

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Northern Ireland Meeting on 25 November 2014

Summary report of the meeting of the Committee for Northern Ireland on 25 November 2014 at Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts.

Present Martin McDonald (Chair)
Bob Brown
Gerry Burns
Mark Glover
Virginia Tandy (Trustee)

Apologies: Maurna Crozier

1. Declarations of interest **Oral**

Bob Brown declared an interest in item 20, Sciuriosity: Red Squirrel Programme as he was a Council Member and Director of the Ulster Wildlife Trust, a partner in the project.

2. Chairman's report **Oral**

The Committee noted the report.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 9 September 2014 **CNI 2014 (4) 3**

The minutes were approved.

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

One Safe Place, which had been referred to the Board at the last meeting, had been rejected in October. The applicant would consider whether to come back at Board level or reduce their grant request.

An application from the RSPB, *Lakelands Life*, had been rejected at November Board. The team had arranged a meeting with the applicant.

5. Northern Ireland Overview Report **CNI 2014 (4) 5**

Paul Mullan introduced the Overview.

6. Committee Feedback **Oral**

7. Northern Ireland Budget Paper **CNI 2014 (4) 7**

Paul Mullan presented the budget paper. There were four first round applications with a total first round pass request of £1,032,800, against an indicative budget for the meeting of £698,650.

There was sufficient budget to support the second round application should it meet the quality threshold.

8. Withdrawn item

9. Communications Report

CNI 2014 (4) 9

The Committee noted the report.

SP3 Second round applications for discussion and decision

- Heritage Grant

10. Servite Priory Library Project; HG-12-01047

CNI 2014 (4) 10

The Order of Mary Servite Trust sought funding to conserve, interpret and make publicly accessible their library collections. The collections were of significant heritage importance but were currently inaccessible to the public and at risk of serious deterioration as a result of the inappropriate storage conditions at the Benburb Priory site. The project would conserve the collections and re-house them in appropriate conditions access and provide access for the public.

The Committee awarded a first round pass of £772,600, including development funding of £83,000 (49% of total eligible development costs) in September 2012. An uplift was sought of 43,700 (6%) due to capital and activity cost increases. This also represented a decrease in overall grant percentage from 86% to 60%.

Overall, the Committee were highly supportive of the application and **awarded** a grant of £733,300 (60%).

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision

- Heritage Grants

11. Cushendun Old Church Centre; HG-14-01633

CNI 2014 (4) 11

Cushendun Building Preservation Trust sought a first round pass of £286,400 including a development grant of £22,800 (74% of total eligible development costs) to restore the B1 listed 19th century Old Church on the Buildings at Risk NI (BARNI) register. The proposals would create a multi-purpose venue as a community hub with a heritage and cultural focus. The building would be repaired and redesigned to provide a versatile space for the community and visitors to connect with the area's heritage through permanent displays and a programme of events and activities. The economic use of the building would provide the Old Church with a sustainable future.

Overall, the Committee considered that the project represented a high priority for support and **awarded** a first round pass of £286,400 including a development grant of £22,800 (74% of total eligible development costs).

12. Farsset Heritage Project (Culturlann); HG-14-04239

CNI 2014 (4) 12

Cultúrlann McAdam O Fiaich sought a first round pass of £124,500 including a development grant of 15,200 (95% of total eligible development costs) for a project to increase understanding of the importance of the River Farsset in the development of Belfast, focusing on its natural, built and social heritage. The scheme would create a heritage resource for the community, providing opportunities for volunteering through a community dig, clean up and landscaping. An associated exhibition, phone application and walking tour with interpretive boards would also be created.

The Committee considered that the project represented medium priority for support and **awarded** a first round pass of 124,500 including a development grant of 15,200 (95% of total eligible development costs).

13. Gracehill Old Shop (Ballymena); HG-14-04500

CNI 2014 (4) 13

Gracehill Old School Trust sought a first round pass of £351,900 without development funding to restore Gracehill Old Shop, a listed building, currently on the Buildings at Risk Northern Ireland

(BARNI) register. The project would convert part of the building into two residential accommodation units which would be managed in conjunction with the Irish Landmark Trust and develop the old shop as a visitor attraction with provision for some education and training opportunities.

The Committee considered that the project represented medium priority for support and **rejected** the application due to the concerns raised.

14. Discovering Community Heritage; HG-14-04758 CNI 2014 (4) 14

Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF) sought a first round pass of £270,000 including a development grant of £11,400 (95% of total eligible development costs) for a two year project to work with 25 diverse community groups to engage in a heritage learning programme to deliver individual local heritage projects within a broader supportive framework. The scheme would provide a structured learning programme including personal development opportunities, a series of events and networking opportunities and would develop an online platform including a heritage earning toolkit, discussion forums for participants and an online archive of the work of the projects.

The Committee considered that the project represented low priority for support and **rejected** the application due to the concerns raised.

15. Prioritisation Oral

The Committee agreed that the highest priority cases were items 11, Cushendun Old Church Centre and 12, Farset Heritage Project and awarded first round passes.

The Committee rejected item 14, *Discovering Community Heritage*, which had been identified as a low priority for support. They also agreed to reject item 13, *Gracehill Old Shop*, due to concerns raised.

16. GPOW Overview and Applications CNI 2014 (4) 16

This was the seventh batch of applications for Grants for Places of Worship in Northern Ireland.

Two applications had been received with a total grant request of £436,500. The Committee noted that they were able to fund both projects if they met the quality threshold.

Item	Title	Applicant	Decision	Reference number
16a	Repair works to tower, spire, chancel roof and rainwater disposal system plus building services upgrade	Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church	First round pass of £186,500, including development grant of £12,700 (50% of total eligible development costs)	GP-14-01285
16b	Essential repairs and maintenance to a listed place of worship	St Eugene's Cathedral	First round pass of £250,000, without development grant	GP-14-05238

SF4 Second round Board application for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Enterprise: January Meeting**

17. Heritage Enterprise – Review of Year 1 of the programme CNI 2014 (4) 17

The Committee noted the paper

18. The Restoration and development of the former Harland and Wolff Headquarters building and drawing offices; HE-13-01354 CNI 2014 (4) 18

Titanic Foundation Limited (TFL) sought funding towards a project to repair the decaying former Harland and Wolff Headquarters Building, including two Drawing Offices, to bring it into sustainable use as a four star hotel in Belfast's Titanic Quarter. Principal heritage areas within the building, including the Drawing Offices, boardroom, entrance lobby and telephony room would be restored. A flexible exhibition space would be created and opened to the public within former Drawing Office No 1 to display local art and other exhibitions. A ten year training and skills programme would deliver heritage traineeships, hospitality work placements and volunteer opportunities.

The Board awarded a first round pass of £4,999,900 including a development grant of £233,900 (32% of eligible development costs) in September 2013. An uplift of £159,000 (3%) was sought. The second round application was in the early stages of assessment and clarifications were being sought on issues such as title, procurement arrangements, and the rationale for the uplift request.

The Committee discussed the application and made a recommendation to the Board.

- **Heritage Grants: January Meeting**

19. Polli:nation; HG-12-08595

CNI 2014 (4) 19

Learning Through Landscapes Trust sought funding 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 development grant of £26,000 (60% if total eligible development costs) in March 2014. An uplift of £120,300 (9%) was sought due the increased costs for the UK-wide OPAL survey.

The Committee discussed the application and made a recommendation to the Board.

SF4 First round Board application for discussion and recommendation

- **Heritage Grants: January Meeting**

20. Scuiriosity: Red Squirrel Programme; HG-14-02960

CNI 2014 (4) 20

Bob Brown declared an interest and left the room before discussion commenced.

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 discussed the application and made a recommendation to the Board.

Papers for information

21. Strategic review of development work

CNI 2014 (4) 21

The Committee noted the paper.

22. Minutes of recent Board meetings

CNI 2014 (4) 22

The Committee noted the paper.

23. Minutes of the Regional and Country Chairs meeting CNI 2014 (4) 23

The Committee noted the paper.

24. Annual Report of the Equality Steering Group CNI 2014 (4) 24

The Committee noted the paper.

25. Annual Review of Delegated Grants CNI 2014 (4) 25

The Committee noted the paper.

26. Townscape Heritage Overview CNI 2014 (4) 26

The Committee noted the paper.

27. Collecting Cultures Update CNI 2014 (4) 27

The Committee noted the paper.

28. Any other business Oral

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 19 March 2015