NATIONAL PARK