

National Lottery Heritage Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 20 November 2019

CWM 2019 (4) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for West Midlands held on 20 November 2018 at 10 a.m. at the Birmingham Office, Grosvenor House, 14 Bennetts Hill Birmingham, B2 5RS

Members:

- Sue Beardsmore (Chair)
- Marion Blockley
- Rachel Chiu
- Izzy Mohammed
- Jude Pilgrim
- Alan Taylor
- Tom Tew

Apologies:

- Alison Wedgewood

Committee Business

1. Welcome and apologies

Oral

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members.

Alison Wedgewood had sent her apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Oral

The following conflicting interests were declared and as such members were not present in discussions for those applications or any subsequent voting and prioritisation;

- **Item 12 – Walled Garden and Pleasure Grounds Restoration (HG-17-04650)**
 - **Tom Tew:** As a Trustee-elect of the National Trust, Tom declared a material conflict with the NT's Walled Garden proposal

The following interests were declared and were not deemed conflicting. The members remained present for the discussions;

- **Item 12 – Walled Garden and Pleasure Grounds Restoration (HG-17-04650)**
 - **Marion Blockley:** A member of the National Trust Historic Environment Advisory Group, but no knowledge of the application.
 - **Alan Taylor:** Regularly worked with officers of NT in the West Midlands but had no knowledge of this project.
- **Item 14 - City of Songs (HG-17-07969)**
 - **Susan Beardsmore** knew personally the Chair of the applicant organisation but had no knowledge of the application.

- **Item 15 - Tip-Top – Top Church, Dudley (HG-17-08780)**
 - **Alan Taylor:** Worked with the (now retired) Church Building Support officer who helped frame this project but had had no discussion of this application.

- **Item 17 - Rescuing Willow Court Farmhouse and heritage skills (HG-18-02760)**
 - **Alan Taylor** Knew and had worked previously with the management team of WBPT but had no knowledge of the application.

- **Item 18 - The Gower Telford: Community and Heritage Centre (HG-18-03093)**
 - **Marion Blockley** – had attended a celebratory event for the Gower Project about two years ago on behalf of HLF and also knows one of the project team but had no knowledge of the application.

- **Item 24 - Restoring the Chamberlains' Highbury (HG-18-02769)**
 - **Alan Taylor:** Knew personally several Trustees of the applicant but had not discussed this application with them.
 - **Marion Blockley, Jude Pilgrim, Alan Taylor, Izzy Mohammed, Sue Beardsmore, Tom Tew** all had served on the WM HLF committee under the chairmanship of Les Sparks - Chair of the Highbury Trust and knew Ian Grosvenor, one of the other trustees of the Highbury Trust, who was previously on the WM HLF committee with these members.

- **Item 26 - The Pool Way Centre (HG-17-06874)**
 - **Susan Beardsmore** knew personally the Chair of the applicant organisation but had no knowledge of the application.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

3. Parks for People Overview

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The Committee noted the report.

4. Restoration Stevens Park, Quarry Bank; PP-16-03070

CWM 2018 (4) 4

Applicant: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: Award Grant of £1,395,500 (76%)

Project: Dudley Council, alongside third sector organisation the Emily Jordan Foundation, aims to provide a sustainable long term solution to regenerating Stevens Park. To restore and repair the historic features of the park, implement landscaping developments and to improve infrastructure to meet community and visitor needs. Tintern House will be used as a community facility providing vocational training in horticultural skills, bicycle maintenance, park maintenance, events and activities. Engagement with under-represented audiences supported through proposals. A community cafe on site will also provide training and use the produce from the growing project. The activity plan will deliver heritage, community, well-being, nature, wildlife and volunteering activities.

The Heritage Lottery Fund Board and Big Lottery Fund Parks for People England Committee awarded a first round pass of £1,533,100 including a development grant of £137,600 (88% of total eligible development costs) split between distributors (HLF £91,733.33; 66.66%) (BLF £45,866.67; 33.33%) in December 2016.

The Committee for West Midlands and Big Lottery Fund representative recommended the project as a **HIGH** priority to the Parks for People Board Delegated Decision Panel.

Reports

5. Chair's report

Oral

The Chair noted that she had attended a number of project visits since the last meeting and in particular an excellent WW1 exhibition in library of Birmingham.

6. Minutes of Last Meeting on 4 September 2018

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The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendment of one typing error and were signed by the Chair.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were none.

8. Corporate Update

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Anne Jenkins presented the corporate update in a closed session for the members with the Head of Region present.

Anne gave a brief overview of the context for Shaping Our Future Business which was noted by the Committee. It would allow HLF to be more streamlined and consistent in our approach to delivery of the SFF and in support of the sector, with more consistent ways of working and would address recommendations from the tailored review.

9. West Midlands Overview Report

CWM 2018 (4) 9

The Committee noted the contents of the report and extended thanks to the team for their ongoing work.

The Committee noted a 45% success rate for the meeting and that an approach was recommended to reject without presentation any cases which had been recommended Low or Reject by officers. The Committee agreed this approach and rejected the following cases without presentation;

- Item 12 - Walled Garden and Pleasure Grounds Restoration; HG-17-04650
- Item 17 - Rescuing Willow Court Farmhouse and heritage skills; HG-18-02760

10. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2018 (4) 10

No second round applications had been received for decision by the committee.

Eight first round Heritage Grant applications had been received with a total request of £4,966,700 against a budget of £2,263,800 for the meeting. This gave a possible success rate for the meeting of 45% and the Committee noted that prioritisation would be needed.

The Committee for West Midlands noted that this was the last meeting at which SF4 first round applications would be received and that at the March meeting only second round applications would be discussed.

SF4 First round applications for discussion and decision

11. Repairs and Improved Accessibility to the Church; HG-17-04043

CWM 2018 (4) 11

Applicant: PCC Parish of Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren

Request: First Round Pass of £383,000, including Development Grant of £50,100

Project: To restore and repair a Grade I listed building on the At Risk register. The project would protect the heritage of the building and build on the process of repairs and improvements done over the centuries. The introduction of interactive learning would engage audiences with the heritage of the church and development of new partnerships would build the ability to protect both natural and built heritage at the site for future generations.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **HIGH** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £383,000 including development grant of £50,100 (63% of eligible development costs).

12. Walled Garden and Pleasure Grounds Restoration; HG-17-04650

CWM 2018 (4) 12

Applicant: National Trust - Midlands Region

Request: First Round Pass of £931,500, including Development Grant of £106,200

Project: To restore the Grade II* listed Capability Brown landscape and enable public access to a rare curved wall for the first time. The project would seek to improve the way in which heritage stories are communicated by developing engagement experiences across the site through a model for partnership and participation which would bring benefit to people who live, work and visit the county of Herefordshire.

The Committee for the West Midlands **REJECTED** the application on advice.

13. Stottesdon Church – Past, Present and Future; HG-17-06932

CWM 2018 (4) 13

Applicant: St Mary's Church, Stottesdon

Request: First Round Pass of £259,400, including Development Grant of £27,800

Project: The project will undertake phase one of a programme of repairs to improve the structural condition of a Grade I Listed church on the At Risk register. The project would address urgent repairs required to the roof, stonework and rainwater goods, enabling the building to be used more widely by the local community and primary school. New research and interpretation will see the heritage of the church shared with a wider audience and training and volunteering opportunities would be created.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **HIGH** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £259,400 including development grant of £27,800 (72% of eligible development costs).

14. City of Songs; HG-17-07969

CWM 2018 (4) 14

Applicant: Performances Birmingham Limited

Request: First Round Pass of £484,000, including Development Grant of £0

Project: To record and celebrate cultural heritage through traditional music. The project will capture, share and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of communities in Birmingham through their musical traditions by recording songs and combining them with interpretation and oral histories. Events will be held to engage audiences and celebrate the collection and a new digital archive will make them accessible to a larger audience. Training, volunteering and apprenticeship opportunities will also be available.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **LOW** priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

15. Tip-Top – Top Church, Dudley; HG-17-08780

CWM 2018 (4) 15

Applicant: Dudley St Thomas PCC

Request: First Round Pass of £630,400, including Development Grant of £106,300

Project: To restore a Grade II* registered At Risk church with a complex heritage to enable it to continue to be used by future generations. The project would see the interior of the church restored and conserved as well as the creation of a new community venue to support and benefit the wider community. Interpretation through community activities, volunteer opportunities and a new digital app, as well as improved visitor facilities will encourage increased visitor numbers and ensure a more sustainable future.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **MEDIUM** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £630,400 including development grant of £106,300 (64% of eligible development costs).

16. A Familiar Treasure in Our Midst; HG-18-02758

CWM 2018 (4) 16

Applicant: Kingsland Parochial Church Council

Request: First Round Pass of £529,100, including Development Grant of £29,100

Project: To safeguard a Grade I listed church by enabling urgent repairs and restorations to the historic fabric of the building. The project would allow the community and other visitors to engage with 700 years of heritage by improving the visitor experience through the implementation of a series of learning and engagement events and providing new interpretation, all of which would complement the repair works.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **HIGH** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £529,100 including development grant of £29,100 (47% of eligible development costs).

17. Rescuing Willow Court Farmhouse and heritage skills; HG-18-02760

CWM 2018 (4) 17

Applicant: The Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust Ltd

Request: First Round Pass of £999,300, including Development Grant of £59,700

Project: To conserve, restore and convert a derelict, at risk, Grade II building to provide six dwellings which would be sold as affordable housing. The project would seek to develop the building in a sympathetic way to ensure its sustainable future and would include a heritage-based community engagement and training programme.

The Committee for the West Midlands **REJECTED** the application on advice.

18. The Gower Telford: Community and Heritage Centre; HG-18-03093

CWM 2018 (4) 18

Applicant: Gower Heritage & Enterprise Foundation

Request: First Round Pass of £750,000, including Development Grant of £115,900

Project: To renovate and restore the Gower Street School to create a centre for heritage, learning, wellbeing, community and enterprise. The project would support a financially and environmentally sustainable future for the building and encourage the local community to re-engage with and celebrate their local heritage.

The Committee for the West Midlands agreed the application represented a **MEDIUM** priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to concerns raised.

19. Prioritisation and feedback on first round items

Oral

The Committee were content with the priorities awarded in case by case discussions and made no amends.

The Committee agreed to award a first round pass with development grant to the following applications which all scored as a high priority

- A Familiar Treasure in Our Midst – HG-18-02758
- Stottesdon Church – Past, Present and Future – HG-17-06932
- Repairs and Improved Accessibility to the Church – HG-17-04043

SF4 Second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

20. Transforming the Trent Valley; LP-15-03743

CWM 2018 (4)

Grantee: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Request: Award Grant of £2,658,800 (56%)

Project: To deliver a more connected, higher quality and resilient landscape where the heritage was better understood, interpreted and valued by visitors and local people. A wetland landscape of national importance for wildlife and recreation would be created through the enhancement of the rivers, the reconnection of their floodplains and a coordinated programme of quarry restoration. Community workshops would feed local decision-making into the strategy. Volunteering and education programmes would be delivered.

The Board awarded a first round pass of £2,976,200 including a development grant of £256,300 (67% of eligible development costs) in October 2016.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **HIGH** priority for support.

SF4 First round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

21. Heritage Vegetable Seed Search

Grantee: Garden Organic

Request: First Round Pass of £897,400, including Development Grant of £57,600

Project: To find, protect and conserve heritage and heirloom open pollinated varieties of vegetable at risk of disappearing. The project will ensure rediscovered varieties are made available through the Heritage Seed Library living collection and seek to increase the UK's crop biodiversity. Original crops will be reconnected to their historical origins and a wider audience engaged with the importance of understanding and maintaining crop heritage.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **LOW** priority for support.

22. Recording Historic Bridleways; HG-18-03602

CWM 2018 (4) 22

Grantee: The British Horse Society

Request: First Round Pass of £957,000, including Development Grant of £23,300

Project: To research and record the details of a minimum of 7,500 bridleways at risk of loss and ensure they are submitted for inclusion on local definitive maps. The bridleways would be safeguarded for use by future generations and ensure safe off-road options for riding, cycling and walking remain in use.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **REJECTION**.

23. River Sherbourne Valley Living Landscape (RSVLL); HG-17-06307

CWM 2018 (4) 23

Applicant: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £1,859,800, including Development Grant of £220,800

Project: To address issues affecting the River Sherbourne through a series of interconnected projects. The project would aim to reconnect the local community with the river and its heritage, telling the story of how it has impacted and shaped the communities along the river today. Natural and built heritage would be restored and protected, habitats improved and engagement increased.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **MEDIUM** priority for support.

24. Restoring the Chamberlains' Highbury; HG-18-02769

CWM 2018 (4) 24

Applicant: The Chamberlain Highbury Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £3,462,600, including Development Grant of £397,000

Project: To restore and re-open a Grade II* building for use by the population of Birmingham. The project would engage a diverse audience, reconnecting them with the heritage of the site and encouraging in intercultural conversations. The works would seek to halt further deterioration of the building, protect its historic character, improve interpretation and build partnerships to deliver a learning programme for young people.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **HIGH (2 of 2)** priority for support.

25. Revitalising Sedgley Beacon; HG-16-00917

CWM 2018 (4) 25

Applicant: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: First Round Pass of £1,496,900, including Development Grant of £58,300

Project: A community led project that would seek to reveal, enhance and promote the archaeological, geological, ecological, historical and recreational and community significance of the Sedgley Beacon Landscape Heritage Area. The project would undertake a series of improvements to the natural and built heritage of the site whilst increasing engagement through a programme of activities designed to have a transformational impact in the local community.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **MEDIUM** priority for support.

26. The Pool Way Centre; HG-17-06874

CWM 2018 (4) 26

Applicant: The Birmingham Museums Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £3,999,800, including Development Grant of £434,300

Project: Project to relocate staff and collections of the Birmingham Museum in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games as part of wider regeneration plans for East Birmingham. The project would create a new heritage, cultural and community facility in a currently underutilised and accessed area. Outreach programmes and making use of transport links would help to engage a larger audience from more diverse communities and new community spaces would host a public programme of events including learning, arts and heritage sessions.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board for **REJECTION**.

27. Seven Centuries of Midlands Civic Heritage; HG-18-02709

Applicant: Lord Leycester's Hospital

Request: First Round Pass of £1,268,700, including Development Grant of £177,800

Project: To open Lord Leycester's Hospital, a key medieval site, to the public as a new visitor experience in Warwick. Established in 1571 and made up of multiple buildings the project would see this 450 year old institution opened to the public with renewed access to previously closed areas and with newly developed activity plans and volunteer opportunities to engage a more diverse audience. Investment would see sympathetic renovations and restorations take place to protect heritage At Risk and enable a number of artefacts demonstrating the history of the site, which are currently in storage, to be displayed for public viewing.

The Committee for West Midlands recommended the project to the Board as a **HIGH (1 of 2)** priority for support.

28. Prioritisation and feedback on first round items

Oral

The Committee were content with the priorities awarded in the case by case discussions and made no amends.

A further discussion was held to identify high 1 and high 2 priority recommendations for Board. The Committee agreed that due to its being a currently inaccessible building which would be brought back into public use by the project, its national importance and its well-developed application, that Seven Centuries of Midlands Civic Heritage – HG-18-02709 would represent high priority 1 of 2 to the Board. Restoring the Chamberlains' Highbury HG-18-02769 would be recommended high priority 2 of 2 to the Board.

Papers for information

29. Communications Report

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The Committee noted the report and recent successes including Shrewsbury Flaxmill on twitter and Bodenham Lake being featured on BBC Countryfile.

30. Any other business

Oral

The Committee noted that the next meeting was on Thursday 7 March 2019 and that the Committee away day would take place on Friday 8 March 2019.

The next meeting will be held on 7 March 2019 in the Birmingham Office.