

# SOMFAWN

## Notes from meeting on 6 June 2006 at Carymoor Environmental Centre

### Present:

Alex Stevens	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Debbie Stewart	Community Enterprise Unit Ltd
Ann Watson	Mendip Community Support
Alice Knight	South Somerset District Council
Katherine Armstrong	Community Council for Somerset
Katy Calvert	Community Council for Somerset
Eileen Zoers	Community Council for Somerset
Liz Johnson-Idan	Somerset Racial Equality Council
Julia Resenterra	Somerset County Council
Jocelyn Blacker	Somerset Community Foundation
Jenny Carey-Wood	Somerset Voluntary Sector Network
Trevor Smale	Lloyds TSB Foundation
Claire Crump	Charity Aid Foundation
Carrie-Anne Hiscock	Somerset County Council

**Apologies:** Rachel Chainey, Carolynne Beadman, Val Grainger, Ronni Spurr, Pauline Homeshaw, Lindy Booth, Gerard Tucker, Rosemary Cross, Charles Herbert, Alan Williams, Carol Stone, Jane Eyre, John Skrine, Paula Sudbury, Tracey Roberts, Jenny Sparks, Angela Lamplough, Katrina Midgley, Alison Cottey, Sally Gubb.

### **Presentation from Trevor Smale of Lloyds TSB Foundation**

(see attached document)

**Additional Notes:** SW Trustee is currently Janet Raime (Dorset Community Action) and there are 2 staff in SW. 50% of applications are supported – over-subscribed and therefore aim for a balance in distribution. Better local networking and cooperation would improve success rates eg. If 4 applications come in one quarter from different branches of the same organisation, only one will be funded – if they are spread out over the year, all of them may get funded. Some groups plan this and notify the Foundation.

Priorities – rural disadvantage over subscribed, but more opportunity in the support for charities priority – evaluation, business planning. Budget – will increase in 2006 and increased proportion for SW. Tend to offer scaled bids due to demand. Do fund environmental/arts projects if they are primarily meeting priorities – eg training people with disabilities, but focus needs to be clients not the activity.

New chief executive in June 2006 – expect tightening up of procedures, criteria, and quality of delivery. Likely headline priorities will be disability and disadvantage.

### **Presentation from Claire Crump of CAF**

(see attached document)

**Additional Notes:** Claire clearly spelt out the wide range of interests of CAF working across the sector. They have particular programmes engaging with the private sector to increase effective giving both financial and technical to the voluntary sector. The current programmes are being evaluated and may change for 2007/8 so keep an eye on this. They are looking for more approaches from the South West across the programme. There is about 40% failure rate in applications – talk it through with them before you begin an application. They like to provide more than just money – so often give consultancy support to ensure that funding for training is effective for the organisation. They are keen to work in partnership with other charities to add value – eg funding the Cranfield Trust to develop a Human resources portal (HRNet) to give free and updated information on all HR issues to the sector. Their website is a good source of case studies to understand what an appropriate project is for CAF. They do not visit applicants very often but have a lot of communication once an application is submitted.

### **Presentation from Carrie-Anne Hiscock of SINE - Somerset Information Network** (see attached presentation)

**Additional Notes:** Carrie-Anne provided an informative and focussed presentation on the work of SINE and the opportunities for the VCS to benefit from it. As well as signposting key sources of information to support funding bids and identifying needs, SINE members may be able to offer specific assistance to the sector in terms of information signposting, mapping data for presentations, research and consultancy. Some of this may be available without a fee. A particular opportunity raised by Carrie-Anne was the challenge for public agencies of finding “hard to reach” groups which many of the SOMFAWN members work with. This could present opportunities for closer working and members are encouraged to contact Carrie-Anne if they have particular ideas or proposals. (see contact details at end of presentation).

### **Venue - Carymoor**

- Attendees agreed that the venue was very attractive, interesting and comfortable, with excellent facilities, food and refreshments. Despite distance to travel, it was worth the trip. Funding for the centre is under review with the sale of Wyvern to Viridor and changes to landfill tax. For more information see their website.

### **Networking**

- Reminder of Somerset Funding Fair on 29 June at The Exchange, Bridgwater. For details contact Katherine Armstrong.

### **News from SVSN**

- SVSN has purchased Grantfinder for two years including the public portal GrantNet which will be on the SVSN website in July. We are

- currently working out access arrangements for SOMFAWN members and the public and will keep you informed.
- ChangeUp funding for the Funding Development Project finishes at the end of June 2006. JCW has been retained by SVSN with the continuation funding for another year and will continue to support SOMFAWN and provide Bits n Bobs twice a month. SVSN is bidding for additional funding to continue the Funding project but is unlikely to have a dedicated officer until next year.
  - The SVSN website is currently being updated and revamped and will go live later in the summer. We will keep you posted.

### **Next Meeting**

- Members did not want a meeting in August – so please delete from your calendars.
- Suggested date in mid-late September to fit speakers and venue;
- Venue on eastern edge of West Somerset – possibly Crowcombe Village Hall;
- Suggested Speakers – NCVO Sustainable Funding Team, SWRDA/DEFRA on rural communities, Viridor (who have bought Wyvern Waste), Carnegie on new programmes, discussion on experience of new Lottery programmes, Local funds (JCW to action).
- DETAILS to be CONFIRMED SOON.