

Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for the West Midlands

Meeting on 5 September 2017

CWM 2017 (3)

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the West Midlands held on 5 September at 10 a.m. at the Birmingham Office, Grosvenor House, 14 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5RS

Members:

- Sue Beardsmore (Chair)
- Marion Blockley
- Rachel Chiu
- Jude Pilgrim
- Alan Taylor
- Tom Tew (Trustee)
- Alison Wedgwood

Apologies:

- Izzy Mohammed

Committee Business

1. Welcome and apologies

Oral

Apologies were noted from Izzy Mohammed.

The Chair welcomed:

- Nathan Lee, the Head of the North West region who was observing the meeting.
- Eilish McGuinness, Director of Operations
- Jocelyn Murdoch, Communications Assistant
- Jackie Lee, who had started with the team as a Development Officer

2. Declarations of Interest

Oral

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

Alan Taylor noted the following:

- Item 10 – he had attended Worcester Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee until October 2014 but had no prior knowledge of the application.
- Item 14c – he had been involved in discussions about the future of the church on behalf of English Heritage and Lichfield Diocesan Advisory Committee in 2013 but had no prior knowledge of the application.
- Item 15 – he had advised on the initial planning proposals for locating the Museum at the site in 2013-14 but had no prior knowledge of the application.

Jude Pilgrim noted that she had been involved with the Anstice Community Trust and Madeley Town Council at an earlier stage of the development of plans for the building, but had no involvement in the current project or application.

It was noted that former Chair of the HLF Committee for the West Midlands, Les Sparks, was the Chair of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust (item 18).

3. Chair's Report

Oral

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

- She had attended the June Board meeting, witnessing the high level of competition for funds and the importance of Committees providing the Board with a clear steer.
- She had attended the launch of *Connecting Stories: Our British Asian* heritage at Birmingham Library.
- Birmingham Heritage Week was starting on 7 September.

4. Minutes of the meeting on 6 June 2017

CWM 2017 (3) 4

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

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Oral

There were none.

6. West Midlands Overview Report

CWM 2017 (3) 6

Vanessa Harbar presented the report:

- The progress with Board level cases was highlighted - Springs of Rivers had been deferred and would be taken back to the September Board meeting.
- A strong number of applications continued to be received from Newcastle-under-Lyme.

7. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2017 (3) 8

Five first round Heritage Grant applications had been received totalling a request of £5,532,600 against a budget of £1.4m, giving a success rate of 25%. The committee noted the highly competitive nature of the batch and that prioritisation would be needed.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

8. Conserving Herefordshire's Ice Age Ponds: Their biological and geological heritage; HG-16-01220

CWM 2017 (3) 9

Applicant: Herefordshire Amphibian and Reptile Team

Request: First Round Pass of £398,800, including Development Grant of £170,400 (78% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To raise awareness of the Kettle Hole Ponds (KHPs), and to increase the conservation, protection and management of the Kettle Hole landscape in north-west Herefordshire. Surveys would be undertaken to identify the current condition, biodiversity and geodiversity of the KHPs to inform the production of an overarching Conservation Strategy and individual pond management plans.

The Committee agreed the application represented a medium priority for support but **REJECTED** the application in light of the available budget.

9. The Anstice- Great Building, Great History, Great Future; HG-16-02659

CWM 2017 (3) 10

Applicant: Madeley Town Council

Request: First Round Pass of £1,830,200, including Development Grant of £169,000 (59% of total eligible development costs)

Project: The repair, conservation and reopening of the Grade II listed Anstice Memorial Hall and Institute, providing opportunities for local people to explore, conserve, enjoy and understand the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Madeley. Capital works would include the renovation of the original vaulted ballroom on the upper floor, retention of the original features on the ground floor including the maws tiled floors, wooden stairs and brickwork. A Heritage Learning Centre would be created on the ground floor, bringing the library back to its original location and housing a reception, multi-use learning zone, and visitor facilities.

The Committee agreed the application represented a medium priority for support but **REJECTED** the application in light of the available budget.

10. A Centre for learning, heritage and arts for the whole country; HG-16-04125

CWM 2017 (3) 11

Applicant: Worcester Cathedral

Request: First Round Pass of £1,237,000, including Development Grant of £168,000 (66% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three year project to create a new learning centre in the currently inaccessible Undercroft of Worcester Cathedral. Two teaching/events rooms would be created within the space, along with an administration space, visitor storage area and toilet facilities, including disabled facilities. An interpretation area would provide free public access to the space 365 days of the year. The 13th century Christ in Majesty stone carving located in the Cathedral's College Hall would also be conserved. An activity plan and enhanced education programme would be delivered, widening engagement with education groups and extending the existing offer to include new activities for non-formal learners and community groups. New interpretation would be produced and 8 volunteers recruited.

The Committee agreed the application represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,237,000, including a development grant of £168,000 (66% of total eligible development costs).

11. The Hidden Heritage of Warley Woods; HG-16-07433

CWM 2017 (3) 12

Applicant: Warley Woods Community Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £722,800, including Development Grant of £76,100 (89% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five-year project to improve the fabric of Warley Woods, improving interpretation, engaging visitors and increasing management knowledge. Volunteers would be trained to maintain the site and its heritage.

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

12. On the right track- the plateways of the Churnet Valley; HG-15-01499

CWM 2017 (3) 13

Applicant: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd

Request: First Round Pass of £1,343,800, including Development Grant of £242,200 (88% of total eligible development costs)

Project: Telling the story of the Churnet Valley plateways, the project would conserve the built heritage features of the early railways site and enhance the biodiversity and improve wildlife connectivity around the early railway routes. Local community pride and sense of ownership would be fostered through participation and engagement activities, and accessibility would be increased. Certified training programmes would be delivered and a stakeholder group would be developed to support long-term maintenance of the site. A long-term Conservation Action Plan would be developed with landowners.

The Committee agreed the application represented a high priority for support but **REJECTED** it in light of the available budget.

13. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items

Oral

During the case by case discussion the Committee agreed that:

- *A centre for learning, heritage and the arts (item 10)* and *On the right track (item 12)* were high priorities for support
- *Conserving Herefordshire's Ice Age Ponds (item 8)* and *The Anstice (item 9)* were medium priorities for support
- *The Hidden Heritage of Warley Woods (item 11)* as a low priority for support

The Committee rejected the low and medium priority applications due to the concerns raised.

The Committee discussed the two remaining high priority applications and agreed that item 10, *A centre for learning, heritage and the arts*, was the highest priority and awarded a first round pass.

Item 12, *On the right track*, was rejected in light of the available budget.

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

14. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

CWM 2017 (3) 15

Nine first round applications with a grant request of £1,536,500 had been received. At the initial sift, Historic England agreed with HLF that four applications should not be taken forward to full assessment as they were considered not to be of sufficient urgency.

The remaining five cases underwent full assessment. Historic England provided detailed technical advice to establish the urgency of the repair works while HLF assessment looked at how well the applications met outcomes for communities. These two factors were used to arrive at an overall priority for the batch.

The Committee noted that there were insufficient funds to support all of the five cases and took the following decisions:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
14a.	Urgent repairs to St Lucia's Church	St Lucia's Church, Upton Magna	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £212,800 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £8,500 (41% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
14b.	Revealing St Alban's Hidden Heritage	PCC of St Alban and St Patrick, Conybere Street, Highgate, Birmingham	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £250,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £28,000 (49% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
14c.	Tower Restoration and Improved Accessibility to the Church Building	St Michael and All Angels Stoke Prior PCC	REJECT
14d.	South Clerestory Window Repairs	All Saints Parish Church, Leamington Spa	REJECT
14e.	Securing the heritage of St Michael & All Angels Tatenhill	St Michael & All Angels, Tatenhill	REJECT
14f.	Urgent Fabric Repairs and Heritage Project	Stoke Lacy Parish Church	REJECT
14g.	Memorial Chapel Stonework Restoration	Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon	REJECT
14h.	St Mary's Church Calton Roof Restoration	St Mary's Church Calton	REJECT
14i.	Repair and Regeneration Project	Eaton Bishop PCC	REJECT

One second round application had been received requesting an uplift that was above the delegated decision threshold. The Committee took the following decision:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
14j.	Repair and regeneration of 'Bottom church'- Dudley St Edmund King and Martyr, Phase One	St Edmund King and Martyr PCC, Dudley	AWARD GRANT OF £198,800 (71%)

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

- GP-15-04163 - Friends of St Nicholas Church, Peopleton. Awarded a grant of £60,500 (78%)
- GP-15-01350 - All Saints Church - Joiners Square. Awarded a grant of £187,500 (68%).

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

15. White House Cone Museum of Glass; HG-15-01744

CWM 2017 (3) 16

Grantee: British Glass Foundation

Request: A grant of £1,010,000 (76%)

Project: To develop a new museum and visitor centre, to be run by the British Glass Foundation (BGF), that would house Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's (DMBC), extensive, nationally important glass collection. The museum would be housed in the former Newhouse furnace building, providing the collection with a home in the historic Stourbridge Glass Quarter. The project would also enable more of the extensive archive collection of design books, photographs and letters to be displayed. Archive material and recent acquisitions would be catalogued and digitised. Interactive exhibitions and activity spaces would be created and a varied programme of events delivered. Business units would be rented to provide a sustainable income source. Volunteers would receive training in conservation management, archiving and museum skills.

The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £898,200 including a development grant of £118,000 (83% of eligible development costs) in September 2015.

Uplift: £229,800 (29%). Costs were underestimated at first round and three additional spaces had been included in the proposals (temporary exhibition space, activity/meeting rooms and a Glass Blowing Studio) following consultation to add to the visitor offer and support the decision to impose an entrance fee. Activity costs had also increased to enable a varied offer to attract more diverse audiences.

The Committee agreed that the application would be **DEFERRED** for three months to enable the applicant to prepare and submit all outstanding documentation and designs.

16. The Former Moseley School of Art- Restoration Project; HG-14-06838

CWM 2017 (3) 17

Grantee: Moseley Muslims Community Association

Request: A grant of £1,714,600 (79%)

Project: To undertake urgent conservation and repair work to the Grade II* building, located in a diverse and deprived area. Capital works would include external repairs to roof coverings, stonework and windows and internal repairs and decoration. A lift would be installed to increase accessibility and internal alterations would enable the building to be utilised as a community hub with room and workspace hire, an exhibition room for small temporary exhibitions and flexible function/exhibition suites. A programme of activities would be delivered, including oral history and interpretation of the school and association history, temporary exhibitions and workshops and holiday activities. A new part-time post of Centre Manager would be created.

Uplift: £164,900 (11%) due to inadequate budget provisions at first round and unsuccessful attempts to secure significant levels of partnership funding.

The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £1,703,600, including a development grant of £153,900 (89% of total eligible development costs), in March 2015.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,714,600 (79% of total eligible project costs).

17. Sound and Art at St Swithun's; HG-12-12394

CWM 2017 (3) 18

Grantee: Churches Conservation Trust

Request: A grant of £1,639,700 (67%)

Project: To conserve and regenerate St Swithun's, a Grade I Listed church in Worcester. The project would enable the church to become a cultural venue attracting a broad audience,

contributing to the tourism offer in Worcestershire and generating a sufficient income to provide a viable and sustainable future. A programme of capital works would be undertaken to urgently repair and conserve the masonry, timbers, roof and windows. New facilities and amenities would be installed and a new learning, meeting and orientation space would be created. A varied and innovative programme of activities and interpretation would also be delivered, including community outreach and a schools programme. Opportunities would be created for apprenticeships, work experience and student placements.

The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £1,642,100 including a development grant of £196,100 (75% of total eligible development costs) in March 2015.

Uplift: £193,700 (13%). Project costs had increased due to the decision to increase staffing levels, the strengthening of activity and interpretation plans following consultation, and higher than budgeted costs for conservation works.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,639,700 (67% of total eligible delivery costs).

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

18. Restoring Chamberlain's Highbury; HG-16-02362

CWM 2017 (3) 19

Applicant: Chamberlain Highbury Trust

Request: A first round pass of £4,938,800, including a development grant of £378,800 (68% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To restore and repair the house and gardens re-establishing the historic relationship between them and opening them up for wider public enjoyment. Outdated services would be upgraded and visitor facilities improved. Key features in the grounds would be restored and the external fabric of the house repaired. Internal works would include the restoration of fine decorative interiors in the principle rooms, improved fire protection and safety measures and the installation of a lift and new staircase to improve visitor access

The Committee agreed that the project represented a **MEDIUM** priority for support.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation (October): Landscape Partnerships

19. Landscape Partnerships Overview Paper

CWM 2017 (3) 20

22 applications had been received, with all countries and regions bar London represented, with a total first-round grant request (including development funding) of £52.29m against a budget of £20m. One application had been received in the West Midlands.

20. The Vale of Evesham- The Nation's Vegetable Patch; LP-16-09196

CWM 2017 (3) 21

Applicant: Worcester County Council

Request: A first round pass of £2,525,400, including a development grant of £275,400 (71% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To enable the hidden beauty and fascination of the Vales of Evesham to be revealed, understood and nurtured by local people and visitors and to make the Vale's unique landscape, natural habitats and cultural heritage integral to a flourishing, sustainable and globally recognised horticultural identity. Four programmes of work would be delivered to link communities with the

landscape and heritage through learning. Conservation works and the restoration of natural habitats and built features would be undertaken and physical access to the landscape would be improved.

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

Papers for information

21. Corporate Update

CWM 2017 (3) 22

Eilish McGuinness provided a brief update on corporate activity.

Recommendations had been received from the tailored review and would be discussed by the Board at their meeting the following Tuesday.

22. Communications report

CWM 2017 (3) 7

The Committee noted the report.

23. Any other business

Oral

It was noted that the November meeting would take place in Shrewsbury and would incorporate an away day and project visit.

The next meeting will be held on 21 November 2017.