

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 17 March 2015

## Summary report of the meeting held on 17 March 2015 at 10.00a.m. in Middleport Pottery, Port Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 3PE

**Present:** Les Sparks (Chairman)  
Sue Beardsmore  
Marion Blockley  
Ian Grosvenor  
Alan Taylor  
Tom Tew  
Jude Walker

**Apologies:** Izzy Mohammed

### 1. Chair's report Oral

The Chair informed the Committee that Sir Peter Luff had been appointed Chair of the NHMF and Eilish McGuinness had succeeded Bob Bewley as Director of Operations.

### 2. Declarations of Interest Oral

Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest in *Ingestre Orangery* (item 13) as he knew and had worked with the applicant team on the project whilst an employee of English Heritage and was currently advising them on another issue (unrelated to this application). He left the room during the discussion of this item and whilst it was prioritised under item 16.

In addition, Alan Taylor mentioned that he:

- knew about the building works and the overall scope of the *White House Visitor Centre* (item 6) but had not been involved in discussions about the focus of this application, the development and fit-out of the new museum
- knew the architect members of the Fabric Committee for *St Thomas's Stourbridge* (item 16) through his previous employment at English Heritage but had not been involved in discussions about their GPOW application
- had been in discussion about other matters about the church with the vicar of *St Peters Wrockwardine* (item 16) who had mentioned the forthcoming grant application. He confirmed that he had not discussed any of the details.
- had been the line manager of the English Heritage funded Church Buildings Support Officer for Lichfield Diocese who had assisted *All Saints Church, Baschurch, Shropshire* (item 16) in their application. He confirmed that they had not discussed the application.
- attended Worcester Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee but had not been involved in discussions about the *Education Centre project* (item 8)
- over a year ago had met the previous architect for *Redfern's* (item 18) in his English Heritage capacity. Although he was advised of the project's outline he had not seen the proposals which now formed the grant application.

The Committee was content that the above did not constitute a conflict of interest.

Ian Grosvenor declared conflicts of interest in *Peoples' Heritage and Arts Centre* (item 12) and *Redferns* (item 18) as his partner was/had been advising the applicants as a HLF appointed mentor

and there was a possibility she might continue to be involved in the projects if funding was awarded. He left the room during the discussion of these items and whilst they were prioritised under item 16.

Sue Beardmore mentioned that she knew someone who was involved in the *Peoples' Heritage and Arts Centre* (item 12). She confirmed that they hadn't spoken about the project. The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

Les Sparks mentioned that he knew one of the Trustees of Civic Voice, the applicant for *Connecting Communities to their local heritage* (item 21). He confirmed that they had not discussed the application. The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

Reyahn King mentioned that her husband was a manager at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, the owner of Ingestre Orangery (item 13). The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest as she was not a decision maker.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting on 9 December 2014** **CWM 2015 (1) 3**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:

Item 2, paragraph 4: replace 'until 2012 she was' with 'several years ago she had been'.

### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes** **Oral**

None.

### **5. West Midlands Budget** **CWM 2015 (1) 5**

Reyahn King introduced the paper which set the context for the Committee's decision taking for the 2014/2015 financial year.

The Committee noted that for this meeting the:

- indicative grants budget was £621,100. Applications totalling £1,886,200, including first round development grants, had been received. The Committee noted that all second round applications could be funded providing they were good quality and offered value for money.
- indicative first round pass budget was £2,763,631. Applications totalling £9,919,300 had been received. The Committee noted that they would need to prioritise the applications. Whilst prioritising the applications, the Committee was informed that there was some flexibility in HLF's budget due to underspends in other areas.

An updated chart showing the applications received for the June 2015 meeting was tabled.

#### **SF4 First round applications**

- **Heritage Grants**

### **7. White House Visitor Centre, Dudley** **CWM 2015 (1) 7**

The British Glass Foundation sought a first round pass of £897,600 including a development grant of £118,000 (83% of total eligible development costs) to establish a museum and visitor centre in the Newhouse furnace within the former Stuart Crystal Glassworks in Stourbridge. The Museum would house Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's glass collection. The collection contained 10,000 pieces of glass spanning 400 years of glassmaking in the UK and an archive. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

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

**8. Worcester Cathedral Heritage Learning Centre** **CWM 2015 (1) 8**

Worcester Cathedral sought a first round pass of £1,378,500 including a development grant of £159,600 (86% of total eligible development costs) to create a new learning facility within the Grade I listed Cathedral's Undercroft and College Hall in order to deliver improved education services. The project would also open previously inaccessible parts of the Cathedral precinct to visitors and volunteers when it was not in use as an education facility. The project formed part of the Cathedral's developing proposals for a new strategic vision.

The Committee agreed that the project was a low priority for support and **REJECTED** the application because of the concerns raised.

**9. The Former Moseley School of Art – Restoration Project** **CWM 2015 (1) 9**

Moseley Muslims Community Association sought funding to restore the Grade II\* listed former Moseley School of Art in Balsall Heath, a building in a culturally and ethnically diverse part of Birmingham. The building was on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register. Internal alterations would enable the building's existing use as a community centre to be enhanced and the emphasis on the original educational purpose of the building, the study of art, increased. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,703,600 including a development grant of £153,900 (89% of total eligible development costs). A mentor would be appointed.

**10. St Swithun's: a centre for heritage, arts and learning in the heart of the city** **CWM 2015 (1) 10**

The Churches Conservation Trust sought funding to restore and improve visitor facilities at the Grade I listed St Swithun's Church, a remarkably complete example of an early Georgian church located in Worcester Historic City Conservation Area. The North East vestry would be purchased as part of the project. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would include an apprentice in craft skills.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,642,100 including a development grant of £196,100 (75% of total eligible development costs).

**11. Unlocking the Severn for people and wildlife** **CWM 2015 (1) 11**

Severn Rivers Trust sought a first round pass of £1,585,100 including a development grant of £167,600 (35% of total eligible development costs) for a three year project to install fish passes at seven weirs along the River Severn in order to restore 199km of the twaite shad's historic spawning habitat along the Rivers Severn and Teme. The twaite shad was listed as a priority species in the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered. The project would be delivered in partnership with Canal and Rivers Trust, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The Committee agreed that the project was a low priority for support and **REJECTED** the application because of the concerns raised.

**12. Community Use of Longworth Chapel** **CWM 2015 (1) 12**

The Historic Chapels Trust, in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust, sought a first round pass of £584,800 including a development grant of £111,800 (87% of total eligible development costs) to complete the restoration of the Grade II\* listed Longworth Chapel and to improve access and visitor facilities. The project would enable this redundant, unused Chapel to be

brought back into community use. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would also 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 because of the concerns raised.

**13. Peoples' Heritage & Arts Centre, Birmingham**

**CWM 2015 (1) 13**

*Ian Grosvenor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.*

Legacy sought a first round pass of £1,604,900 including a development grant of £125,200 (87% of total eligible development costs) to repair and refurbish the Old Fire Station located in Handsworth for re-use as a new community Arts and Heritage Centre. A two year programme of learning and participation activities would be delivered to raise awareness and tell the story of the changing history of the area through new heritage and arts projects.

The Committee agreed that the project was a low priority for support and **REJECTED** the application because of the concerns about risk and value for money.

**14. Ingestre Orangery, Stafford**

**CWM 2015 (1) 14**

*Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.*

Friends of Ingestre Orangery sought a first round pass of £522,700 including a development grant of £44,700 (74% of total eligible development costs) to restore the Grade II listed Ingestre Orangery, the only unrestored building in the Ingestre Conservation Area. A 'pod' to the rear of the Orangery would provide visitor facilities to enable the proposed end use as a community building and heritage hub. A programme of associated learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

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

**15. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items**

**Oral**

*Ian Grosvenor and Alan Taylor left the room whilst Peoples' Heritage & Arts Centre, Birmingham (item 13) and Ingestre Orangery (item 14) respectively were determined.*

During the case by case discussions, the Committee had agreed that:

- *White House Visitor Centre (item 7), The Former Moseley School of Art – Restoration Project (item 9), St Swithun's: a centre for heritage, arts and learning in the heart of the city (item 10) and Ingestre Orangery (item 14) were a high priority for support.*
- *Community Use of Longworth Chapel (item 12) was a medium priority for support.*
- *Worcester Cathedral Heritage Learning Centre (item 8), Unlocking the Severn for people and wildlife (item 11) and Peoples' Heritage & Arts Centre, Birmingham (item 13) were a low priority for support.*

The Committee rejected the low priority projects because of the concerns raised and rejected the medium priority project because of the concerns raised and in the light of the available budget.

Having been informed that due to underspends in other areas there was some flexibility in the budget, the Committee discussed the relative merits of the high priority applications and possible funding options. The Committee:

- awarded first round passes with development funding to *The Former Moseley School of Art – Restoration Project (item 9) and St Swithun's: a centre for heritage, arts and learning in the heart of the city (item 10)*

- rejected *White House Visitor Centre* (item 7) and *Ingestre Orangery* (item 14) in the light of the available budget.

- **Grants for Places of Worship**

## 16. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

CWM 2015 (1) 16

The Grants for Places of Worship scheme was a targeted, UK wide programme to support the urgent structural repair needs of listed places of worship. The programme also aimed to support congregations by involving more people from their wider communities in caring for, using and understanding the heritage of the buildings.

In this final batch of applications for 2014/2015, 11 first round applications had been received with a total grant request of £1,736,800. A second round application for Evesham Abbey Bell Tower including an uplift of £8,000 (5%) on the first round pass had also been received. Since second round uplifts had to be deducted from the available budget, the budget available for the first round applications to be considered at this meeting was £710,000.

The Committee made the following decisions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Second round application</b></li> </ul>			
16.	Evesham Abbey Bell Tower conservation project	Evesham Parochial Church Council	AWARD GRANT OF £170,200 (44%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First round applications</b></li> </ul>			
16a.	St. Mary's, Stoneleigh: Grade I church - Repair, Protect and Share our C12 heritage	Parochial Church Council Stoneleigh, Diocese of Coventry	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £249,200 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £27,300 (80% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
16b.	Holy Trinity Church Birchfield 150th Anniversary Project	Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield	REJECT
16c.	Upper Sapey Church Rescue, Greater Whitbourne PCC	Greater Whitbourne Parochial Church Council	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £115,900 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £15,200 (75% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
16d.	Phase 1: repair of bell tower masonry and roof retiling; installation of central heating	St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine, Shropshire	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £157,600 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £11,100 (72% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
16e.	Urgent masonry repairs, new lighting scheme, provision of wc facilities and disabled access ramp into church	Parochial Church Council St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £160,400 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £12,400 (45% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
16f	Reroofing All Saints' Baschurch Tower Roof	All Saints Church, Baschurch, Shropshire	REJECT

16g	St Mary's Church, Tenbury Wells - urgent renovations to Church and introduction of new heating system	St Mary's Church, Tenbury Wells	REJECT
16h	St Pauls AOG Church Worcester Heritage preservation community and sustainability works	St Paul's AOG Church, Worcester	REJECT
16i	St Catherine, Tugford Restoration	St Catherine PCC, Tugford, Shropshire	REJECT
16j	Repair and reordering of St Mark's Church, Winhill	St Mark's Church, Winhill, East Staffordshire	REJECT
16k	St Andrew's Church, Ombersley - Restoration of East Windows	St Andrews Church Ombersley, Wychavon	REJECT

The cases marked:

- 16b was rejected in the light of the available budget
- 16f to 16k above were rejected due to insufficient urgency compared to others in the batch.

#### **SF4 Second round applications**

- **Heritage Grants**

#### **17. Putting the sparkle back into the Downs: Bromyard's Jewel CWM 2015 (1) 17**

Bromyard Downs Common Association sought funding to produce a holistic, 10 year management plan for the Bromyard Downs Common and to deliver, in partnership with the Commoners and volunteers, the first two years of the plan. The plan aimed to address the decline in the wildlife habitats of this 114 hectare, multi-use, semi-natural area. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a grant of £165,500 (80% of total delivery costs).

#### **18. Redfern's, Museum of Uttoxeter Life CWM 2015 (1) 18**

*Ian Grosvenor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.*

Uttoxeter Heritage Trust sought funding to restore and improve physical and intellectual access to the Museum of Uttoxeter Life and its collections. The museum was housed in a Grade II listed building known as Redfern's Cottage. The wider aim was to turn this under-used former council-run heritage centre into a fit for purpose C21st museum and a 'hub' for the history of the market town. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a grant of £643,800 (87% of total delivery costs). A mentor would be appointed.

## **SF4 First round Board applications**

- **Heritage Grants: March meeting**

### **19. BioLinks (*Cross Territory case*)**

**CWM 2015 (1) 19**

The Field Studies Council sought a first round pass of £1,117,400 including a development grant of £37,000 (47% of total eligible development costs) for a five year Citizen Science project to engage up to 2000 volunteers (existing and new) in the collection of biological records for groups of plants and animals (taxa) where the available data was 'deficient'. The development phase of this cross territory project would be delivered in West Midlands and London and would identify the taxa the project would focus on.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in March 2015.

### **20. The history and heritage of the National Union of Students (*Cross territory*)**

**CWM 2015 (1) 20**

The NUS Students' Union Charitable Services sought a first round pass of £445,900 including a development grant of £45,000 (93% of total eligible development costs) to identify, collect, conserve and improve access to its archive. The archive illustrated the historical impact of the UK's student movement from the establishment of the NUS in 1922 to the present day. Oral histories would be recorded to create historical podcasts about particular eras and issues. This UK wide project would be delivered in partnership with University of Warwick Modern Records Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University Archive, National Library of Wales and Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in March 2015.

### **21. Connecting communities to their local heritage (*Cross territory*)**

**CWM 2015 (1) 21**

Civic Voice – Liverpool sought a first round pass of £2,690,700 including a development grant of £95,700 (81% of total eligible development costs) for a four year project to assess the condition of 75% of England's Grade II listed buildings (over 270,000 buildings) and create online materials relating to the condition and maintenance of these assets. This England-wide project would be delivered in partnership with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, North of England Civic Trust and the Architectural Heritage Fund with support from English Heritage. The survey would be undertaken by trained volunteers with the support of historic environment specialists.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in March 2015.

### **22. Rambert at 90 (*Cross territory*)**

**CWM 2015 (1) 22**

Rambert Dance Company and Rambert Trust Ltd sought a first round pass of £339,400 including a development grant of £31,800 (86% of total eligible development costs) to deliver a touring exhibition and activity based project in support of their 2016/17 tour of England, Scotland and Wales. The wider aim of the project, which would draw on the Company's archive, was to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Company. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in March 2015.

*There were no items 23 and 24 on the agenda.*

## **SF4 Second round Board applications**

- **Heritage Grants: March meeting**

### **25. Capability Brown Tercentenary Festival: and then (Cross territory)**

**CWM 2015 (1) 25**

The Landscape Institute sought a grant of £911,100 (55% of eligible delivery costs) to celebrate the Tercentenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth in 2016. The project aimed to tell the story of Capability Brown's creative achievements, impact on the landscape and his legacy, and to present Brown's landscapes as a national heritage collection for the first time. The project would be delivered across England and Wales. Project outputs would include the development of a database, hosted by the Parks and Gardens UK website.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in March 2015.

## **Papers for Discussion and Information**

### **26. West Midlands Overview Report**

**CWM 2015 (1) 26**

Reyahn King, Head of Region, presented the report for the period 26 November 2014 to 2 March 2015. Highlighted items and updates included the BBC Countryfile Magazine Award of Heritage Site of the Year to the Severn Valley Railway Trust.

### **27. Communications Report**

**CWM 2015 (1) 27**

The Committee noted the report for the period September to November 2014.

### **28. NHMF/HLF Board Minutes**

**CWM 2015 (1) 28**

The Committee noted the Board minutes.

### **29. Major Projects Overview**

**CWM 2015 (1) 29**

Major Batch was an annual programme for grant requests of £5m or more. For 2015/2016, 18 first round applications requesting £208,883,900 (for development and delivery) had been received against an indicative budget of £70m. There were no applications from the West Midlands.

The Board would determine the applications in April 2015.

### **30. Business planning and strategy update**

**Oral**

Anne Jenkins, Deputy Director of Operations, gave a presentation about business planning and a review of the strategic framework for 2015/2016. The full business plan would be circulated to members after approval by the Board in March 2015.

### **31. Any other business**

**Oral**

#### **i) Lapworth Museum Exhibition**

Members were encouraged to visit the Lapworth Museum Exhibition in the Birmingham Museum.

#### **ii) Britain Thinks**

The Committee was informed that the launch of the results of *Britain Thinks* which examined the impact of lottery funding in 12 places during the last 20 years was imminent.

There was no other business.

**The next meeting will be held on 16 June 2015.**