

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 7 March 2017

CNE 2017 (1)

**Summary Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 7 March at 10.00 a.m. at Beamish Museum, County Durham, DH9 0RG.**

## **Members:**

- Chris Mullin (Chair)
- Jim Cokill
- Stacy Hall
- Niall Hammond
- Richard Morris (Trustee)
- Lynn Turner

## **Apologies:**

- Richard Evans

## **Observing:**

- Lucy Winkell

## **Committee Business**

### **1. Welcome**

**Oral**

The Chair welcomed Lucy Winkell to the meeting, who was observing the meeting and would be taking over the Chair role from 1 April 2017.

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

**Oral**

The Chair provided an update on his activities since the previous meeting, which included visits to:

- Vindolanda;
- The Great Glasshouse at Felton Park;
- Cresswell Tower; and
- Hauxley Visitor Centre.

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

**Oral**

Item 16 – *River Tees Rediscovered*

- Niall Hammond declared a conflict of interest as he had been asked to tender for a contract within the project. He would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

Item 21 – *Tees-Swale: naturally connected*

- Jim Cokill declared a conflict of interest as he was the Director of Durham Wildlife Trust who were a prospective delivery partner and had provided a letter of support. He would leave the room for the discussion of this item.
- Lynn Turner declared a conflict of interest as her employer, Northumbrian Water, were a partner in the project. She would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

#### 4. Minutes of last meeting on 1 December 2016

CNE 2017(1) 4

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

#### 5. Matters arising from the minutes

Oral

There were none.

#### 6. North East Regional Overview

CNE 2017(1) 6

Ivor Crowther presented the overview for the region:

- Three North East Great Place applications had been assessed and would go to a decision at the Joint Decision Panel at the end of March.

#### 7. North East Budget

CNE 2017(1) 7

Ivor Crowther presented the budget paper.

Seven first round Heritage Grant cases had been received totalling £3,660,000 against a budget of £1,752,000 giving a success rate of 47.87%.

The Committee noted that the budget had been increased by £961,400 following the reallocation of grant money from a withdrawn project. Additional funds were available from underspends at other Regional and Country Committees and so the budget would be sufficient to fund projects up to £2.5m in total that the Committee considered to be of high enough quality and where risks were acceptably managed.

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

#### 8. Durham Woodland Revival

CNE 2017(1) 8

Applicant: Durham County Council

Request: First round pass of £491,700 including development grant of £59,000 (47% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A four year project to deliver and develop sustainable woodland management, forest habitat networks and community woods in four core areas of County Durham: Northern Denes; Wear Lowlands; Southern Valleys and Escarpment. Woodland would be conserved and consolidated and woodland habitat networks would be developed. Private owners would be engaged in the project to secure woodland management, marketing and harvesting strategies. Outreach and engagement activities would attract local communities; engage people with woodland and increase knowledge and understanding.

The Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £491,700 including development grant of £59,000 (47% of total eligible development costs).

#### 9. Tees Operation Hogweed (TOPHOG)

CNE 2017(1) 9

Applicant: Tees Rivers Trust

Request: First round pass of £432,200 including development grant of £37,700 (77% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five year project to restore, promote and celebrate the natural and historic heritage of the banks of the River Tees. Plans would facilitate a strategic and coordinated approach through the engagement of volunteers, Local Authorities and waterway users to eradicate giant hogweed along the Tees catchment area. Volunteers would be recruited to form Local Action Groups, utilising community groups and angling clubs along the river. Training would be delivered in identification and chemical control of Giant hogweed. On-going recording of Giant hogweed occurrence and any native species re-emergence would be undertaken by the Local Action Groups and reported to the Environment Agency.

The Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £432,200 including development grant of £37,700 (77% of total eligible development costs).

## 10. Earthworks

**CNE 2017(1) 10**

Applicant: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: First round pass of £406,100 including development grant of £29,800 (62% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To capitalise on the UNESCO designation of the North Pennines AONB to highlight the special qualities of the area's geology. The project would help people to increase their understanding of the geological heritage of the North Pennines and enable them to make the connections between the human settlement, industry, biodiversity and aesthetic appeal of the area. A series of participatory events and engagement activities would be delivered and digital interpretation created to engage local and international communities. Complex geological concepts will be made visible and understandable through creative practices. Training courses for volunteers and stakeholder engagement activities focusing of skills development and sustainability would be developed.

The Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £406,100 including development grant of £29,800 (62% of total eligible development costs)

## 11. Accessing Aidan

**CNE 2017(1) 11**

Applicant: Bamburgh Heritage Trust

Request: First round pass of £399,300 including development grant of £43,800 (86% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three year project to develop a heritage hub and outreach project in Bamburgh focusing on Anglo-Saxon heritage with a particular focus on local archaeological discovery. The crypt in the Church of St Aidan would be developed as a high quality interpretation space. An accompanying outreach programme would incorporate a schools programme and sheltered housing/care homes programme with educational resources, guided walks and events. A Project Officer would be employed to coordinate the project and deliver the outreach activities.

The Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £399,300 including development grant of £43,800 (86% of total eligible development costs).

## 12. Building Firm Foundations for Local Heritage;

CNE 2017(1) 12

Applicant: Ouseburn Trust

Request: First round pass of £1,155,800 including development grant of £37,800 (89% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To acquire and develop an historic building and surrounding riverside within the historic lower Ouseburn Valley Conservation Area. Engagement and participation in the heritage of the area would be increased through the delivery of a range of activities. The new space would house office space for the Ouseburn Trust and contain dedicated heritage, exhibition and archive space. Volunteers would be recruited to carry out research and trained in use of digitisation software.

The Committee agreed that the application should be **REJECTED** due to the concerns raised.

## 13. Kirkleatham Walled Garden Horticultural Restoration Project

CNE 2017(1) 13

Applicant: Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Request: First round pass of £578,600 including development grant of £19,000 (54% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two and a half year project to restore the walled garden of the Kirkleatham Estate, part of a wider project to establish a new catering academy and restaurant within the walled garden site. The project would undertake archaeological investigations to determine the original garden layout. Vegetation would be cleared, planting beds and orchards established and walls and pathways restored. A new glasshouse and horticultural training room would be created. A Garden Development Officer would be recruited and a programme of activities developed and delivered to engage the local community and schools. A range of volunteering opportunities would be created.

The Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £578,600 including development grant of £19,000 (54% of total eligible development costs).

## 14. Belief in the North-East

CNE 2017(1) 14

Applicant: Durham University

Request: First round pass of £196,300 including development grant of £13,500 (68% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two year community archaeology project led by Durham University Archaeology Department. Six fieldwork projects would engage 500 volunteers in research, fieldwork, post-excavation study and interpretation of religious sites from prehistory to the present day that were at risk in the North East. A wide range of training opportunities for volunteers would be provided, with the Archaeology Skills Passport being employed as a key element. Project findings would be interpreted and disseminated to wider audiences through social media, published reports, talks and tours, interpretation, exhibitions, education packs, and a project website that would act as a heritage hub and on-line archive. A final touring exhibition would be developed to reach non-traditional audiences.

The Committee considered that the project represented a medium priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £196,300 including development grant of £13,500 (68% of total eligible development costs)

## Prioritisation

Oral

During the case by case discussions, Committee considered that:

- Item 8 - *Durham Woodland Revival*, Item 9 - *Tees Operation Hogweed (TOPHOG)*, item 10 – *Earthworks*, Item 11 - *Accessing Aidan* and item 13 - *Kirkleatham Walled Garden Horticultural Restoration Project* were high priorities for support.
- Item 14 - *Belief in the North-East* was a medium priority for support
- Item 12 - *Building Firm Foundations for Local Heritage* would be rejected due to the concerns raised.

The Committee agreed to award first round passes to the high and medium priority cases.

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

### 15. Applications for Places of Worship in the North East

CNE 2017(1) 15

Four first round applications with a grant request of £433,735 had been received against a regional budget of £828,300.

At the initial sift, Historic England advice indicated that one case did not demonstrate that the works applied for were urgently required within the next two years. As a result it was not taken forward for full assessment.

The remaining three cases underwent full assessment. Historic England had provided detailed technical advice to establish the urgency of the repair works. HLF assessment had also 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 took the following decisions:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
15.1	St Michael's Church Byker, Lighthouse Project	St Michael's Church Byker	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £199,045 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £23,355 (80% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15.2	To Preserve and conserve the Church Building of St Andrews	St Andrews Church, Dalton le Dale	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £101,890 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £10,650 (72% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15.3	Restoring and preserving the building by repointing and replacing damaged stonework.	St Mary Magdalene Church, Belmont	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £82,800 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £9,100 (78% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15.4	Replacing the roof	South Bank Baptist Church	REJECT

Subsequent to the meeting the rounding errors for the awards made to 15.1 St Michael's Church Byker and 15.2 To preserve and conserve the Church Building of St Andrews were corrected as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Decision</b>
15.1	St Michael's Church Byker, Lighthouse Project	St Michael's Church Byker	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £199,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £23,300 (80% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15.2	To Preserve and conserve the Church Building of St Andrews	St Andrews Church, Dalton le Dale	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £101,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £10,700 (73% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

The Committee noted that there has been one Second Round awarded by Committee as a decision between meetings in the last quarter:

- GP-14-07592 The Church of Our Lady Stage 1A Repairs £105,900 (71% of total eligible costs)

### **SP3 Grant Decrease for discussion and decision: Landscape Partnership**

#### **16. River Tees Rediscovered**

**CNE 2017(1) 16**

*Niall Hammond declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.*

Grantee: Groundwork North East

Request: Award Grant Decrease of £4,500 to make a total grant of £1,885,000

Project: A Landscape Partnership covering 120km<sup>2</sup> of the Tees River Corridor, from Piercebridge, County Durham to the estuary mouth. The landscape was characterised by its transition from quiet rural areas in the west to extensive urban and industrial development at Teesmouth. The scheme sought to reconnect and create new linkages along the river corridor, forging new relationships between local people and the river. The grant request had decreased by £4,500 after the scheme had been re-profiled. It was clear that the original tree planting targets were not achievable resulting in that element of the project being removed and the purpose of the project had been refocused on delivering ecological improvements to the river.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant decrease of £4,500 to make a total grant of £1,885,000.

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

#### **17. Unlocking Vindolanda's Wooden Underworld**

**CNE 2017(1) 17**

Grantee: The Vindolanda Trust

Request: Award Grant of £1,356,000 (87%)

Project: A two year project to provide a purpose built permanent home for Vindolanda's largely unseen wooden object collection, and produce interpretation and educational activities. An extension to the museum would create an environmentally controlled exhibition area with specialist display cases and a multi-functional activity space, enabling the wooden collection to be displayed together for the first time. The exhibition would highlight the remarkable nature of the wooden objects' survival and the stories they revealed about everyday Roman life. An induction programme of training for volunteers and staff would be undertaken. A KS2 schools programme would be developed. An uplift of £37,400 (3%) had been requested.

The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £1,339,000, including development grant of £20,400 (43% of total eligible development costs) in March 2016.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,356,000 (87% of total eligible delivery costs).

### **18. Restoration and re-use of St Hilda's Colliery Headstock**

**CNE 2017(1) 18**

Applicant: Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust

Request: Award Grant of £548,200 (65%)

Project: A 2.5 year project to bring the 217m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace in the St Hilda's Colliery Headstock into productive use. Six business units for SMEs would be created with appropriate facilities. The insertion of a lift, stairs and flying walkways into the Winding House would provide access to all floors. Displays interpreting the history of the building using images and miners' banners from the collections of the Harton and Westoe Miners Heritage Groups (HWMHG) would be installed. The original winding gear, lift guides and lift cage would be consolidated and a "micro-museum" established in the lift cage. A small uplift of £2,200 (0%) had been requested.

The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £581,200, including a development grant of £35,200 (67% of total eligible development costs) in March 2016.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £548,200 (65% of total eligible delivery costs).

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

#### **19. Newcastle Cathedral: Common Ground in Sacred Space**

**CNE 2017(1) 19**

Applicant: Newcastle Cathedral Trust

Request: First round pass of £4,559,700 including development grant of £357,900 (80% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A four-year project to re-establish St Nicholas's Cathedral's medieval role as a community hub in the heart of the city. The historic fabric of the building would be conserved and better managed to create a welcoming environment for all. A targeted activity programme would engage wider audiences, and the forward-looking access and engagement strategy would open up internal and external spaces for a wide range of uses. A STEAM schools programme would be delivered as well as a range of learning and skills opportunities. A programme of training for volunteers and staff would be provided and seven paid apprenticeships created.

The Committee recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY**. The Board would consider the application in March 2017.

## **SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Major Grants (April)**

### **20. Major Grants Overview**

**CNE 2017(1) 20**

The Committee noted the highly competitive nature of the 2017 major grants batch.

### **21. Tees-Swale: naturally connected**

**CNE 2017(1) 21**

*Jim Cokill and Lynn Turner declared conflicts of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.*

Applicant: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: First round pass of £7,466,600 including development grant of £394,300 (66% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five-year partnership project working in collaboration with farmers to create the foundations of a robust and resilient ecological network. Habitat improvement works would be undertaken through improved habitat management, increased size of wildlife sites and enhanced connections between sites. Works would include the restoration of internationally important peatland; the restoration and enhancement of upland hay meadows; expansion and enhancement of woodlands; targeted rush management; protection and enhancement of flower-rich grassland and the creation of new, small-scale wetlands to create habitats and natural flood management. Landscape management traineeships would be created. Connections and positive working relationships would be developed between farmers and conservation bodies. Training and advice would be provided and a workforce of 350 volunteers engaged in the project.

The Committee recommended the application as a **HIGH PRIORITY** for support. The Board would consider the application in April 2017.

## **Items for information**

### **22. Communications Report**

**CNE 2017(1) 22**

The Committee noted the report.

### **23. Corporate Update**

**CNE 2017(1) 23**

The Committee noted the report.

### **24. Any other business**

**Oral**

The Committee conveyed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for his leadership over the last 6 years and their very best wishes for the future.

The Chair gave thanks to the team for their support and wished the new Chair well.

**The next meeting will be held on 13 June 2017.**