

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 21 November 2017

CWM 2017 (4)

**Summary report of the meeting of the Committee for the West Midlands held on 21 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at the Flaxmills Maltings, Spring Gardens, Ditherington, Shrewsbury, SY1 2SZ**

## **Members:**

- Sue Beardsmore (Chair)
- Marion Blockley
- Rachel Chiu
- Izzy Mohammed (for items 6 to 24)
- Jude Pilgrim
- Tow Tew (Trustee)
- Alison Wedgewood

## **Apologies:**

- Alan Taylor

## **Committee Business**

### **1. Welcome**

**Oral**

The Chair welcomed Susan Mellish who was replacing the Committee Secretary for this meeting.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

**Oral**

Marion Blockley declared a conflict of interest in Ironbridge Coracle Heritage (item 12) as she was a Trustee the Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust. She left the room for the discussion of items 11 to 13.

Jude Pilgrim declared a conflict of interest in Ironbridge Coracle Heritage (item 12) as she was a Trustee and Secretary of the Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust. She left the room for the discussion of items 11 to 13.

Alan Taylor, who was absent, had noted that he was a member of the Ironbridge Coracle Heritage Trust.

## **SF4 first round applications for discussion and recommendation: Parks for People (December 2017 Board)**

### **3. Parks for People Overview**

**CWM 2017 (4) 3**

The Committee received the overview paper for Parks for People. In England:

- 7 first round applications had been received with a total grant request of £20.60m against a budget of £17.86m. One first round application had been received in the West Midlands.
- 1 second round application with a total grant request of £2.44m had been received. No second round applications had been received in the West Midlands.

#### 4. Brinton Park - The Town's Park; PP-17-03016

CWM 2017 (4) 4

Applicant: Wyre Forest District Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,627,700, including Development Grant of £217,700 (87% of total eligible development costs)

Project: The renovation of heritage within the 12.9 hectare Brinton Park in Kidderminster and the restoration of the landscape to the design of Meredith (the park's Victorian architect). A 200m<sup>2</sup> training, welfare and refreshment facility would be built and horticulture improved. Capital works included the restoration of the Victorian bothy and greenhouses and the re-instatement of the historic pools. The overall aim was to make this urban green space a destination where people feel safe to visit and stay longer.

This was a resubmission following rejection by the Board in June 2017. The applicant had responded positively to feedback.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH PRIORITY** for support. The BLF representative had recommended the application as a **MEDIUM PRIORITY** for support.

### Reports

#### 5. Chair's report

Oral

The Chair provided an update on her activities since the last meeting.

#### 6. Minutes of last meeting on 6 September 2017

CWM 2017 (4) 6

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

#### 7. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were none.

#### 8. West Midlands Overview Report

CWM 2017 (4) 8

Vanessa Harbar presented the report.

#### 9. Communications Report

CWM 2017 (4) 9

The Committee noted the report.

#### 10. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2017 (4) 10

##### i) Lottery Income Plan Update

Anne Jenkins, Deputy Director of Operations, gave a confidential presentation about a range of actions arising from Board level discussions regarding:

- budgetary plans for 2018/2019 in the context of higher levels of competition and fluctuating lottery income
- plans for the organisation's smooth transition into the next Strategic Framework period.

##### ii) Budget for the this Meeting

Two first round Heritage Grant applications had been received with a total request of £1,932,400 against a budget of £1.4m, giving a success rate of 77%. The Committee noted that prioritisation would be needed.

Three second round Heritage Grant applications had been received with a total request of £1,537,400. The Committee noted that the applications were fundable providing that they were high quality cases delivering good value for money.

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

*Marion Blockley and Jude Pilgrim declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of items 11 to 13.*

##### **11. Middleton Hall - Tudor Barn Project; HG-17-02780**

**CWM 2017 (4) 11**

Applicant: Middleton Hall Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £1,511,600, including a Development Grant of £119,700 (81% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To restore and convert the Grade II\* listed 'Tudor Barn' at Middleton Hall Estate located in North Warwickshire. The project would remove the barn from Historic England's *Buildings at Risk Register* and provide visitor facilities and space for interpretation and education. A programme of interpretation and participation activities would be developed to extend the visitor experience and raise the profile of the estate as a visitor destination. The programme's themes would cover the estate's historic buildings and architect, the residents of the hall and their impact, the gardens including the Grade II walled garden and the natural heritage of Middleton Pool SSSI.

The Committee agreed the application represented a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application in the light of the concerns raised.

##### **12. Ironbridge Coracle Heritage; HG-17-03379**

**CWM 2017 (4) 12**

Applicant: Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £420,800, including a Development Grant of £76,600 (74% of total eligible development costs)

Project: The stabilisation and repair of the last historic coracle making shed in England which was located on the banks of the River Severn close to the base of the Ironbridge in the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage site. A collection of objects related to the craft of coracle making would be conserved, catalogued, researched and securely stored. A programme of complementary activities and interpretation to better understand the craft of coracle making and engage a wider range of people would include a mile long coracle visitor trail throughout the Ironbridge Gorge.

Previous applications: This was a resubmission following rejection by the Committee in June 2017.

The Committee agreed the application represented a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £420,800 including a development grant of £76,600 (74% of eligible development costs).

##### **13. Prioritisation and feedback for first round items**

**Oral**

During the case by case discussion the Committee had agreed that:

- *Middleton Hall – Tudor Barn Project* (item 11) was a medium priority for support
- *Ironbridge Coracle Heritage* (item 12) was a high priority for support.

## 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 (4) 14**

14 first round applications with a grant request of £2,778,600 had been received. At the initial sift, Historic England had agreed with HLF that nine applications (items 14f to 14n) should not be taken forward to full assessment as they were considered not to be of sufficient urgency.

The remaining five cases (items 14a to 14e) 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.

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision	Project Reference
14a	Improving Our Welcome 2	Holy Trinity Church, Coventry	First round pass of £149,100 including development grant of £9,500 (66% of total eligible development costs)	GP-17-01471
14b	Offering a Historically Inspiring Classroom plus Urgent Repairs	St. Bartholomew's Moreton Corbet PCC	First round pass of £158,800 including development grant of £14,100 (52% of total eligible development costs)	GP-17-00377
14c	Tower Repair Project	St. James the Great, Norton Juxta Kempsey, Worcester	First round pass of £223,700 including development grant of £18,600 (58% of total eligible development costs)	GP-17-00510
14d	Roof Repairs and Exhibition and Learning Space	St. Edburgha's Church, Yardley PCC	First round pass of £198,800 including development grant of £29,200 (80% of total eligible development costs)	GP-16-04268
14e	Roof and Fabric Repairs	PCC Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa	First round pass of £219,900 including development grant of £14,000 (73% of total eligible development costs)	GP-16-06879
14f	Campanile Restoration Project	St. Oswald's Church, Tile Hill	Reject	GP-17-00666
14g	Repair and Re-ordering of Interior	St. Margaret's Church, Wolston	Reject	GP-16-08819
14h	Repair and re-ordering of interior Cleeton St. Mary	Cleeton St. Mary PCC	Reject	GP-16-01416
14i	Roof Repairs and New Internal Access	St. George's Church Kidderminster	Reject	GP-16-09962
14j	Restoration of the Roof and Masonry Repairs	PCC of Staunton-on-Arrow	Reject	GP-16-07535
14k	Restoration of St. Mary's Church Highley	St. Mary's Church, Highley, Shropshire	Reject	GP-17-02974

14l	Repairs and Improvements to St. George's	St. George's Church PCC, Orleton	Reject	GP-17-03307
14m	Kidderminster Unitarian Church Roof Renewal	New Meeting House Unitarian Church, Kidderminster	Reject	GP-17-02367
14n	Saving St. Leonard's for the Community	St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston	Reject	GP-17-02086

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

### 15. The Staffordshire Hoard: Battle and Tribute; HG-15-01575

CWM 2017 (4) 15

Grantee: Tamworth Castle

Request: A grant of £499,900 (65% of total eligible delivery costs).

Project: The project would create a family-oriented, interactive gallery in the Grade I listed Tamworth Castle to display objects from the internationally significant Staffordshire Hoard. The project, which formed part of the wider Staffordshire Hoard Trail across five partner sites, would focus on the importance of Tamworth as the capital of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. A programme of learning and participation activities would also be delivered.

Uplift: The Committee had awarded a First Round Pass of £519,600 in September 2015. An uplift of £35,800 (8%) was sought due to an increase of £127,880 in project costs arising from the identification of more capital work to facilitate the exhibition and conserve the building and, based on QS advice, additional contingency provision for 5.25% inflation based.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £499,900 (65%).

### 16. Hardwick Green Meadows – an essential link in a historic landscape; HG-16-00413

CWM 2017 (4) 16

Grantee: Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Request: A grant of £197,000 (43% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: To acquire and protect the Hardwick Green Meadows located in the Malvern Chase area of Worcestershire. This 20 hectare site was an important, priority biodiversity area, the largest unprotected Mesotrophic Grassland (MG4) Floodplain meadow in Worcestershire. The project would focus on three main areas: protection and restoration, creating free public access and community engagement through a programme of learning and participation activities. The project aimed to achieve Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation for the site upon completion of a conservation management and restoration programme.

The Committee had awarded a First Round Pass in November 2016.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £197,000 (43%).

### 17. Virtuous Circles - a new sustainable model for historic places of worship; HG-14-10014

CWM 2017 (4) 17

Grantee: Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Archbishops' Council, Church of England

Request: A grant of £840,500 (85% of total eligible delivery costs).

Project: A project to explore the viability of inserting reversible accommodation pods into redundant/underused rural churches in order to provide them with a new use/source of income. The Church of England had around 16,000 churches that were becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and upkeep as congregations declined. The focus of this pilot project, the Grade II listed St Michael's Church at Dulas in rural Hertfordshire, would become a holiday let for upto 4 people. Learning and participation opportunities would arise through workshops to be held throughout the project and a national conference to share learning and promote the model.

Uplift: The Committee had awarded a first round pass of £518,900 including a development grant of £49,700 (66% of eligible development costs) in June 2015. An uplift of £371,300 (79%) was sought due to undercosting at the first round and a significant deterioration in the condition of St Michael's. It was noted that a second pod had been added to provide kitchenette and toilet facilities for community use whilst the accommodation pod was in use.

The Committee **REJECTED** the application for a grant of £840,500 (85%).

#### **SF4 First round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (Board meeting December 2017)**

##### **18. Manor House Restoration Project; HG-15-04193**

**CWM 2017 (4) 18**

Applicant: Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Request: A first round pass of £2,250,100, including development grant of £115,100 (82% of total eligible development costs).

Project: To restore West Bromwich Manor House, a Grade I listed, C13th Century, timber framed building. Capital works would include the removal of inappropriate 20th Century repairs and additions, the provision of new visitor facilities and improvements to physical access. A programme of interpretation and activities would also be delivered.

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

#### **SF4 Second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (December Board)**

##### **19. The Beautiful Burial Ground 2; HG-15-08019**

**CWM 2017 (4) 19**

Grantee: Caring for God's Acre

Request: A grant of £586,700 (59% of total delivery costs)

Project: A four year cross-territory project across England and Wales to raise the profile of burial grounds as 'hotspots' for heritage. The citizen science project aimed to inspire, engage and support interested parties and communities in learning about, researching and surveying the heritage (natural, built and social) of burial grounds. New audiences would be engaged with an emphasis on under-represented groups. The project would be delivered in partnership with the Biodiversity Network Trust, the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

The Board had awarded a first round pass including a development grant in July 2016. Project costs had increased by £39,582 but no uplift was sought resulting in a reduction in the grant percentage from 61% to 59%.

Expert advice: Supportive with conditions. Officers were satisfied that the concerns raised would be addressed in the early stages of the project.

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

## **Papers for information**

### **20. Corporate Update**

**CWM 2017 (4) 20**

The Committee noted the report.

### **21. Regional and Country Chairs minutes of 10 October meeting**

**CWM 2017 (4) 21**

The Committee noted the minutes

### **22. Annual Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report**

**CWM 2017 (4) 22**

The Committee noted the contents of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report for 2016-2017.

### **23. Overview of Single Round Grants and Delegated Decision Making**

**CWM 2017 (4) 23**

The Committee noted the contents of this report to the Board on single round grants and delegated decision making in 2016-2017.

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

**Oral**

Rachel Chui provided feedback on the launch of *The Philip Astley Project – Celebrating the father of modern day circus* which she had attended with Alison Wedgwood.

There was no other business.

**The next meeting will be held on 27 February 2018 in the Birmingham Office.**