

Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for the West Midlands

Meeting on 6 June 2017

CWM 2017 (2)

Summary report of the meeting of the Committee for the West Midlands held on 6 June 2017 at 10:00 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 (Trustee)
- Alison Wedgwood

Observing:

- Jamie Davies

Committee Business

1. Welcome

Oral

The Chair welcomed:

- Staff attending from the Big Lottery Fund for the Parks for People items.
- Jamie Davies, Wales Committee member who was observing the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Alan Taylor declared an interest in:

- Item 6 – *Restoration of Victoria Park* – as he was an employee of Stafford Borough Council and had handled the planning application.
- Item 18 – *Ironbridge Coracle heritage* – as he was a member of the Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust

The Committee agreed that both represented a conflict of interest and that he would leave the room for the discussion of those items.

Jude Walker declared an interest in:

- Item 18 – *Ironbridge Coracle Heritage* – as she was a Trustee and the Secretary of the Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust

The Committee agreed that this represented a conflict of interest and that Jude would leave the room for the discussion of all first round cases due to the competitive nature of the batch.

Marion Blockley declared an interest in

- Item 15 – *Croome Learning Centre* - as she was a member of the National Trust Historic Environment Advisory Group
- Item 18 – *Ironbridge Coracle Heritage* – as she was a Trustee Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust

The Committee agreed that these represented a conflict of interest and that Marion would leave the room for the discussion of all first round cases due to the competitive nature of the batch.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Parks for People

3. Parks for People Overview

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The Committee noted the overview.

4. Re-connecting people to Brinton Park; PP-16-03449

CWM 2017 (2) 4

Applicant: Wyre Forest District Council

Request: First round pass of £2,627,600 including a development grant of £217,600 (87% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To repair and reinstate the key historical features of Brinton Park and refresh and adapt the park's facilities to bring the green space up-to-date and encourage a diverse local community to visit for longer. A Parks Action Group would be established with the partner organisations that were currently the park's core users. Wider interest groups would be consulted to inform the proposals. Capital works would be undertaken and a programme of activities devised and delivered. Interpretation within the park would be improved to better tell the story of the park's historical significance.

The HLF West Midlands Committee and the Big Lottery Fund representative recommended the application to the Board

SF4 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Parks for People

5. Restoration and Regeneration of West Smethwick Park; PP-14-04998

CWM 2017 (2) 5

Grantee: Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: A grant of £4,493,900 (87%)

Project: To restore and reinstate heritage features in West Smethwick Park and enhance visitor and leisure facilities. Major landscape features and built heritage would be restored with capital works to include the restoration of the boating lake and upper pools including dams and rustic bridges. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would target disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. The visitor experience would be improved with the creation of a community pavilion and delivery of a programme of activities.

The HLF Board and BLF England Parks for People Committee had awarded a first round pass of £4,830,700, including a development grant of £337,300, 88% of total eligible development costs, split (HLF £224,867; 66.66%) (BLF £112,433; 33.33%) in June 2015.

Uplift: £500 (0%)

The HLF West Midlands Committee and the Big Lottery Fund representative recommended the application to the Board

6. Restoration of Victoria Park; PP-14-08655

CWM 2017 (2) 6

Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.

Grantee: Stafford Borough Council

Request: A grant of £1,716,300 (65%)

Project: To conserve and enhance Victoria Park in Stafford by returning it to its Edwardian design. This 2.77 hectare park contained several listed structures including the Mottram Shelter and the County War Memorial, both Grade II listed. Capital works would include a café with a riverside amphitheatre. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would include horticultural apprenticeships.

The HLF Board and BLF England Parks for People Committee had awarded a first round pass of £1,705,100 including a development grant of £185,800, 78% of total eligible development costs, split (HLF £123,867; 66.66%) (BLF £61,933; 33.33%) in June 2015.

Uplift: £197,000 (13%) uplift had been requested due to increased capital and related costs for the changes to the planned café.

The HLF West Midlands Committee and the Big Lottery Fund representative recommended the project to the Board

Reports

7. Chair's report

Oral

The Chair provided an update on her activities since the last meeting

8. Minutes of last meeting on 28 February 2017

CWM 2017 (2) 8

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

9. Matters arising from the Minutes

CWM 2017 (2) 9

There were none

10. West Midlands Overview Report

CWM 2017 (2) 10

The Committee noted the report

11. Communications Report

CWM 2017 (2) 11

The Committee noted the report

12. West Midlands Budget Report

CWM 2017 (2) 12

There were six first round Heritage Grants applications had been received totalling £5,508,100 against a budget of £1.55m. Committee noted that the round was competitive and prioritisation would be required.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

Jude Pilgrim and Marion Blockley declared conflicts of interest and left the room for the discussion of the first round applications (items 13 – 19).

13. Heritage of the RSC's Costume Workshop; HG-16-01551

CWM 2017 (2) 13

Applicant: Royal Shakespeare Company

Request: A first round pass of £950,000 including development grant of £0 (0%of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two year project to conserve, improve and provide access to the Grade II listed buildings that house the Royal Shakespeare Company's costume workshop. The heritage of the buildings would be revealed and the historic features would be restored. A range of interpretation would be developed to explore the continuities and changes in costume-making techniques and to bring out the stories of the craftspeople, designers and actors who had worked there. Outreach and community engagement activities would engage with hard to reach audiences and provide training opportunities. An Outreach and Participation Officer would be recruited.

The Committee agreed the application was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £950,000 including development grant of £0 (0%of total eligible development costs)

14. Development of Gower St, Old House, as a Heritage Enterprise and Community Centre; HG-16-02692

CWM 2017 (2) 14

Applicant: Gower Heritage & Enterprise Foundation

Request: A first round pass of £1,850,200 including development grant of £53,700 (22%of total eligible development costs)

Project: To restore and refurbish the historical Gower Street School and its grounds, interpreting the heritage and developing the building as a community hub with lettable spaces, including a nursery and café. Capital works included extensive fabric repairs and a full refurbish of the building's interior. The grounds would be landscaped and a sensory garden developed. A programme of outreach and engagement activities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed the application represented a low priority and **REJECTED** it due to the concerns raised.

15. Croome Learning Centre; HG-16-03717

CWM 2017 (2) 15

Applicant: National Trust – Midlands Region

Request: A first round pass of £355,100 including development grant of £0 (0%of total eligible development costs)

Project: To repair and redevelop two former RAF buildings located within the Croome Estate into a new learning centre and toilet block. Capital works would include the removal of asbestos, new piling for the structures and new flooring and the rebuilding and repair of internal and external walls. A new suite of interpretation would be developed and new volunteers would be engaged to support delivery alongside the existing volunteer pool.

The Committee agreed the application represented a medium priority and **REJECTED** it due to budgetary constraints.

16. Falling Sands Viaduct: Iconic Railway Structure; HG-16-07870

CWM 2017 (2) 16

Applicant: Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

Request: A first round pass of £1,018,100 including development grant of £71,800 (75%of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two-part project to restore and stabilise the Falling Sands Viaduct. The repaired structure would enable continued rail operations on the line. A programme of engagement, interpretation and education would be delivered to connect people to the railway and engineering heritage, which would include the creation of a travelling exhibition, talks, skills development and the delivery of an apprenticeship course.

The Committee agreed the application was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,018,100 including development grant of £71,800 (75%of total eligible development costs).

17. Evesham Abbey Conservation Project; HG-16-08412

CWM 2017 (2) 17

Applicant: Evesham Abbey Trust

Request: A first round pass of £953,000 including development grant of £228,200 (71%of total eligible development costs)

Project: To repair the ruined walls and doors and carry out an archaeological assessment of the former site of Evesham Abbey. The information from the results of the archaeology of the site would inform the activities and design of the future public garden. Activities planned included exhibitions of the findings and history of the abbey, art displays and guided tours. Schools and local organisations would be engaged with the site, helping with surveys and an education pack would be created.

The Committee agreed the application represented a high priority but **REJECTED** it due to budgetary constraints.

18. Ironbridge Coracle Heritage; HG-16-05633

CWM 2017 (2) 18

Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.

Applicant: Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Request: A first round pass of £380,800 including development grant of £56,200 (81%of total eligible development costs)

Project: To stabilise and repair the last historic coracle making shed in England. Located on the banks of the River Severn, in the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, the shed dates back to the 1920s. The project would also conserve and securely store a collection of objects from the shed that had been re-acquired by the applicant. A programme of complimentary activities would be delivered, including a volunteer programme, training in coracle making and sculling, a coracle trail throughout Ironbridge and events and demonstrations. A programme of interpretation would be located throughout the Gorge.

The Committee agreed the application represented a high priority but **REJECTED** it due to budgetary constraints.

19. Prioritisation and feedback for first round applications

Oral

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

- Item 13 *Heritage of the RSC's Costume Workshop*, item 16 *Falling Sands Viaduct*, item 17 *Evesham Abbey Conservation Project* and item 18 *Ironbridge Coracle Heritage* were high priorities for support.
- Item 15 *Croome Learning Centre* was a medium priority for support and
- Item 14 *Development of Gower St Old School House* was a low priority for support.

The medium and low priority applications were rejected due to budgetary constraints and the concerns raised.

In consideration of the available budget and the merits of each high priority case the Committee agreed to award first round passes to item 13 *Heritage of the RSC's Costume Workshop*, item 16 *Falling Sands Viaduct*, and item 17 *Evesham Abbey Conservation Project*.

The remaining high priority application was rejected due to insufficient funds.

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

20. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands (9x 1st Round)

CWM 2017 (2) 20

The Committee took the following decisions:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
20a.	Coleshill Parish Church Repair, Restoration and Reordering Campaign	The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Coleshill	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £71,200 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £0 (0% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
20b.	Urgent repairs to the tower roof	Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £166,200 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £13,400 (67% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
20c.	St Mary's Warwick, Urgent Structural Repairs to the Tower: Repair and Interpretation	Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick	REJECT

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
20d.	Repair and Restoration of 12th Century St Mary's Church	Parish of Bitterley and Middleton, Shropshire	REJECT
20e.	Restoration of St Mary's Church, Highley	St Mary's Church, Highley, Shropshire	REJECT
20f.	Repair, Renewal, Regeneration	St Barnabas Church, Brampton Bryan SY7 0DH	REJECT
20g.	Urgent Repairs and Community Project, Phase 1	St Mary's Church, Stottesdon	REJECT
20h.	Repairs to the Interior of St George's Church, Shrewsbury	St George's Church	REJECT
20i.	Croft, Herefordshire: St Michael & All Angels' Church Bell Tower Cupola Repair	Croft with Yarpole & Lucton Parochial Church Council	REJECT

The Committee noted that two Round 2 churches had been decided at delegated Batch level by Head of Region since the last Committee meeting:

- GP-15-02923 - Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Atherstone.
- GP-15-04585 - Parochial Church Council of the Church of the Holy Cross, Shrewsbury

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

21. Thomas Telford @ Wappenshall Wharf; HG-13-05994

CWM 2017 (2) 21

Grantee: The Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust

Request: A grant of £1,186,900 (67%)

Project: To restore two grade II listed 19th century canal warehouses, one designed by Thomas Telford, at Wappenshall Wharf in Shropshire, to become a visitor centre and café. The wharf would be dug out and rewatered, contributing to the long term goal of restoring 25 miles of canal.

The Committee awarded a first round pass of £981,900 including a development grant of £72,100 (81% of total eligible development costs) in December 2013.

An uplift of £277,100 (30%) had been requested largely due to increased capital costs to strengthen the floor of the largest warehouse following a structural survey and increased cost of materials.

The Committee **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

SF4 grant increase applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

22. Worcester Porcelain- Celebrating 250 years of Innovation, Industry and Craftmanship; HG-12-04893

CWM 2017 (2) 23

Grantee: Dyson Perrins Museum Trust

Request: A grant increase of £132,100 to make a total grant of £1,414,800

Project: To reorder the layout of the museum galleries and update interpretation. The wider aim was to diversify audiences in order to secure the Museum's longer term future. The Museum held a nationally important collection of ceramics and a range of tools, moulds, printing plates and social history material about the Royal Worcester factory from 1751 until the factory's closure in 2009. The project would also improve access to archive materials and deliver a programme of learning and participation opportunities.

The Committee had awarded a grant of £1,282,700 (86% of total eligible delivery costs) in June 2015.

Grant increase: The need for works to remove asbestos had resulted in an increase in project costs of £232,193.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant increase of £132,100 to make a total grant of £1,414,800 (82% of total eligible delivery costs)

23. Redfern's; HG-13-03055

CWM 2017 (2) 24

Grantee: Uttoxeter Heritage Trust

Request: A grant increase of £344,600 to make a total grant of £988,400

Project: 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 21st Century museum and a 'hub' for the history of the market town. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee had awarded a grant of £643,800 (87% of total delivery costs) in September 2013.

Grant increase: Project costs had increased to £1,144,181 following revision of budgets and a business plan review.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant increase of £344,600 to make a total grant of £988,400 (87% of total eligible delivery costs).

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

24. Mapping the British West India Regiment (BWIR); Cross-territory HG-15-08742

CWM 2017 (2) 25

Applicant: Black Voices UK

Request: A first round pass of £193,400 including development grant of £45,800 (82% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A 14-month project to support learning about the British West Indian Regiment(s) (BWIR) to raise awareness of their contribution to the allied war effort. A key goal would be to increase participation in remembrance activities among British Caribbean citizens. Activities would be delivered in seven HLF regions (South East, London, South West, West Midlands, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands). A programme of activities would be delivered including engagement of elders and youth clubs associated with black-led churches around the UK.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board.

25. Saving 500: Creating the UK National Livestock Gene Bank; Cross-territory HG-16-08075

CWM 2017 (2) 26

Applicant: Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Request: A first round pass of £1,989,400 including development grant of £53,800 (65% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To create the UK's first Cryogenic National Livestock Gene bank by expanding and developing the existing Rare Breeds Semen Gene Bank in order to have the capacity to safeguard all of the UK's native breeds of livestock from the threat of extinction. Direct Animal Conservation activities would include development of relationships with breed societies and the collection of semen and embryos from native and rare breeds. Outreach and engagement activities would include education and activity days, talks to community groups and volunteer training.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board.

26. Moreton Hall Restoration and Hotel Training School Project; HE-16-09319

CWM 2017 (2) 27

Applicant: Warwickshire College

Request: A first round pass of £4,613,700 including development grant of £582,100 (89% of total eligible development costs)

Project: Restoration of the Grade II Listed Moreton Hall, converting it into a commercially operating boutique hotel and a hospitality training academy. Capital works would restore the house and reinstate the gardens. A range of activities would be delivered, including schools outreach activities, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities, local engagement through tours and the development of weekend leisure courses.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board .

27. BioLinks 2; Cross-territory; HG-15-01220

CWM 2017 (2) 22

Grantee: Field Studies Council (FSC)

Request: A grant of £1,234,300 (77%)

Project: To deliver a five year project to train and support 2,000 volunteers in identifying and recording the biological data for taxa (groups or categories of organisms considered to form a unit) where data was missing or deficient in current records. Project outputs would include 40 residential and 260 day courses and the creation of digital atlases mapping the distribution of named groups of organisms. This cross territory project would be delivered across the West Midlands, London and the South East.

The Board had awarded a first round pass of £1,265,480, including a development grant of £41,100 (50% of total eligible development costs) in September 2015.

An uplift of £9,920 (1%) had been requested.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board.

Papers for Information

28. Corporate Update

CWM 2017 (2) 28

The Committee noted the update.

29. West Midlands Annual Review of 2016

CWM 2017 (2) 29

The Committee noted the review.

30. West Midlands Business Plan for 2017

CWM 2017 (2) 30

The Committee noted the Business Plan,

31. Minutes of the meeting of Regional and Country Chairs on 9 May 2017

CWM 2017 (2) 31

The Committee noted the minutes.

32. Corporate Business Plan 2017-18

CWM 2017 (2) 32

The Committee noted the Business Plan.

33. Any other business

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 5 September 2017