

# Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for the West Midlands

## Meeting on 7 June 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the West Midlands held on 7 June 2016 at 10.00 a.m. at the Birmingham Office, 3rd Floor, 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

### Speaking Observer:

- Manisha Patel (Big Lottery Fund)

#### 1. Welcome

Oral

The Chair welcomed:

- Alison Wedgwood and Rachel Chiu to their first meeting as Committee members.
- Manisha Patel, Big Lottery Fund representative attending the Parks for People items

#### 2. Parks for People Overview

CWM 2016 (2) 2

Committee noted that the annual combined Big Lottery Fund/HLF first-round budget was £31.7m, including a £1.7m underspend from the previous financial year. The budget would be split between the June and December meetings.

Committee noted that 10 first-round applications had been received in England with a total request for £27.63m.

#### 3. Restoration Stevens Park, Quarry Bank

CWM 2016 (2) 3

Applicant: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: First round pass of £1,533,100 including a development grant of £137,600 (88% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To restore and repair historic features, improve the park's infrastructure to meet community and visitor needs. A key aim of the project would be to establish the park as a horticultural training centre, offering training and volunteering opportunities. A programme of events and activities would engage wider audiences.

The HLF West Midlands Committee and the Big Lottery Fund representative recommended this application as a **MEDIUM** priority for support.

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

Oral

**Marion Blockley** declared an interest in Brilliance Through Brindley (item 20) as she was employed by the applicant on another project and knew the officers directly involved in the application. She would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

**Alan Taylor** declared three declarations of interest where he had either worked with members of the bid team in the past or had management responsibility for the church building support officer who assisted in preparing the bid (all prior to end of 2014):

- Improving access to and the condition of 'Top Church' Dudley (St Thomas) (GPOW – item 15);
- High level repairs and waterproofing works 2nd application (GPOW – item 15); and
- Dudley Historic Core Townscape Heritage Scheme (item 18)

Committee noted that in no case did he have any discussion about or prior knowledge of the proposals and agreed that these did not constitute conflicts of interest.

**Izzy Mohammed** declared that while working at Birmingham Library he had a meeting with the applicant for Holy Trinity Birchfield Mission Development Project (GPOW – item 15) about a possible project. Committee were content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

## **5. Chair's report**

**Oral**

The Chair provided an update on activity and events attended since the last meeting, including a meeting with the trustees of Historic England, HLF induction sessions and the Country and Regional Chairs meeting.

## **6. Minutes of last meeting on 1 March 2016**

**CWM 2016 (2) 6**

The minutes were agreed.

## **7. Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Oral**

There were none.

## **8. Annual Review of Delegated Decisions 2015-16**

**CWM 2016 (2) 8**

Committee noted that 205 applications had been received over the year and 113 awards made, totalling £3,235,400.

The increase in natural heritage applications was noted following work that had been undertaken by the team to develop this area.

Officers confirmed that all Priority Development Areas had received awards during the period. Committee noted that BAME-led groups had received 25% of the total amount awarded for the year. It was noted that the team was working with groups in the industrial maritime and transport sector to improve the strength of applications.

Committee offered congratulations to the team and thanks for their hard work over the year.

Committee provided confirmation that they were confident that the governance arrangements for delegated decisions were thorough and robust.

## **9. West Midlands Overview Report**

**CWM 2016 (2) 9**

Committee noted the update on Committee and Board-level cases.

Committee gave congratulations to team on the successful Routes2Roots: On the Road event.

## 10. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2016 (2) 10

Committee noted that the first round cases totalled a request of £2,785,400 against a budget of £2.1m.

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

#### 11. Ball Mill Quarry Wildlife Trust Reserve

CWM 2016 (2) 11

Applicant: Wildgoose Rural Training

Request: A first round pass of £635,300, including a development grant of £76,500 (66% of total eligible development costs).

Project: To conserve and manage a 37 acre wetland as a nature reserve, and to build a visitor centre on 6 acres of adjacent agricultural land. A programme of activities would be delivered to engage the wider community and interpretation would be installed to raise awareness of the natural and industrial heritage of the area. The applicant worked with adults with learning difficulties and young people that had been excluded from mainstream education.

Committee agreed the project as a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application, but with strong feedback to resubmit another bid addressing the above points.

#### 12. Evesham Abbey Project

CWM 2016 (2) 12

Applicant: Evesham Abbey Trust

Request: First round pass of £718,800 including a development grant of £79,600 (72% of total eligible development costs).

Project: To repair the post-Dissolution walls and doors and undertake an archaeological assessment. The project would be the first phase of a scheme to turn the nave and cloistral areas, currently allotments, into a public garden. The site was Scheduled Ancient Monument and the boundary walls were on the Historic England Heritage at Risk register.

Committee agreed the project as a low priority for support and in light of the concerns raised **REJECTED** the application.

#### 13. Green Birmingham, Friends of the Earth Trust

CWM 2016 (2) 13

Applicant: Friends of the Earth Trust (lead applicant)

Request: First round pass of £1,431,300 including a development grant of £128,900 (90% of total eligible development costs).

Project: In partnership with Birmingham & the Black Country Wildlife Trust, Birmingham Friends of the Earth and Birmingham City Council, to train and support people from deprived communities in Hodge Hill and Yardley, Birmingham, to undertake practical nature projects to enhance natural heritage in areas vulnerable to development and including the wildlife corridor of the River Cole. The aim of the project would be to equip the community with sufficient knowledge and skills to re-connect with nature, and to continue the work of protecting natural heritage after the end of the project.

In light of the concerns raised, Committee **REJECTED** the application.

#### 14. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items

Oral

During the case-by-case discussions all applications had been rejected by the Committee due to concerns raised.

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

#### 15. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

CWM 2016 (2) 15

The Committee noted that nine first round applications with a grant request of £1,591,100 had been received against a regional budget of £556,250. At the initial sift; Historic England agreed with HLF that four applications were not considered to be of sufficient urgency. No further assessment was undertaken and they were recommended for rejection (15f-i).

The remaining five cases (15a-e) had undergone full assessment, and Historic England had provided detailed technical advice to establish the urgency of the repair works. Assessment by HLF had also looked at how well the application met outcomes for communities. The Committee noted that there were insufficient funds to support all of the five cases that had undergone detailed assessment.

The Committee considered the urgency of works and community outcomes for each case and, with reference to the budget, made the following decisions on the SF4 First Round applications:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
15a.	St Helen Worcester - Repair, conservation, cultural enhancement and accessibility	All Saints and St. Helen Worcester	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £249,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £28,400 (70%)
15b.	High level repairs and waterproofing works	Brockmoor St John's Church, Dudley	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £189,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £18,200 (76%)
15c.	Repair and Regeneration of St Michael's Church, Brampton Abbots	The Diocese of Hereford	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £213,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £20,000 (68%)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Decision</b>
15d.	Urgent repairs and a history and education project for Holy Trinity Church, Preston Wynne	Holy Trinity Church PCC Preston Wynne, Herefordshire	REJECT
15e.	Holy Trinity Birchfield Mission Development Project	Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield	REJECT
15f.	St Nicholas Church Alcester Restoration Project	St Nicholas Church Alcester	REJECT
15g.	St Margaret's Church Betley- Tower Restoration	St. Margaret's Church, Betley, Staffordshire	REJECT
15h.	St Matthew's, Marstow, Structural Repairs and Re-ordering	St Matthew's Church Marstow	REJECT
15i.	The Repair, Conservation and Interpretation of the Forbury Chapel Leominster	The Leominster Church Institute	REJECT

The Committee noted the three second round churches that had been decided at delegated Batch level by Head of Region since the last Committee meeting.

Two second round applications had been received that requested uplifts above the threshold for decision at delegated Batch level.

The Committee made the following decisions on the SF4 Second Round applications:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Decision</b>
15j.	Improving access to and the condition of 'Top Church' Dudley (St Thomas)	Dudley St Thomas PCC	AWARD GRANT OF £181,500 (64%)
15k.	St Peter's Church, Chelmarsh, roof repair and restoration	St Peter's Church Chelmarsh PCC	AWARD GRANT OF £26,000 (59%)

## **SP3 Grant increase for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants**

### **16. Our Warwickshire**

**CWM 2016 (2) 16**

Applicant: Warwickshire County Council

Request: Grant Increase of £137,900 to make a total grant of £1,103,400 (71% of revised eligible costs).

Project: To redevelop the Grade II listed Market Hall located in the centre of Warwick into the flagship Museum of Warwickshire. The project would work closely with local communities to highlight the County's cultural identity and create multi-disciplinary themed displays and interpretive elements. An online community platform being developed to enable wider engagement with the museum's collections and allow people to contribute their own stories. Committee had awarded a grant of £965,500 (81% of eligible delivery costs) in December 2014.

Warwickshire County Council; sought a grant increase of £137,900. Issues had been identified following the commencement of the initial capital works, with additional unexpected works being required to the structure and the mechanical and electrical services.

Expert advice: HLF Project Monitor was supportive.

The Committee **AWARDED** the Grant Increase of £137,900 to make a total grant of £1,103,400 (71% of revised eligible costs).

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

### **17. The Old Toll House Restoration project**

**CWM 2016 (2) 17**

Applicant: Stratford Historic Building Trust

Request: A grant of £232,400 (52% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: To restore the vacant and derelict Grade I listed toll house on Clopton Bridge in Stratford. The building would be converted to office space and used for interpretation with a demountable exhibition on the lower ground floor. Surviving fixtures and fittings would be conserved and new elements would be modern in character.

First round pass including development funding: Committee awarded in March 2015  
Key Changes Increases in construction costs and costs associated with employing a community engagement consultant had resulted in increased project costs. Activity cost provisions had been reduced. An uplift of £42,200 had been requested and was considered to be justified.

Views: Expert advice was broadly supportive and the project was still considered to be good value for money.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £232,400 (52% of total eligible delivery costs)

## **SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Townscape Heritage**

### **18. Dudley Historic Core Townscape Heritage Scheme**

**CWM 2016 (2) 18**

Applicant: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: A grant of £1,178,000 (47% of total eligible delivery costs).

Project: The focus of the scheme would be on three streets in the historic core of Dudley Town Centre, with the target area linking the retail area to the Civic Quarter. Up to 14 strategically located historic buildings would undergo repair works, with architectural details reinstated, to allow the re-use of these key buildings. Community engagement and learning activities would be delivered, including oral history and reminiscence sessions, skills training and a travelling exhibition.

First round pass including development funding: Board January 2015

Key changes: The Old Post Office, the largest single investment under the round one scheme, had been removed from the proposal, and the number of priority properties had therefore increased from 12 to 14, with 8 identified as high priority. Total project costs had decreased and no uplift had been requested.

Views: Expert advice was supportive.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,178,000 (47% of total eligible delivery costs).

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

### **19. @Tyseley, Workshop to the World, engineering the future with main line steam express trains**

**CWM 2016 (2) 19**

Applicant: Vintage Trains

Request: First round pass of £4,498,300, including a development grant of £589,800 (43% of eligible development costs)

Project: Focussing on the preservation and reinvigoration of a collection of steam locomotives and the train depot at Tyseley, the project would provide improved facilities and community spaces, with a programme of activities to engage new generations, whilst ensuring the continuation of steam engines on the national railway network. Conservation works would be undertaken on a range of rolling stock. Capital works would include the development of a multi-purpose station building, with extended platforms, passenger facilities, community spaces and education and interpretation facilities. Apprenticeships would be run in partnership with local colleges and a volunteer programme would be developed.

Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH** priority. The Board would determine the application in July 2016.

### **20. Brilliance through Brindley (Cross-territory)**

**CWM 2016 (2) 20**

Applicant: Canal & River Trust

*Marion Blockley declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.*

Request: First round pass of £462,200, including a development grant of £38,100 (43% of total eligible development costs).

Project: To develop a STEM education programme that would use the UK's historic waterways to exemplify engineering and scientific principles. The programme would build on the success of

existing education activities, including STEM activities delivered in the classroom. Curriculum-linked learning opportunities would be developed that would utilise the physical heritage structure of the canals and waterways for young people aged 7-14, that would be delivered by 16-24 year old “Young Enabler” volunteers.

The Committee recommended that the application be **REJECTED**. The Board would determine the application in July 2016.

#### **21. The Beautiful Burial Ground 2 (Cross-territory)**

**CWM 2016 (2) 21**

Applicant: Caring for God’s Acre

Request: First round pass of £604,400, including a development grant of £17,700 (56% of eligible development costs)

Project: A four-year project to identify and record the heritage of burial grounds, with a focus on those located in the West Midlands, East of England, South East and Wales. The citizen science project aimed to engage and support interested parties and communities to learn about, research and survey the heritage in the local burial grounds, leading to better understanding and better management. A web-based database would be developed specifically, to enable biological data to be easily recorded and retrieved. New audiences would be engaged with an emphasis on under-represented groups.

Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH** priority. The Board would determine the application in July 2016.

### **Papers for Information**

#### **22. West Midlands Annual Review of 2015**

**CWM 2016 (2) 22**

Committee noted the report.

#### **23. West Midlands Operating Plan for 2016**

**CWM 2016 (2) 23**

Committee noted the Plan.

#### **24. Communications Plan for 2016-17**

**CWM 2016 (2) 24**

Committee noted the Communications Plan, and indicated their interest in becoming more involved with social media.

#### **25. Communications Report**

**CWM 2016 (2) 25**

Committee noted the report.

#### **26. Corporate Update**

**CWM 2016 (2) 26**

The paper was tabled.

#### **27. Minutes of the meeting of Regional and Country Chairs on 12 April 2016**

**CWM 2016 (2) 27**

The minutes were noted.

#### **28. Business Plan 2016-17 (circulated electronically)**

**CWM 2016 (2) 28**

The Business Plan was noted.



**29. Any other business**

It was noted that the September meeting would be held over two days, and would incorporate an away day.

**The next meeting will be held on 6 & 7 September 2016.**