

Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for the North East Meeting on 16 June 2016

CNE 2016 (2)

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 16 June 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in the Newcastle office

Members:

- Chris Mullin (Chair)
- Jim Cokill
- Stacy Hall
- Niall Hammond
- Lynn Turner

Apologies:

- Richard Evans
- Richard Morris (Trustee)

Speaking Observer:

- David Foster – Big Lottery Fund (items 1 – 5)

Committee Business

1. Welcomes and apologies

Oral

The Chair welcomed:

- Jim Cokill and Lynn Turner to their first meeting as Committee members
- David Foster, the Big Lottery Fund representative

Apologies were noted from

- Richard Morris
- Richard Evans

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Parks for People

2. Parks for People Overview

CNE 2016 (2) 2

Committee noted that the annual combined Big Lottery Fund/HLF first-round budget was £31.7m, including a £1.7m underspend from the previous financial year. The budget would be split between the June and December meetings.

Committee noted that 10 first-round applications had been received in England with a total request for £27.63m.

3. Restoration of North Marine Park, South Shields

CNE 2016 (2) 3

Applicant: South Tyneside Council

Project: A five year project to restore North Marine Park, increasing usage and reconnecting the local community with the park's heritage. Capital works included reinstating the Park Promenade, reconstructing the steps and terraces and reinstating some of the original formal planting schemes.

Small scale refurbishment works would be carried out on three buildings. The park would be used as a training site to provide apprenticeships in horticulture, conservation or customer services, traineeships for NEET young people and volunteer training. An annual community archaeology project would be organised. An 'art trail' that interprets the park's heritage and an annual events and activities programme would be developed.

The Big Lottery Fund representative recommended this application for a first round pass of £2,644,000 including a development grant of £194,000 (75% of total eligible development costs) as a **MEDIUM** priority for support.

The HLF North East Committee recommended this application for a first round pass of £2,644,000 including a development grant of £194,000 (75% of total eligible development costs) as a **HIGH (1 of 2)** priority for support.

4. Restoration of Roker Park

CNE 2016 (2) 3

Applicant: City of Sunderland Council

Request: First round pass of £4,406,100 including a development grant of £366,300 (90% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three year project to restore Roker Park's historic features, improve facilities, and reconnect the local community with the park's heritage through the delivery of an activities programme. A key aim of the project was to transition the park from Council management to being a self-sustaining Trust. A Park Project Manager would be appointed. Main capital works proposed included the restoration of the bandstand, Lodge buildings, drinking fountain, Fairy Dell and water cascade. A new visitor centre would be built. Restoration work would take place within the park. A programme of activities would be supported by a new part-time Volunteer and Education Coordinator.

The Big Lottery Fund representative recommended this application as a **HIGH** priority for support.

The HLF North East Committee recommended this application as a **HIGH (2 of 2)** priority for support.

5. Prioritisation of BLF Priority and HLF Priority – Ranking

Oral

The Committee for the North East and Big Lottery Fund representative agreed the following priorities for the applications:

- Restoration of North Marine Park, South Shields (item 3)
HLF HIGH Priority (1 of 2) and BLF MEDIUM Priority
- Restoration of Roker Park (item 4)
HLF HIGH Priority (2 of 2) and BLF HIGH Priority

Corporate Items

6. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Chris Mullin – Declared a conflict of interest in Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest (item 26) due to his position as President of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the applicant, and would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

Lynn Turner – Declared a conflict of interest in Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest (item 26) due to her position as Director of Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust and would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

Jim Cokill – Declared an interest in River Gaunless for People and Wildlife (item 19) as The Local Nature Partnership, of which he is a Board member and which is based at Durham Wildlife Trust, bid for the tender put out by Wear Rivers Trust (the applicant) to develop the project bid. The LNP was unsuccessful. Committee were content this did not represent a conflict of interest.

7. Chair's Report

Oral

The Chair provided the Committee with an update on his activities in the region, which included a visit to the Ouseburn Trust and to see the Blyth Tall Ships project.

The Chair highlighted that over the preceding year the team had succeeded in attracting £39.5m to the region and expressed the thanks and congratulations of the Committee for the hard work put in.

8. Minutes of the last meeting on 10 March 2016

CNE 2016 (2) 8

Two corrections were noted:

- Item 3 – Niall Hammond's declaration of interest was amended to reflect that he was a member of the National Trust Historic Advisory Working Group and Design Advice Forum.
- Anne Jenkins noted that she had not been in attendance at the meeting.

9. Matters Arising from the minutes

Oral

Niall Hammond provided the Committee with an update on the status of the Limestone Landscapes project.

Ivor Crowther provided the Committee with an update on the status of Bede's World.

10. North East Annual Review of 2015

CNE 2016 (2) 10

The development and engagement work that had been undertaken to build networks and attract applications was highlighted, and Committee noted that two forum groups had been set up for Parks and Landscape.

Committee noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of applications received in comparison to 2014-15, particularly round 1 Heritage Grant and Board applications.

11. Annual Review of Delegated Decisions 2015 – 16

CNE 2016 (2) 11

Committee noted that a total of 80 awards had been made, an increase on the previous year.

Committee acknowledged that further work was required to attract BAME and disability-led groups to apply, and welcomed the planned approach of the team for the coming year.

It was agreed that the next review of Priority Development Areas would include consideration a ward-by-ward consideration to ensure that smaller areas of deprivation were not overlooked due to their location within larger areas that were overall achieving strong numbers of applications.

12. North East Operating Plan for 2016

CNE 2016 (2) 12

The plan was noted.

13. North East Regional Overview

CNE 2016 (2) 13

Ivor Crowther presented the overview.

14. North East Budget Paper

CNE 2016 (2) 14

Committee noted the paper and welcomed the new format.

There were 5 Heritage Grant and 2 Heritage Enterprise first round cases for consideration, totalling £5,288,850 against a budget of £975,000. Committee noted that the round was competitive and prioritisation would be required.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

15. Celebrating the First Discovery of Land in Antarctica from Blyth in 1819

CNE 2016 (2) 15

Applicant: Blyth Tall Ship

Request: First round pass of £888,000, including a development grant of £67,000 (87% of total eligible development costs).

Project: A three year project to engage communities in Blyth, the North East and wider UK in celebrating the bicentenary of the discovery of land in Antarctica, and bring alive the story of merchant shipbuilding and global trading at this time. The main project activities included research into the clothing, equipment and life on board an 1800's merchant vessel, to be used as the basis for real life experiments on the ship. A voyage around the UK will be undertaken and the experiences and the associated heritage communicated through video feeds, publicity, displays and events when the ship arrives in various ports. A sustainable working heritage shipyard will be created that works with North East clients and beyond and uses a body of trained volunteers and young people. A traditional 40 foot 'Fifie' fishing vessel will be designed and built and the first UK traineeships in heritage shipbuilding would be developed for young people aged 16 to 25. A schools programme and celebratory activities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application in the light of the available budget and concerns raised.

16. The Sunderland Shipyards Heritage and Training Project

CNE 2016 (2) 16

Applicant: The Senora Trust

Request: First round pass of £370,400, including development grant of £107,900 (58% of total eligible development costs).

Project: A two year project to restore a classic motor sailing yacht for use as a community sailing vessel. The restoration would provide a platform to deliver 100 12-month apprenticeships, offering a gateway to Sunderland's shipbuilding heritage and sustaining associated skills. Community use would be subsidised by commercial chartering of the yacht. Supported by volunteers, apprentices would be recruited in three cohorts over both the Development and Delivery Phases. Memories and experiences of shipyard workers would be captured and interpreted for wider audiences. Learning related to the project would be shared via the Trust's website and other media.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application in the light of the available budget and concerns raised.

17. Belief in the North-East

CNE 2016 (2) 17

Applicant: Durham University

Request: First round pass of £212,000, including a development grant of £15,000 (94% of total eligible development costs).

Project: A two year community archaeology project led by Durham University Archaeology Department. Six fieldwork projects would engage 500 volunteers in research, fieldwork, post-excavation study and interpretation of religious sites from prehistory to the present day that were at risk in the North East. A wide range of training opportunities for volunteers would be provided, with the Archaeology Skills Passport being employed as a key element. Project findings would be interpreted and disseminated to wider audiences through social media, published reports, talks and tours, interpretation, exhibitions, education packs, and a project website that would act as a heritage hub and on-line archive. A programme of workshops would be planned. A business enterprise programme would develop businesses producing goods and services rooted in the region's archaeological heritage.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application in the light of the available budget and concerns raised.

18. North East on Film

CNE 2016 (2) 18

Applicant: Yorkshire Film Archive

Request: First round pass of £353,000 including a development grant of £47,900 (83% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two year project to engage the people of the North East with their local and regional film heritage. An Archive Officer and Outreach Officer would be employed to deliver key areas of the project relating to the collections and the community activities. 250 films that were currently inaccessible and potentially at risk would be preserved, digitised and catalogued. A new collections information system and front end platform would be designed and implemented to increase access to the collections. A training programme for staff and volunteers would be developed. Film heritage screenings and events across the region, tailored to meet specific audience needs, would be delivered in partnership with a range of community groups, agencies and local authorities.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £353,000 including a development grant of £47,900 (83% of total eligible development costs)

19. River Gaunless for People and Wildlife

CNE 2016 (2) 19

Applicant: Wear Rivers Trust

Request: First round pass of £509,700, including a development grant of £93,800 (81% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three year project to restore the natural heritage of two sites along the River Gaunless and re-connect local people with the river's industrial and cultural heritage. A community wildlife area would be established at the first site and returned to its more natural state. At the second site a bypass channel would be constructed at a weir to allow more fish to migrate upstream. The remains of an old watermill on the site would be investigated and conserved. Access to the site would be improved and interpretation installed. Community engagement would take place to

research and interpret the settlements and industries that made use of the river. A Community Engagement Officer would be appointed to work with local residents and the Traveller community to improve their use of the river. A youth programme would be commissioned to engage with the young people who were subjecting the area to vandalism. A citizen science education programme would be delivered. A range of accredited and non-accredited training would be offered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **REJECTED** the application in the light of the available budget.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Enterprise

20. Otterburn Hall Renovation and Refurbishment

CNE 2016 (2) 20

Applicant: Otterburn Hall C.I.C

Request: First round pass of £1,994,300, including a development grant of £163,300 (81% of total eligible costs)

Project: A two year project to repair and restore the Grade II Listed Otterburn Hall, reinstating it as a small hotel. A range of survey works and urgent repairs would be undertaken to make the Hall weather tight. Repair works to the building's exterior, interior works and some new build to modernise facilities would take place and disabled access would be improved. The applicant would become a registered training provider, partnering with existing training and educational providers to offer on-site learning and accreditation across both construction-led and estate management skills and heritage-led skills. A Community Development Officer would deliver community engagement and events. The restored Hall would be managed by an experienced operator.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support, but as the application was significantly above the available budget for the meeting, the application was **REFERRED TO THE BOARD** as a **HIGH PRIORITY (1 of 2)**. The Board would determine the application in July 2016.

21. Restoration and redevelopment of the City Pools Building in Newcastle upon Tyne

CNE 2016 (2) 21

Applicant: Fusion Lifestyle

Request: First round pass of £961,400, including a development grant of £42,000 (24% of total eligible costs)

Project: To bring the Grade II Listed City Pools Buildings back into use as a high quality health and fitness centre, giving the building a viable and economically sustainable future. The project would restore and refurbish external aspects of the buildings and one of the pools. The other pool would be covered with a reversible timber floor and converted into a health and fitness facility. The Turkish Baths would be fully restored and the health suite redeveloped to provide high quality contemporary facilities. A new café space would be created and accessibility would be improved. A six month apprenticeship would be provided. A Learning and Outreach Officer would be employed. A permanent exhibition would be created and a programme of regular tours and talks would be delivered during the restoration and redevelopment works. A digital archive would be created to hold historic and contemporary material relating to the City Pools and Turkish Baths.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £961,400, including a development grant of £42,000 (24% of total eligible costs).

22. Prioritisation of first round HG and HE items

Oral

During the case by case discussions, the Committee considered that:

- North East on Film (item 18); River Gaunless for People and Wildlife (item 19); and Restoration and redevelopment of the City Pools Building (item 21) were high priorities for support
- Celebrating the First Discovery of Land in Antarctica from Blyth (item 15); The Sunderland Shipyards Heritage and Training Project (item 16); and Belief in the North-East (item 17) were medium priorities for support

During prioritisation it was agreed that City Pools (item 21) and North East on Film (item 18) were of the highest priority for support and were awarded first round passes.

River Gaunless for People and Wildlife (item 19) was rejected following concerns around sustainability.

Celebrating the First Discovery of Land in Antarctica from Blyth (item 15); The Sunderland Shipyards Heritage and Training Project (item 16); Belief in the North-East (item 17) were rejected due to concerns raised and budgetary constraints.

23. Grants for Places of Worship overview and applications

CNE 2016 (2) 23

In the North East, two first round applications with a grant request of £195,400 had been received against a regional budget of £275,000. At the initial sift, Historic England advice was that both cases had demonstrated that the works applied for were urgent. The two cases underwent full assessment, and Historic England provided detailed technical advice to establish the urgency of the repair works. HLF assessment looked at how well the applications met community outcomes. These two factors were used to arrive at an overall priority for the batch.

Committee noted that four Second Round applications had been decided at delegated Batch level by the Head of HLF North East since the last Committee meeting.

Committee took the following decisions:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	DECISION
23a.	Sunderland Minster north side roof and tower stonework	Sunderland Minster	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £162,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £14,600 (69% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
23b.	Essential repairs to historic rural church with improved access and community facilities	St Andrew's Bolam, Northumberland	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £33,400 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £10,600 (85% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

SF4 second round application for discussion and decision: Townscape Heritage

24. CHARGE! The Story of England's Northern Cavalry

CNE 2016 (2) 24

Applicant: Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

Request: A grant of £422,600 (55% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: A three year project to unite collections from several historic regiments into a new permanent gallery in Discovery Museum, replacing and enlarge the existing 'A Soldier's Life' gallery on the first floor. Displays would examine the 300 year heritage of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the 15th/19th Kings Own Hussars, amalgamated in 1992 as the Light Dragoons and would also encompass the history of its affiliated reservists, the Northumberland Hussars (today part of the Queen's Own Yeomanry).

First round pass including a development grant: Committee March 2015.

Key changes: No major changes were proposed and no uplift had been requested.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £422,600 (55% of total eligible delivery costs)

25. Thornaby Town Hall

CNE 2016 (2) 25

Applicant: Thornaby Town Council

Request: A grant of £863,100 (85% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: A three year project to restore Thornaby Town Hall and to use heritage as a catalyst to provide the building with a sustainable community led future. The restored Town Hall would comprise of multi-functional spaces for exhibitions, events and meetings, archives, a volunteer training hub and leased offices. A programme of activities would offer audiences with a range of opportunities to engage with local heritage as well as a range of other cultural events. Exterior and interior capital works would be undertaken and access would be improved. New roles would be created to manage the voluntary activity programme and facilitate project activities, and a volunteering strategy would be developed.

First round pass including a development grant: Committee December 2014.

Key changes: The activity scheme has been strengthened in scope, resource and timetabling. An additional role has been included to manage the Activity Plan and Coordinator. The archive resource has been significantly developed and partnerships have been established with a range of local organisations. An uplift of £74,800 (9%) was requested to support a higher quality engagement offer and a more robust contingency and inflation allocation.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £863,100 (85% of total eligible delivery costs)

26. Restoring Ratty: the return of the Water Vole to Kielder Forest

CNE 2016 (2) 26

Chris Mullin and Lynn Turner declared conflicts of interest in the item and left the room before discussion commenced. Niall Hammond chaired the meeting for the discussion of the item. The meeting was not quorate for the item and Committee views were recorded.

Applicant: Northumberland Wildlife Trust Ltd

Request: A grant of £421,900 (70% of total eligible delivery costs).

Project: A five year project, co-ordinated and delivered by the Kielder Water Vole Partnership (KWVP), to reintroduce and create robust water vole colonies in the Kielder catchment area and deliver an associated activity programme to engage people in water vole heritage. A curriculum-linked schools education programme will be delivered. Open days and an events programme will engage local people and visitors to the area.

First round pass including a development grant: Committee September 2015.

Key changes: No significant changes were proposed. Project costs had increased by £29,254, due to the introduction of a £10,000 contingency and additions to the budget for project staff, communications and full cost recovery. An uplift of £23,400 (6%) was requested.

As the Committee were not quorate for the discussion of this item the decision was **DEFERRED TO A DECISION BETWEEN MEETINGS.**

SF4 second round application for discussion and decision: Heritage Enterprise

27. Restoration and Redevelopment of Morpeth Railway Station

CNE 2016 (2) 27

Applicant: Greater Morpeth Development Trust

Request: A grant of £797,000 (44% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: To restore, regenerate and interpret Morpeth Railway Station, creating new uses for visitors, business start-ups and the local community. Historic features across the building will be restored. Planned for the unused ground floor and first floor development were a daytime/evening catering offer to improve station facilities, creating local jobs, and the creation of six enterprise units. Target tenants for the units included ex-local authority consultants and local start-ups or small businesses benefitting from shared resources. Community-focussed business programmes would be offered, delivering training and development for local residents, shared workspace for emerging businesses and equipped facilities and workspaces.

First round pass including a development grant: Committee June 2015.

Key changes: No significant changes were proposed. An uplift of £70,000 (10%) was requested, to cover unforeseen cost elements including more extensive roof repairs than expected, reinstatement of chimneys and works to floors, including under-floor heating to address damp issues.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £797,000 (44% of total eligible delivery costs)

SF4 second round application for discussion and decision: Townscape Heritage

28. Skelton Townscape Heritage Project – community-led initiative celebrating our past and our future

CNE 2016 (2) 28

Applicant: Skelton Villages Civic Pride

Request: A grant of £952,200 (62% of total eligible delivery costs).

Project: To repair and reinstate traditional shop fronts on Skelton High Street and improve the public realm. Capital works included repair and conservation work focused on the reinstatement of shop fronts, sash windows, and doors. Interpretation and a programme of activities exploring the history of the local area would be delivered, with an oral history project, a community archaeology project and a project to record the buildings in the historic core of Skelton. A Heritage Sports Day would be researched and organised for the local community. Expert-led workshops and

presentations would advise High Street businesses and volunteers on the restoration and maintenance of their buildings.

First round pass including a development grant: Committee March 2015.

Key changes: Value engineering was carried out and a scheme plan, slightly reduced in scope and timescale was produced. The revised scheme has reduced by five properties. The restoration of an ancient sandstone wall has been omitted from the public realm proposals to reduce costs. Associated project delivery and activity costs have been reduced. A part-time admin role had been removed. No uplift had been requested.

Expert advice was supportive.

Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £952,200 (62% of total eligible delivery costs).

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (July Board)

29. Belsay Awakes

CNE 2016 (2) 29

Applicant: English Heritage

Request: First round pass of £3,959,800 including a development grant of £316,900 (66% of total eligible development costs).

Project: A four and half year project to rejuvenate Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens, bringing more of the estate back into use whilst re-engaging visitors and communities. An extensive programme of conservation and building works was proposed. A programme of activities would be developed, including community archaeology activities, and an Audience Development Manager recruited to lead on engagement and the development of new partnerships, with a renewed focus on volunteering. The post of Senior Gardener Supervisor would be created to lead a new team of garden volunteers and horticultural trainees in conducting a full botanical survey of the historic plant collections, cataloguing and restoring them through propagation and replanting. Interpretation activities and resources would be developed.

Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH (2 of 2)** priority. The Board would determine the application in July 2016.

29.a Prioritisation

Committee agreed the priority of the two first round applications for decision at the July Board as follows:

- High Priority 1 of 2 - Otterburn Hall Renovation and Refurbishment (item 20)
- High Priority 2 of 2 – Belsay Awakes (item 29)

Papers for discussion

30. Communications Plan for 2016-2017

CNE 2016 (2) 30

Priorities for the year included supporting work in the region's Priority Development Areas with a focus on First World War, and in attracting BAME and young people led applications.

Committee noted that the Changing Lives programme would be running until February 2017 and details of any potential individuals Members meet who could feature in the series should be passed on to the team.

31. Communications Report

CNE 2016 (2) 31

Committee noted the report.

Papers for information

32. Corporate Update

CNE 2016 (2) 32

Committee noted the paper and the Board minutes from the February, March and April which had been circulated via email. The paper set out some of the key corporate business currently underway.

Committee noted the Government's Culture White Paper and that HLF would be contributing to a number of initiatives.

33. Minutes of the meeting of Regional and Country Chairs on 12 April 2016

CNE 2016 (2) 33

The minutes were noted.

34. Business Plan 2016 – 2017

CNE 2016 (2) 34

The 2016-17 Business Plan, circulated electronically, was noted.

35. Any other business

CNE 2016 (2) 35

Ivor Crowther provided Committee with an update on the progress with Auckland Castle.

Committee were updated on other correspondence that had been received, including invitations that had been received to events.

The next meeting will be held on 13 September 2016