

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 18 September 2014

CNE 2014 (3)

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 18 September 2014 in the Newcastle office starting at 10 a.m.

Members Chris Mullin (Chairman)
Lindsay Allason-Jones
Trai Anfield
Susan Antrobus
Stacy Hall
Niall Hammond
Richard Morris

Reports

1. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Susan Antrobus declared an interest in item 7, Tees Valley Wild Green Spaces as she was an employee of the applicant, the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Chris Mullin declared an interest in item 14, Capturing our Coast, noting that he was a visiting lecturer at Newcastle University, the applicant and was the Honorary President of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, a partner in the application.

Lindsay Allason-Jones noted that she was a visiting lecturer at Newcastle University who were the applicant for item 14, Capturing our Coast. The Committee were content that this did not constitute a conflict of interests.

2. Chair's report

Oral

Chris Mullin, Chairman of the Committee welcomed Bob Bewley to the meeting. He informed the Committee that Bob would be leaving HLF in January after seven years of service to manage an archaeology project. The Committee congratulated him on the new role and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman also welcomed Jo Sohn-Rethel to his first meeting. Jo would be working as a Grants Development Officer three days a week.

The Chairman noted that he had visited a number of projects and events since the last meeting.

- He had attended second round visits to Tees Valley Wild Green Spaces and Natural History Society of Northumbria.
- He had attended the meeting of the Country and Regional Chairs which had been Dame Jenny Abramsky's last meeting as Chair of HLF/NHMF.
- He had attended a heritage day at Berwick upon Tweed.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 12 June 2014

CNE 2014 (3) 3

The minutes were noted.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were none.

5. North East Regional Overview

CNE 2014 (3) 5

Ivor Crowther, Head of Region, introduced the North East Overview report.

He informed the Committee of some staffing changes within the team. Jo Sohn-Rethel had joined the team as a Grants Development Officer three days a week. Alex Watson who was currently on maternity leave had been replaced by Zelda Baveystock who would cover this period. .

The Head of Region reported on some of the highlights from the overview:

- The Heritage Exchange event in July had been a great success providing a unique forum for sharing ideas about heritage. The event had received excellent feedback.
- The Limestone Landscapes Partnership for the rescue of The Smithy, County Durham had been nominated for the Heritage Angel Award for best rescue of a historic industrial building or site.
- The RSPB Hen Harriers project had won Best Education Project at the National Lottery Award ceremony on 12 September 2014.

6. North East Budget

CNE 2014 (3) 6

Ivor Crowther introduced the North East Budget report.

The Committee noted that for this meeting the first round pass budget was £1,260,333. One application had been received with a request of £493,200. There was sufficient money to support the application if the quality threshold was met.

The Committee noted that the indicative grants budget was £745,600. Applications totalling £1,087,400 had been received. They noted that if the second round applications met the quality threshold sufficient funds would be made available to support all three Heritage Grant projects.

SP3 Second round applications for discussion and decision

- **Landscape Partnership**

7. Tees Valley Wild Green Spaces; HG-12-06675

CNE 2014 (3) 7

DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £425,800 (68%)

Susan Antrobus left the room before discussion of the item commenced.

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT) sought a grant of £425,800 (68%) towards a five year project aimed to enhance and increase understanding of the natural heritage of public green spaces across the Tees Valley area. A range of programmes would engage new audiences and aim to increase conservation skills within local groups.

A first round pass of £491,900 including a development grant of £11,200 (42% of total eligible development costs) had been awarded in March 2013. The grant request had reduced by £54,900 since the first round due to a reduction in the number of green space sites involved in the project.

The Committee were supportive of the project and awarded a grant of £425,800 (68%).

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

- 8. Cold Blooded and Spineless; HG-12-09106** **CNE 2014 (3) 8**
DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £431,200 (71%)

Durham County Council on behalf of North Pennines AONB Partnership (NPAONB) sought funding to advocate, record and monitor the important role of invertebrates in our ecosystem. The project would develop a five year programme of training for a number of committed volunteers to develop the regional expertise necessary to accurately record and monitor invertebrate fauna. Proposals would also bring together artists, scientists, interpreters, local communities and schools in a broader engagement campaign to raise awareness of invertebrates.

A first round pass of £415,300 including a development grant of £14,400 (90% of total eligible development costs) was awarded in December 2013. An uplift of £30,300 (8%) was requested due to the addition of a Community Engagement Facilitator and the implementation of robust service level agreements with partners.

The Committee were supportive of the project and awarded a grant of £431,200 (74%).

- 9. Natural History Society of Northumbria Archive; HG-13-01571** **CNE 2014 (3) 9**
DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £137,200 (69%)

The Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) sought a grant towards a three year project to provide improved management, preservation, engagement and access to its collections. The proposals would help engage young people in natural history and environmental recording through the archive and its stories. Preservation work would be carried out on important archive collections and access would be improved through the cataloguing of the remaining 40% of the collection making the catalogue and other important collections available online.

A first round pass of £160,000 including a development grant of £1,600 (25% of total eligible development costs) was awarded in September 2013. The grant request had reduced by £22,800 since the first round award due to revised database and professional quotations.

The Committee were supportive of the project and awarded a grant of £137,200 (69%).

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

- 10. Consett Linear Park Project; HG-14-01763** **CNE 2014 (3) 10**
DECISION: REJECT

Project Genesis Trust sought a first round pass of £493,200 including development grant of £93,200 (89% of total eligible development costs) for a five year project to engage local people and organisations in exploring and learning about the heritage of Consett, with a focus on the history of its steelworks. A linear park would be created along a 2km stretch of the Coast to Coast route on the site of the former works, with interpretation telling the story of Consett and its people. A range of activities would be delivered to help people learn about and engage with their heritage including a schools programme, oral history research and a programme of horticultural placements for young people.

The project was a resubmission of an application that was rejected by the Committee in September 2013 due to high costs and high level of risk. The level of funding sought had reduced by £196,800 since the previous application.

The Committee rejected the application based on their concerns about the proposals.

11. GPOW applications and overview

CNE 2014 (3) 11

Steven Hughes, Grants and Development Officer, presented the paper.

This represented the sixth batch of applications for decision under the UK wide Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) programme. In the North East, five first round applications with a grant request of 664,500 were received against a regional budget of £465,600.

The Committee considered the applications before them and agreed to award first round passes to items 12a-d.

12a	Historic fabric repairs along with new community facilities	Church of St Mary and St Stephen	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £126,600 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £5,000 (37% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12b	St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon: Urgent Repairs and Access Improvements	The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Elsdon	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £107,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £9,100 (78% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12c	St Cuthbert's Church Darlington: Roofing and high level stonework repairs	St Cuthberts Church, Darlington	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £106,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £26,500 (71% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12d	Restorations of St Aloysius Church Roof	St Aloysuis Roman Catholic Church	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £124,200 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £9,700 (81% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12e	Restoration of Spire and Tower	St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough	REJECT

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Grants – September Board**

12. Darlington Civic Theatre New Hippodrome; HG-14-01969

CNE 2014 (3) 12

Darlington Borough Council sought a first round pass of £4,995,000 including a development grant of £426,000 (85% of total eligible development costs) to restore the grade II listed 1907 Darlington Civic Theatre to its Edwardian splendour and ensure that its facilities and access were appropriate to the needs of its contemporary audience. The project would encompass specific focused training in conservation, arts and skills as well as a designated education space providing a regular programme of events and engagement. The proposals would improve physical access to the theatre and interpret the history of the theatre through a specially commissioned promenade and downloadable application. The project would also significantly enhance the theatre's education and learning programme, providing 75 training opportunities and apprenticeships in heritage constructions skills and specialist restoration work.

The Committee noted that two previous applications had been rejected by the Board in January 2014 and May 2014 due to a lack of available budget.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

13. The Canny Space at Holy Trinity; HG-14-02040

CNE 2014 (3) 13

The Churches Conservation Trust sought a first round pass of £2,702,100 including development funding of £204,900 (80% of total eligible development costs) to save the nationally significant Grade I listed 'Heritage at Risk' Holy Trinity Church in Hendon; a deprived area of Sunderland. The five year project would conserve and repair the former church, and adapt it for use as a volunteer-run venue for heritage and arts. The construction phase of the project would be used as a platform for heritage skills learning and training. A complementary programme of learning and community engagement activity would also be delivered.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

14. Capturing our Coast; HG-14-02824

CNE 2014 (3) 14

Chris Mullin left the room before discussion of the item commenced.

Newcastle University sought a first round pass of £1,364,700 including a development grant of £2,200, 90% of total eligible development costs towards a three year Citizen Science project to identify and quantify the abundance and distribution of marine species on a national scale. The scheme would provide opportunities for the public to participate in organised research efforts including the gathering, processing and interpreting of scientific data across the UK.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

15. Film for All; HG-14-00802

CNE 2014 (3) 15

The Yorkshire Film Archive (YFA), in partnership with 12 other archives, sought a first round pass of £4,290,200 including development funding of £169,000 (85% of total eligible development costs) for a, nation-wide project to preserve and digitise film collections across the UK and encourage people to engage with film heritage. Preservation works would be prioritised and save 3,000 films from loss. A programme of public outreach, engagement and audience participation including public screenings would be delivered.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

• **Heritage Grants – November Board**

**16. Your Sculpture: Connecting UK Communities with their sculpture heritage;
HG-14-03615**

CNE 2014 (3) 16

The Public Cataloguing Foundation (in partnership with BBC, Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, Oxford University's Visual Geometry Group and Culture Street) sought a grant of £2,947,400 including a development grant of £109,700 (78% of total eligible development costs) to audit and photograph the world-class national collection of sculpture held in public collections and by public bodies across the UK, comprising works from any country of origin from the last 1000 years including antiquities. A new interactive *Your Sculpture* website would be created as part of their new *Your Art* platform and a programme of engagement and activities delivered.

This was a resubmission following rejection by the Board in May 2014 due to insufficient funds. The level of funding sought had reduced by over £750k.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

17. Our Catchment Heritage: A Historic Archive; HG-13-07482

CNE 2014 (3) 17

Environment Agency Northern Ambition, in partnership with the Freshwater Biological Association, sought a first round pass of £1,463,400 including a development grant of £162,100 (73% of total of total eligible development costs) to deliver a UK wide project to catalogue, digitise and make the historic natural heritage archives/collections of 40 environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (eNGOs) publicly available online. During the development stage, pilot work would be undertaken with 4 eNGOs; Scottish Ornithologists Club, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

SP3 Second round Board application for discussion and recommendation

• **Heritage Grants – September Board**

18. People, Ponds and Water; HG-11-04953

CNE 2014 (3) 18

Freshwater Habitats Trust (previously known as Pond Conservation) sought a grant of £1,344,500 (80%) towards a three year volunteer and learning programme to enhance and protect critical freshwater habitats in England and Wales. The ponds supported populations of two-thirds of all UK freshwater species including over 100 Priority Species. The project had three strands: monitoring, improving and protecting up to 70 important freshwater sites, the collection of data about trends in freshwater conditions and species from at least 1,000 priority ponds to be undertaken by volunteers and a public participation survey to raise awareness about pollution and threats to freshwater habitats.

The Board awarded first round pass of £965,100 including a development grant of £64,100 (95%) in March 2013. An uplift of £443,500 (49%) was sought due to increased project costs and refinement of planned activity.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

SF4 Second round Board application for discussion and recommendation

• **Heritage Grants – November Board**

19. CITiZAN; HG-13-08845

CNE 2014 (3) 19

The Museum of London Archaeology sought a grant of £1,416,000 (89%) to create an infrastructure, website and a network of volunteers to record, monitor and celebrate threatened archaeological sites around England's coast and on the foreshores of tidal estuaries. An outreach programme and learning opportunities would also be delivered. The project was based on and would work with similar projects in the home countries and the Thames Discovery Programme in London.

The Board had awarded a first round pass with development funding in January 2014. An uplift of £64,900 (5%) was sought due to increases in data collection, staffing, publicity and outreach costs.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

Papers for information

20. Report on NHMF/HLF Board Business **CNE 2014 (3) 20**

The Committee noted the report.

21. Communications Report **CNE 2014 (3) 21**

Members noted that the opening event of the Great North Run 1 Million project had been a huge success and had received positive feedback.

22. Landscape Partnerships Overview **CNE 2014 (3) 22**

The Committee noted the report.

23. Minutes of Country and Regional Chairs' meeting on 29 July 2014 **CNE 2014 (3) 23**

The Committee noted the report.

24. Committee training and development **CNE 2014 (3) 24**

The Committee noted the report.

25. Any other business **Oral**

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 4 December 2014 in the Newcastle Office