

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 6 March 2018

CNE 2018 (1)

**Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 6 March 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the Newcastle Office.**

## **Members:**

- Lucy Winskell (Chair)
- Jim Cokill
- Richard Evans
- Niall Hammond
- Stacey Hall
- Richard Morris (Trustee)
- Lynn Turner

## **Committee Business**

### **1. Welcome**

**Oral**

The Chair welcomed Verity Soons from the Secretariat team who was supporting the Committee going forward. Introductions took place around the table.

No apologies had been received though Richard Evans would join the meeting late due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **2. Chair's report**

**Oral**

The Chair updated the Committee on her activities since the last meeting;

- Attended, with Ivor Crowther, the royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the opening of the Old Fire Station Sunderland.
- Had been involved in the launch of Great Exhibition of the North

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

**Oral**

The following conflicting interests were declared and as such members were not present in discussions for those applications;

#### **Item 9 - Naturally Native (HG-17-02215)**

- Jim Cokill — Trust Director for Durham Wildlife Trust (Applicant)

#### **Item 16 - The Bright Water Landscape Partnership (LP-14-06975)**

- Jim Cokill – Trust Director for Durham Wildlife Trust (Applicant)
- Niall Hammond – Was on the project board at Round 1 where he represented one of the partners (Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland). He had not been involved in the round 2 application, nor did he have any financial interests in the project.

#### **Item 25 - Seaton Delaval Hall: The Curtain Rises (HG-14-09383)**

- Niall Hammond – Was on the project board (as an NT volunteer) but no financial interest.

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

- Lynn Turner – Naturally Native (HG-17-02215).
- Lynn Turner – Union Chain Bridge: Crossing borders, inspiring communities (HG-15-01211).
- Lucy Winskell – Seaton Delaval Hall: The Curtain Rises (HG-14-09383).

#### **4. Minutes of last meeting on 28 November 2017**

**CNE 2018 (1) 4**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

#### **5. Matters arising from the minutes**

**CNE 2018 (1) 5**

There were none.

#### **6. North East Regional Overview**

**CNE 2018 (1) 6**

Ivor Crowther, Head of Region, introduced the report, highlighting;

- That the corporate report provided Committee with a full explanation of the transition year 2018-19 and considerations for delivery of SF5.
- SF5 online consultation had launched and was open until 22 March. The team were working to raise awareness and encourage participation across the region and two stakeholder events would be held in March.
- HRH the Prince of Wales had attended the official opening of the Durham Cathedral 'Open Treasure' Galleries which had been organised by the University and Cathedral.
- Ivor Crowther had visited an event by The Great Exhibition of the North, due to run from 22 June to 9 September 2018.

The Committee noted that two Board decisions had been made since the last committee meeting which saw a second round grant awarded to Restoration of North Marine Park, South Shields (PP-15-03734) and first round grant awarded to Belsay Awakes (HG-17-02288).

#### **7. North East Budget**

**CNE 2018 (1) 7**

Ivor Crowther introduced the report, reminding the Committee that there had been a reduction of approx. £20,000,000 in funding across UK resulting in a reduction in budget for this meeting of approx. £240,000 for the North East region.

Three first round Heritage Grants and one Heritage Enterprise had been received with a total request of £2,762,400 against a budget of £1,488,900. The Committee noted that prioritisation would be needed.

One second round Heritage Grant application had been received with a total request of £376,200. The Committee noted that the application was fundable providing that it was high quality and delivering good value for money.

#### **SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants and Enterprise**

#### **8. Guisborough Town Hall Gateway Project; HE-17-01702**

**CNE 2018 (1) 8**

**Applicant:** Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

**Request:** First Round Pass of £1,262,200, including Development Grant of £104,500

**Project:** A two year project to enable Guisborough town hall to be brought back into use in the community through restoring and repairing the building and its original architectural features whilst improving accessibility and developing the space for commercial use. Originally built in 1821, and further extended in 1870, the Grade II Listed building stands on site of an ancient toll booth. In a state of disuse since 2013, it was purchased by the council in 2015 to protect its future though various repairs were required. A resilient heritage grant awarded in April 2017 had enabled up-skilling of members and exploration for its future use. Alongside the building restoration would be the creation of a tourist information centre, retail space and large area for exhibitions and community use.

The Committee for North East agreed the application represented a **HIGH PRORITY (1 of 2)** for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,262,200 including development grant of £104,500, 90% of eligible development costs.

#### **9. Naturally Native; HG-17-02215**

**CNE 2018 (1) 9**

*Jim Cokill was not present for this discussion due to a conflict of interest.*

**Applicant:** Durham Wildlife Trust

**Request:** First Round Pass of £612,700, including Development Grant of £93,300

**Project:** A four year project to save the water vole population from extinction across the Tyne to Tees area. It would tackle the two major causes of population decline, predators of non-native species and habitat fragmentation, to encourage growth in the population. Delivered in partnership, the organisations had a wealth of experience in delivering volunteer programmes which would bring great value. An education programme focused on young people, college and university students would be the main activity to build awareness and learning. The project built on the research and work of similar projects in the North East and would expect to deliver positive outcomes.

The Committee for North East agreed the application represented a **HIGH PRIORITY (2 of 2)** for support but **REJECTED** the application due to insufficient funds.

#### **10. Life Transformation Church Elswick, re-ordering, refurbishment, and our Lord's Heritage Mini Museum and Café; HG-17-05698**

**CNE 2018 (1) 10**

**Applicant:** Life Transformation Church

**Request:** First Round Pass of £399,700, including Development Grant of £25,100

**Project:** Following two successful phases under GPOW, the 16 month project would complete urgent conservation works recommended for the Life Transformation Church and allowing the development of a multipurpose community facility including a small museum. Onsite interpretation would aim to make the site more accessible to visitors and a wider audience. Six volunteers would acquire training to support the Church's aim to become a self-sustaining venue and enhance its benefits for the wider community.

The Committee for North East agreed with the officer's recommendation and the application was **REJECTED**.

## 11. Tynesiders; HG-17-05890

CNE 2018 (1) 11

**Applicant:** Headliners UK

**Request:** First Round Pass of £487,800, including Development Grant of £40,100

**Project:** A three year project engaging 140 young people to capture a range of narratives that tell the valuable story of the significant levels of migration in the area and demonstrate how it has shaped the communities and how they live today. Other areas in the region have started to gather stories but gaps remain which this project would hope to rectify. The project would bring opportunities to engage in heritage focused activity for the first time in this area.

The Committee for North East agreed the application represented a **LOW** priority for support and **REJECTED** the applications.

## 12. Prioritisation of first round items

**Oral**

*Jim Cokill stepped out whilst the Committee agreed the prioritisation due to his conflict of interest in Durham Wildlife Trust.*

The Committee reconfirmed their position for the following cases;

- Life Transformation Church Elswick, re-ordering, refurbishment and our Lord's Heritage Mini Museum and Café. This was rejected in line with the officer recommendation.
- Tynesiders – This represented low priority and was rejected following earlier discussions.

The Committee discussed the high priority cases, noting that due to reasons discussed, Guisborough would on this occasion hold a higher priority.

## SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Grants for Places of Worship

### 13. GPOW Overview

CNE 2018 (1) 13

The Committee noted the overview paper and that there had been one second round application decided at delegated batch level by the Head of Region since the last Committee meeting. The GPOW programme was now closed to new round one applications.

### 14. Sunderland Minster North Side Roof and Tower Stonework; GP-15-06750

**Oral**

The Committee considered the application for;

- Sunderland Minster North Side Roof and Tower Stonework (GP-15-06750) – Grant of £193,300 (66%) including and uplift of £45,900 (31%).

The Committee for the North East noted that the uplift was due to a 70% price increase in the cost of lead and agreed to award the grant with the uplift.

## SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

### 15. Earthworks; HG-16-05161

CNE 2018 (1) 15

Grantee: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: Grant of £376,200 (70%)

Uplift: n/a

Project: A three year project to enhance recognition and understanding of the geological heritage of the North Pennines to both residents and tourists whilst also expanding the tourist offer. The project would bring better access and improvement to interpretation across seven sites of geological importance. A wider programme of engagement, including an extensive education programme, would encourage a wider audience through creative workshops and installations, exhibitions and new digital resources. Training and volunteer opportunities would also be created. The project would greatly support and improve the ability to retain the AONB's UNESCO geopark status.

The Committee for the North East had awarded a first round pass of £406,100 including a development grant of £29,800, 62% of eligible development costs in March 2017.

The Committee for the North East **AWARDED** a grant of £376,200 (70%)

### ***Richard Evans Joined the meeting***

## **SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Landscape Partnership**

### **16. The Bright Water Landscape Partnership; LP-14-06975**

**CNE 2018 (1) 16**

*Jim Cokill and Niall Hammond were not present for this discussion due to conflicts of interest*

Grantee: Durham Wildlife Trust

Request: Grant of £2,637,500 (80%)

Uplift: n/a

The Board had awarded a first round pass of £2,663,500 including a development grant of £226,000, 62% of eligible development costs, in October 2015.

Project: Four year project to restore and reveal the heritage of the degraded landscape of the 'Bright Water' area. The project will improve access to the area through development of cycle and walking routes and make habitat improvements to an extensive stretch of river and fenland. Key areas identified as important heritage sites, such as Roman settlements and deserted medieval village sites, would be explored through an extensive community engagement programme with opportunities for volunteering, training and education.

The Committee for the North East **AWARDED** a grant of £2,637,500 (80%)

## **SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Townscape Heritage**

### **17. Townscape Heritage Overview**

**CNE 2018 (1) 17**

The Committee noted the paper and that this would present the last round of Townscape Heritage First Round applications of the current strategic framework. A total request of £32,000,000 would

be presented to the Board at its delegated panel meeting in May against an available budget of £8,000,000 indicating a highly competitive process. The North East would submit two applications out of the 23 in total.

**18. Seaham Townscape Heritage; TH-17-02149**

**CNE 2018 (1) 18**

Applicant: Durham County Council

Request: First Round Pass of £1,688,700, including Development Grant of £78,200

Project: To support economic and social regeneration through the repair and conservation of a number of commercial and residential properties in a Conservation Area which is currently on the Heritage at Risk register. Buildings in need of significant and urgent restorations would benefit from improved appearance and encourage new retail opportunities. Pedestrian links would also be improved and work would take place to enhance and interpret the original local rail lines.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** to the Board.

**19. Loftus-in-Cleveland: Restoring Pride in Our Town's Heritage; TH-17-05925**

**CNE 2018 (1) 19**

Applicant: Loftus Community Heritage Group

Request: First Round Pass of £1,209,500, including Development Grant of £104,000

Project: A community led project in a priority development area to reinvigorate and support regeneration of the second economic centre of the town. Community spaces would be improved to provide better-quality areas for community events and local heritage would be used as a focus and means to encourage people into the area. With a focus on conservation and repair to protect original features of Georgian and Victorian buildings in the area, the project seeks to restore a sense of community pride whilst protecting heritage and providing opportunities for employment, education and habitation.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **MEDIUM PRIORITY** to the Board.

**20. Prioritisation of first round items**

**Oral**

Prioritisation was not required as it had been clear through the voting process of the priority with which applications would be submitted to the Board.

**SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Major Grants**

**21. Major Grants Overview**

**Oral**

Eilish McGuinness introduced the report and the Committee noted that it would be a competitive process.

**22. Tees-Swale: naturally connected; HG-17-04306**

**CNE 2018 (1) 22**

Applicant: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: First Round Pass of £6,056,300, including Development Grant of £408,200

Project: A natural heritage project to considerably increase the resilience of a highly significant and biodiverse area of the England uplands, 67% of which is designated as being of special scientific interest. Through three key strands which focus on nature, skills, and engagement and interpretation, the project would create a national platform for work of its kind and facilitate cross regional working whilst retaining some of the most sensitive habitat in the country which is now in decline. The project fits with DEFRA's 25 year Environmental Plan and would bring considerable value to the area.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** to the Board. A decision would be made at the April Board meeting.

### **SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants**

#### **23. Union Chain Bridge: Crossing borders, inspiring communities; HG-15-01211**

**CNE 2018 (1) 23**

Applicant: Northumberland County Council

Request: First Round Pass of £3,500,000, including Development Grant of £360,000

Project: A four year cross-nation project jointly owned with Scottish Borders Council to restore and replace features of the UKs earliest example of an iron chain suspension bridge which were reaching end of life and were no longer suitable for ad hoc repairs. The first suspension bridge in Europe to carry wheeled traffic and the oldest bridge of its style in use worldwide, it was designed by Captain Samuel Brown and was now grade one listed. Exploration of local heritage would be supported through activity and learning plans which targeted STEM education with schools as well as other opportunities such as skills demonstrations, guided tours and walks, exhibitions and digital content to engage a wide variety of audiences which have been well considered. Successful completion of the project would see the bridge removed from both Historic Scotland's Buildings at Risk register and Historic England's Heritage at risk register and allow this critical link for dispersed communities to remain in use beyond its current expected closure in five to ten years.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** to the Board. A decision would be made at the March Board meeting.

### **SF4 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants**

#### **24. The Canny Space at Holy Trinity Sunderland; HG-14-08734**

**CNE 2018 (1) 24**

Applicant: Churches Conservation Trust

Request: Grant of £2,833,000 (65%)

Uplift: £229,100 (9%)

Project: A five year project to conserve, repair and adapt a Grade I Listed early Georgian Church. An important part of heritage in the area, the project would seek to reopen the Church as a new cultural venue sharing the history of both the Church and the old town through improved interpretation, exhibits and events as part of an extensive activity programme. Many original

features would be conserved through vital restoration work and the project would create apprenticeship, education and volunteer opportunities.

The Committee for the North East had recommend the application as a high priority to Board at round one and the Board awarded a first round pass of £2,806,700 including a development grant of £202,800 (83% of total eligible development costs) in May 2015.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** to the Board. A decision would be made at the March Board meeting.

## **25. Seaton Delaval Hall: The Curtain Rises; HG-14-09383**

**CNE 2018 (1) 25**

*Niall Hammond was not present for this discussion due to a conflict of interest.*

Applicant: National Trust North - Yorkshire and North East

Request: Grant of £3,700,000 (47%)

Project: To secure the architectural heritage of Grade I Listed Seaton Delaval Hall which was built in 1718 and remained the best surviving example of the architect's work. The project would seek to achieve extensive conservation in the main hall, improvements to visitor facilities, landscape improvements and the restoration and conservation of original features. The visitor experience would be enhanced through improved interpretation of archives and collections to recreate the stories of the Delaval family, a rolling programme of installations and a children's play area.

The Committee for North East had recommend the application as a high priority to Board at round one and the Board awarded a first round pass of £3,850,000 including a development grant of £150,000 (46% of total eligible development costs) in March 2016.

The Committee for the North East recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** to the Board. A decision would be made at the March Board meeting.

*Lucy Winskell left the meeting early. Before leaving she thanked Richard Morris for his contributions to the Committee and the North East region as a whole as he was attending his last meeting before his term ended in May 2018.*

*Richard Morris chaired the remainder of the meting*

## **Items for information**

### **26. Communications Report**

**CNE 2018 (1) 26**

The Committee noted the report.

### **27. Corporate Update**

**CNE 2018 (1) 27**

The Committee noted the report

### **28. Any Other Business**

**CNE 2018 (1) 28**

There was none.

**The next meeting will be held on 12 June 2018.**