

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 4 December 2014

CNE 2014 (4) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 4 December 2014 starting at 10.00 a.m. in the Newcastle Office.

Members Chris Mullin (Chairman)
Lindsay Allason-Jones
Susan Antrobus
Niall Hammond
Richard Morris (Trustee)

Apologies Trai Anfield
Stacy Hall

1. **Declarations of Interest** **Oral**

Chris Mullin declared an interest in item 8, Dynamic Druridge as he was the President of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the applicant.

He also noted that the Northumberland Wildlife Trust was a partner organisation in item 18, Sciuriosity. As the Committee were not the decision taker and he had no prior knowledge of the application, the Committee considered that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

2. **Chair's report** **Oral**

The Chair, Chris Mullin, welcomed Rory Smith from the Secretariat team to the meeting. Rory was attending the meeting as part of his training and development.

The Chair reported on a successful visit to the newly renovated Carnaby Building in Hexham.

He reported that a number of projects had been presented to the Board since the last meeting:

- The Old Fire Station, Sunderland was awarded first round pass of £2,220,600 including a development grant of £195,000 (89% of total eligible development costs in November.
- Darlington Civic Theatre awarded first round pass of £4,995,000 including a development grant of £426,000 (85% of total eligible development costs) on its third submission in September.
- Capturing Our Coast was awarded a first round pass of £1,364,700 including a development grant of £2,000 (90% of eligible development costs) in September.
- The Canny Space at Holy Trinity was rejected in September. The team expected a resubmission in the new year.

3. **Minutes of last meeting on 18 September 2014** **CNE 2014 (4) 3**

The minutes were noted.

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

There were none.

5. North East Regional Overview

CNE 2014 (4) 5

Ivor Crowther, head of region for the North East, presented the Regional Overview.

He attended the 'Cultural Partnership' launch in Sunderland. He noted that the event was arts focused, despite the area having received significant funding from HLF.

Lindsay Allison Jones reported that she had attended a lecture at the Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project. The research had been carried out to a high standard and was of particular importance as it would change how industrial archaeologists viewed the area.

6. North East Budget

CNE 2014 (4) 6

Five first round pass applications had been received totalling £2,700,000 against a first round pass budget of £1,890,000. Committee would need to prioritise the first round applications.

There were sufficient monies in the budget to support the second round application should it meet the quality threshold.

Decision between meetings – for noting

7. Peregrini Lindisfarne LP; LP-10-04488

CNE 2014 (4) 7

The Committee noted that a decision had been taken for the Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership scheme in November 2014. The Committee approved a grant decrease of £426,000 to make a total grant of £1,375,900 (75%).

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision

- Heritage Grants

8. Dynamic Druridge; HG-13-01086

CNE 2014 (4) 8

Chris Mullin left the room before discussion commenced.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Ltd sought funding towards delivering a two-year project which focused on Druridge Bay in Northumberland, the first phase of a wider vision for the landscape. The project would create a robust and sustainable ecosystem comprised of connected and healthy habitats, rich in biodiversity. A programme of capital works on five sites of existing wildlife value would be delivered along with a new eco-build visitor centre of straw bale construction at Hauxley Nature Reserve to replace the old visitor centre.

The Committee awarded a first round pass of £411,700 including a development grant of £26,500 (71%) in March 2014. An uplift of £32,200 (8%) was sought due to the addition of a part-time Volunteer Coordinator and an activity budget for the project.

The Committee were supportive of the project and **awarded** a grant of £417,400 (65%).

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

9. Restoration and installation of an early 20th century pipe organ to its original form (Horsley with Byrness PCC); HG-12-08478 CNE 2014 (4) 9

Horsley with Byrness PCC sought funding to restore an early twentieth century church organ to its original specification. The project would also provide a complementary learning programme focused on the renovation and history of the organ for the local community.

Overall, the Committee were impressed with the application and considered that the project represented high priority for support and **awarded** a first round pass of £208,000, including development grant of £22,300 (52% of total eligible development costs).

10. North Linear Park Project, Hartlepool; HG-13-01140 CNE 2014 (4) 10

Hartlepool Borough Council sought a first round pass of £235,400, including development grant of £3,100 (51% of total eligible development costs) to improve access to the natural and historic heritage found within North Linear Park. The project would additionally create volunteer and training opportunities through the creation and monitoring of two wetland scrapes which would link habitat networks and improve biodiversity.

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

11. River Gaunless for People and Wildlife; HG-13-06696 CNE 2014 (4) 11

Wear Rivers Trust sought a first round pass of £1,160,100, including development grant of £122,600 (62% of total eligible development costs) to complete a four year project to improve the natural heritage and ecological condition of the River Gaunless to reconnect the local people with the railway and cultural heritage of the area. Habitat improvements would be carried out on five sites with work including hedgerow restoration, extending and creating new woodland and reed filtration beds and monitoring the water quality of the river.

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

12. Thornaby Town Hall; HG-14-03844 CNE 2014 (4) 12

Thornaby Town Council sought funding to restore Thornaby Town Hall using heritage as a catalyst to provide the building with a sustainable community led future. The regenerated Town Hall would comprise of local archives, a volunteer training hub, learning hub, leased offices and multi-functional spaces for exhibitions, events and meetings. An associated programme of activities would be delivered.

The Committee considered that the project represented high priority for support and **awarded** a first round pass of £856,600 including development grant of £68,300 (95% of total eligible development costs).

13. Inspired Futures for Heritage Places of Worship in North East England (Newcastle Diocesan); HG-14-01121 CNE 2014 (4) 13

Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance sought funding to complete a three year project to work with 18 vulnerable historic places of worship across the North East, developing strategies to enable and support sustainable futures in mission, community and heritage. An associated programme of training opportunities would be provided.

Overall the Committee considered that the project represented medium priority for support and **awarded** a first round pass of £242,900 including a development grant of £40,500 (66% of total eligible development costs).

14. Prioritisation of first round items 9 to 13

Oral

During the case by case discussions the Committee agreed:

- that *Restoration and installation of an early 20th century pipe organ to its original form and Thornaby Town Hall* represented high priority for support and awarded first round passes.
- that *Inspired Futures for Heritage Places of Worship in North East England* represented medium priority for support and awarded a first round pass.
- To reject *River Gaunless for People and Wildlife* and *North Linear Park Project, Hartlepool*.

15. Applications for Places of Worship in the North East

CNE 2014 (4) 15

Anne Jenkins reported that in the Autumn Statement there had been news of the Roof Repair fund. This was to be a one off initiative administered by the NHMF. Applications would close in January and previous GPOW rejects where roof repair was a need would be contacted.

Two first round applications had been received with a grant request of £317,900 against a regional budget of £317,900.

At the initial sift, English Heritage advice was that both schemes demonstrated that the works applied for were urgently needed within the next 2 years and should be taken to full assessment.

Committee decided to award first round passes totalling £317,900 to the two applications marked 15a and 15b.

15a	Life Transformation Church Elswick, re-ordering and refurbishment	Life Transformation Church	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £234,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £26,600 (83% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15b	Urgent parapet restoration and realignment of Church entrance with improved facilities to a Regency Church	Church of St. Peter	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £83,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £3,900 (33% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

SP3 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Grants: January Board**

16. The Sill: Unspoilt Landscapes, Inspiring People; HG-11-05469

CNE 2014 (4) 16

Northumberland National Park Authority sought a grant of £6,980,000 (51%) to deliver a comprehensive programme of educational and participatory activities to inspire people to celebrate value and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape. A National Landscape Discovery Centre and youth hostel at Once Brewed would provide the base for the delivery of these opportunities and would act as a gateway to Northumberland National Park.

A first round pass of £6,303,500 including development grant of £399,200 (54% of total eligible development costs) was awarded by the Board in April 2012. An uplift of £1,075,700 (18%) was sought due to increases in capital costs and costs for new building works at the Landscape Discovery Centre.

Expert advice was supportive.

Overall, the Committee considered that the project represented **high priority** for support. The application would be determined by the Board in January 2015.

SF4 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Grants: January Board**

17. Polli:nation (South East) cross territory; HG-12-08595 CNE 2014 (4) 17

Learning Through Landscapes Trust sought a grant of £1,389,100 (72%) for a three year project working with 260 schools to improve their grounds in order to attract more pollinating insects, create a series of stepping-stone environments and to improve diversification and numbers of species across the UK. A website and interactive map offering resources, and displaying results and photographs would be created, and a symposium delivered in each country in the final year.

The Board awarded a first round pass of £1,297,800 including a development grant of £26,000 (60% of total eligible development costs) in March 2014.

The Committee considered that the project represented a **high priority** for support. The Board would determine the application in January 2015.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Grants: January Board**

18. Scuiriosity: Red Squirrel Programme cross territory; HG-14-02960 CNE 2014 (4) 18

The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts sought a first round pass of £1,149,400 including a development grant of £51,600 (81% of total eligible development costs) for a three year project focusing on the conservation of red squirrel populations in four areas of the UK. The scheme would deliver a programme of ecological monitoring and management across the UK enabling all red squirrel conservation activity to fully evaluated and best practice identified and shared. An associated series of training and volunteer opportunities would be created and over 100 public engagement activities would be delivered.

The Committee considered that the project represented a **medium priority** for support. The Board would determine the application in January 2015.

- **Townscape Heritage: January Board**

19. Townscape Heritage Overview CNE 2014 (4) 19

The Committee noted the overview.

20. Skelton Villages Civic Pride Townscape Heritage Initiative CNE 2014 (4) 20

Skelton Villages Civic Pride sought a first round pass of £1,021,400 including development grant of £69,200 (75% of total eligible development costs) for a three year project focusing on Skelton High Street, primarily to repair and reinstate traditional shop fronts and improve the public realm.

Overall, the Committee recommended that the project represented a **high priority (2 of 2)** for support. The Board would determine the application in September 2014.

- 21. NE1 Bigg Market Project – Giving a Historic Heart Back to Newcastle; TH-14-04553** **CNE 2014 (4) 21**

Newcastle NE1 Limited sought a first round pass of £1,837,900 including a development grant of £202,800 (85% of total eligible development costs) to restore characteristic marketplace buildings as a stimulus for regeneration within Newcastle's Bigg Market. A program of learning activities would showcase the historical space. Plans would include performances and street actors bringing history to life, potted history sessions for stakeholders, guided walks and talks and film screenings.

Overall the Committee recommended that the project was a **high priority (1 of 2)** for support. The Board would determine the application in January 2015.

- 22. Northumberland Square THI Scheme; TH-14-04806** **CNE 2014 (4) 22**

North Tyneside Council sought a first round pass of £1,023,900 including a development grant of £87,700 (89% of total eligible development costs) for a five year project to reinvigorate Northumberland Square, its buildings and surroundings through a programme of repair and reinstatement of architectural and historic features, and a scheme of public realm works. These physical works would be complemented by a range of activities to engage the local community in the history of the area.

Overall the Committee recommended that the project was a **medium priority** for support. The Board would determine the application in January 2015.

- 23. Prioritisation of items 20-22** **Oral**

In the case by case discussions, the Committee considered that NE1 Bigg Market (1 of 2) and Skelton Village (2 of 2) were high priority for support.

Northumberland Square was a medium priority for support.

Papers for discussion

- 24. Heritage Enterprise – Review of Year 1 of the programme** **CNE 2014 (4) 24**

Anne Jenkins presented the Heritage Enterprise review.

The Committee fed back their views of the programme. Overall, members were positive about Heritage Enterprise and noted the benefits of the program to the North East region.

Papers for information

- 25. Parks for People overview** **CNE 2014 (4) 25**
26. Strategic review of development work **CNE 2014 (4) 26**

The Committee noted the papers.

- 27. Minutes of recent Board meetings** **CNE 2014 (4) 27**
28. Minutes from the Regional and Country Chair's meeting on 14 October 2014 **CNE 2014 (4) 28**

The Committee noted the minutes.

- 29. Communications Report** **CNE 2014 (4) 29**
30. Annual Report of the Equality Steering Group **CNE 2014 (4) 30**
31. Annual Review of Delegated Grants **CNE 2014 (4) 31**

- 32. Collecting Cultures Update**
- 33. First World War Centenary Update**

CNE 2014 (4) 32
CEM 2014 (4) 33

The Committee noted the papers.

- 34. Any other business**

Oral

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 12 March 2015 in the Newcastle Office.