**CARING FOR THE COTSWOLDS**

**Summary:** To provide an update on the recent grant awards through the Caring for the Cotswolds scheme.

**Recommendation: That the update report be noted.**

**Officer Ref:** Edward Bonn, Rural Skills and Grants Officer (01451 862032)

**Background**

1. **Application window concluding on 31st October 2018**

The scheme received 12 applications for grant funding by the 31st October 2018 deadline, with a total of £24,435.00 raised for allocation as unrestricted grants. Upon review of these applications, total funding of £8,158 was agreed, which comprised the following projects:

**Wildwood Charcoal**

**Project:** purchase of charcoal kiln to launch and develop a charcoal burning business in privately owned woodland within central Cotswolds.

**Grant applied for:** £1,500.00

**Grant awarded:** £1,125.00

**Avon Wildlife Trust**

**Project:** Orchard planting and related training programme in St Catherine’s Valley, near Bath, Somerset.

**Grant applied for**: £1,430.94

**Grant awarded:** £1,114.75

**Lady Altrincham Tormarton Village Pond Committee**

**Project:** Design and installation of interpretation boards for village pond in Tormarton, Gloucestershire, with educational opportunities for local community, particularly school pupils in area.

**Grant applied for:** £979.00

**Grant awarded:** £783.20

**Wychwood Project:**

**Project:** Practical conservation programme with educational focus for the historic Salway SSSI and Nature Reserve.

**Grant applied for:** £2,494.00

**Grant awarded:** £1,995.20

**Kings Stanley Parish Council:**

**Project:** Interpretation and information panels for the Selsey Common SSSI, Gloucestershire.

**Grant applied for**: £2,500.00

**Grant awarded:** £3,500.00(grant increased on condition that multiple funding requests to other Board held funds were withdrawn)

1. **Additional Application**

Batheaston Parish Council requested for a decision prior to the 31st October 2018 deadline, due to the project timing and availability of contractor for survey of riverbank and footpath survey of connecting route to Limestone Link and Cotswolds Way on outskirts of Bath, Somerset.

**Grant applied for:** £1,620.00

**Grant awarded:** £1,084.00

This additional grant brings the total monies allocated in the window concluding on 31st October 2018 to £9,242.00.

**Supporting Papers:**

None