

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 09 December 2014

CWM 2014 (4)

Summary report of the meeting held on 09 December at 10.00a.m. in the Office of the Rail Regulator, 3rd Floor, Grosvenor House, 14 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5RS

Present: Les Sparks (Chairman)
Sue Beardsmore
Marion Blockley
Ian Grosvenor
Izzy Mohammed
Alan Taylor
Tom Tew
Jude Walker

1. Chair's report Oral

The Committee noted that in the Chancellor's 2014 Autumn Statement George Osborne had announced the Government would provide £15m for a new, UK wide *Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund* to support urgent roofs repairs. The fund would be administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The decisions would be announced in March 2015.

2. Declarations of Interest Oral

Izzy Mohammed declared a conflict of interest as, in his capacity as Audience Engagement Coordinator for Birmingham City Council, he had a conversation with the applicant for *Punk Heritage* (item 6) about an application to HLF earlier in the year and had provided an indicative letter of support. He left the room during the discussion of this item.

Marion Blockley declared a conflict of interest as she had written the Conservation Management Plan for the *Saxon Tamworth and the Staffordshire Hoard project* (item 9) and had informally mentored the applicant's Head of Service. She left the room during the discussion of this item.

Ian Grosvenor declared a conflict of interest on *Compton Verney Chapel and Landscape Restoration* (item 32) as his partner was a Governor. He left the room during the discussion of this item.

Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest in *St Giles Churchyard Project* (item 14) as he knew the architects and they had broadly discussed the scheme. He left the room during the discussion of this item.

In addition:

- Alan Taylor mentioned that in various capacities he knew people involved in items 25, 27, 28 and 30. He confirmed that he had not discussed the schemes with them
- Tom Tew mentioned that until four years ago he had worked for Natural England, the applicant for Aqualate Mere (item 29)

- Jude Walker mentioned that several years ago she had been a councillor at Stafford Borough Council, the applicant for *Victoria Park* (item 21) and that about four years ago she had given the Friends of Brandon Wood, who were listed as partners in the application for *Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape* (item 7), some free advice on behalf of her former employer Small Woods.

The Committee was content that none of the above constituted a conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 23 September 2014 **CWM 2014 (4) 3**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

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

None.

5. West Midlands Budget **CWM 2014 (4) 5**

Updated information about the number of first round applications received for consideration at the March 2015 meeting was tabled.

Reyahn King introduced the paper which set the context for the Committee's decision taking for the 2014/2015 financial year.

The Committee noted that for this meeting the:

- indicative grants budget was £2,356,250. Applications totalling £4,292,300, including first round development grants, had been received. The Committee noted that all second round applications and the grant increase could be funded providing they were good quality and offered value for money.
- indicative first round pass budget was £2,695,431. Applications totalling £4,421,100 had been received. The Committee noted that they would need to prioritise the applications.

The Committee noted the strong pipeline of first round applications for the March 2015 meeting.

SF4 First round applications

- **Heritage Grants**

6. Punk Heritage Brum **CWM 2014 (4) 6**

Izzy Mohammed declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Friction Arts, in partnership with Margaret Street Free Arts Council, sought a first round pass of £423,000 including a development grant of £78,400 (81% of eligible development costs) for a three year, oral history project collecting primary source material about the punk movement in Birmingham during the late 20th Century. Digital and physical archives, a programme of interactive exhibitions and a punk history route through historic city centre venues would be created. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and, in the light of the available budget and concerns raised, **REJECTED** the application.

7. Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape **CWM 2014 (4) 7**

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (in partnership with Butterfly Conservation, Coombe Country Park, Coventry City Council, Friends of Brandon Wood, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District

Council and Warwickshire County Council) sought funding to restore the habitats, species and historical sites of the 618 hectare, Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape area. These ancient, heavily designated woodlands supported Biodiversity Action Plan species. Physical and intellectual access would be improved and a programme of learning and participation opportunities including a woodland apprenticeship scheme delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,146,100 including a development grant of £116,900 (63% of eligible development costs).

8. Harnessing Steam - the impact of Black Country steam power on the world

CWM 2014 (4) 8

Black Country Living Museum sought a first round pass of £595,400 including a development grant of £70,400 (71% of eligible development costs) to tell the story of the rise of steam power and the key part played by the Black Country in the industrial revolution. Project costs included provision for the acquisition of a 1911 steam roller, the restoration of the Museum's Haystack Boiler and the Anchor Forge Steam Hammer, and the refurbishment of the Racecourse Colliery Area and the narrow gauge 'Tub' Tramway track. The project would put the Museum in a stronger position to contribute to commemorative activities planned for the Bicentenary of James Watt's (the father of steam) death in 2019. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and, in the light of the available budget and concerns raised, **REJECTED** the application.

9. Saxon Tamworth and the Staffordshire Hoard Exhibition

CWM 2014 (4) 9

Marion Blockley declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Tamworth Castle sought a first round pass of £398,700 including a development grant of £12,400 (80% of eligible development costs) to create a permanent, interactive exhibition bringing Tamworth's Anglo-Saxon history to life for visitors to the Grade I listed, Tamworth Castle. The new exhibition would showcase items from the nationally important, Staffordshire Hoard and explore how it fitted into the wider history of the Kingdom of Mercia. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and, in the light of the available budget and concerns raised, **REJECTED** the application.

10. Restoring Whitchurch Canal

CWM 2014 (4) 10

Whitchurch Waterways Trust sought a first round pass of £376,900 including development grant of £39,700 (56% of eligible developments costs) for a 225m extension to the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal towards Whitchurch town centre and to create a new canal basin. Capital works would include the restoration of the historic Chemistry Bridge. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered.

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

- **Heritage Enterprise**

11. Belong Heritage Gallery

CWM 2014 (4) 11

CLS Care Services sought funding to acquire, restore and bring back into use the derelict, Grade II listed former coach house located in Lower Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme. The property would provide a range of facilities for residents and the local community as part of a larger commercial

development which would provide accommodation for the elderly. The building would house a reminiscence room and Heritage Galley. An associated learning and participation programme would include activities for people suffering from dementia and apprenticeships in building conservation skills.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,481,000 without a development grant.

12. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items

Oral

During the case by case discussions, the Committee had agreed that:

- *Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape* (item 7) and *Belong Heritage Gallery* (item 11) were a high priority for support.
- *Punk Heritage Brum* (item 6), *Harnessing Steam - the impact of Black Country steam power on the world* (item 8) and *Saxon Tamworth and the Staffordshire Hoard Exhibition* (item 9) were a medium priority for support.
- *Restoring Whitchurch Canal* (item 10) was a low priority for support.

In the light of the available budget, the Committee awarded first round passes with and without development funding to *Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape* (item 7) and *Belong Heritage Gallery* (item 11) respectively. The medium priority and low priority applications were rejected.

- **Grants for Places of Worship**

13. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

CWM 2014 (4) 13

The Grants for Places of Worship scheme was a targeted, UK wide programme to support the urgent structural repair needs of listed places of worship. The programme also aimed to support congregations by involving more people from their wider communities in caring for, using and understanding the heritage of the buildings.

In this third batch of applications for 2014/2015, four applications had been received from the West Midlands with a grant request of £597,456. One application was subsequently withdrawn. The indicative budget, originally set at £355,300, had been increased to £388,778 so that the urgent work required at the three remaining churches could be funded.

The Committee made the following decisions:

Item	Project	Applicant	Decision
13a	Urgent High Level Masonry Repairs and Improved Access at SS Mary & John's RC Church, Wolverhampton	SS Mary & Jon's RC Church, Wolverhampton	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £245,500, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £20,100 (70% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
13b	St Peter's: Saving Our Heritage for the Community	St Peter's Church, Wormleighton	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £109,500, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £8,300 (66% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
13c	St Peter's Church Chelmarsh, roof repair and restoration	St Peter's Church Chelmarsh Parochial Church Council	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £33,600, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £9,700 (99% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

The first round passes and development grants to 13a and 13c above were rounded down on the schedule of decisions to the nearest hundred, in accordance with HLF practice.

SF4 Second round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

14. St Giles Heritage Churchyard Project; CWM 2014 (4) 14

Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.

St Giles Parochial Church Council sought funding to improve, conserve and interpret the churchyard of the Grade II* listed St Giles Church in Newcastle under Lyme. Capital works would include the removal of a 1600 cubic metre mound of spoil from previous building work, landscaping of the churchyard and re-laying of historic memorial stones.

The Committee **DEFERRED** a decision until September 2015.

15. 'The house wherein I dwell': Unlocking the heritage of Shakespeare's New Place CWM 2014 (4) 15

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust sought funding to reinterpret the site of New Place, located alongside Nash's House and the Knot Garden in Stratford-upon-Avon. New Place was the final residence of William Shakespeare until his death. The project would deliver a new landmark heritage attraction to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 2016. Capital works would also include the restoration of the adjacent Grade I listed Nash's House and the construction of a two storey extension to provide an exhibition centre and improved facilities and the restoration of the Knot Garden. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,815,400 (30% of eligible delivery costs).

SP3 Second round applications for discussion and decision

- **Heritage Grants**

16. Our Warwickshire CWM 2014 (4) 16

Warwickshire County Council sought funding to refurbish and redevelop the Grade II* listed Market Hall in Warwick as 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 interpretative elements. An online community platform was piloted during the development phase and would be further developed to increase access to the County's collections. The overarching aim of the scheme was to re-launch the Market Hall as a 'gateway to Warwickshire'.

The Committee **AWARDED** grant of £965,500 (81% of eligible delivery costs).

17. Route to the Hills - Interpreting Great Malvern's Outstanding Heritage CWM 2014 (4) 17

Malvern Hills District Council, in collaboration with the Route to the Hills Project Board, which included the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, sought funding to create a heritage trail from Great Malvern Railway Station through the town with stops at key gateways to the Malvern Hills, Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark. A range of interpretative media/material and activities would be used to reveal the story behind key buildings, famous figures, and the natural and cultural heritage.

The Committee **AWARDED** grant of £482,800 (71% of eligible delivery costs).

SP3 Grant Increase

- **Heritage Grants**

18. Unlocking the Heritage of Warwick

CWM 2014 (4) 18

Warwick Town Council sought a grant increase towards the conservation and restoration of the Court House, a Grade I listed building located in the centre of Warwick, and the development of an interpretation centre focused on the history and role of the building. In addition, the environmental conditions of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum located in the basement of the building and interpretation would be improved. The project had been developed alongside a wider scheme to improve facilities, public spaces and access to the Court House.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant increase of £123,300 (to make a total grant of £491,000; 77% of eligible delivery costs).

SF4 First Round Board applications

- **Parks for People: December Board**

19. Parks for People Overview

CWM 2014 (4) 19

The Committee noted the overview. *Parks for People* was a UK wide bi-annual programme. In England the programme was a jointly funded Heritage Lottery Fund / Big Lottery Fund programme. For this batch 9 first round applications with a total ask of £17.9m had been fully assessed. Three applications were from the West Midlands.

20. Whitehall Recreation Ground - Restoring the heritage of Rugby's premier open space for informal recreation, celebration, reflection and commemoration

CWM 2014 (4) 20

Rugby Borough Council sought a first round pass of £978,100 including a development grant of £72,500 (85% of total eligible development costs) to restore historic features, install new play equipment and upgrade facilities in the 5 hectare, Whitehall Recreation Ground. Capital works would include the restoration of the war memorial gates, bandstand and reinstatement of the original tree avenue. The overall aim was to make the park a gateway to the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre and encourage better use of this green space in the town centre. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would include horticultural apprenticeships.

The Committee's views would be reported to the joint HLF Board and the BIG Lottery Fund's Parks for People Committee. The application would be determined in December 2014.

21. Restoration of Victoria Park, Stafford

CWM 2014 (4) 21

Stafford Borough Council sought a first round pass of £1,657,600 including a development grant of £185,400 (78% of eligible development costs) to conserve and enhance the 2.77 hectare, Victoria Park in Stafford by returning the park to its Edwardian design, improving visitor facilities and interpreting its heritage. The Park contained two Grade II listed structures: the Mottram Shelter and Staffordshire's County War Memorial. One of the other structures, a thatched building was at risk due to subsidence. Capital works would include the conversion of the thatched building into a restaurant and the upgrading of horticultural and gardening facilities to provide space for learning and participation activities. Horticultural apprenticeships and vocational training would be delivered in partnership with Stafford College.

The Committee's views would be reported to the joint HLF Board and the BIG Lottery Fund's Parks for People Committee. The application would be determined in December 2014.

22. Stourport War Memorial Park

CWM 2014 (4) 22

Stourport on Severn Town Council sought a first round pass of £661,300 including a development grant of £73,300 (83% of eligible development costs) to restore the 11.7 hectare, Stourport War Memorial Park. The Park was located on the site of Moor Hall which had been used as a training ground for soldiers in the First World War. Capital works would include the restoration of a C19th bandstand and railings. Interpretative audio visual media about the effects of the First World War on Stourport would be produced and an associated programme of learning and participation opportunities including workshops and training in traditional blacksmithing skills delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the joint HLF Board and the BIG Lottery Fund's Parks for People Committee. The application would be determined in December 2014.

23. Prioritisation of items 20 to 22

Oral

The Committee's views would be reported to the joint HLF Board and the BIG Lottery Fund's Parks for People Committee. The application would be determined in December 2014.

- **Townscape Heritage Grants: January Board**

24. Townscape Heritage Overview

CWM 2014 (4) 24

The Committee noted the overview. Townscape Heritage was an annual programme with a budget of £14m. For this batch 30 first round application with a total ask of £40m had been received. Three applications were from the West Midlands.

25. Fazeley and Bonehill Townscape Heritage

CWM 2014 (4) 25

Lichfield District Council sought a first round pass of £968,900 including a development grant of £71,500 (95% of eligible development costs) for a Townscape Heritage scheme located within the Fazeley and Bonehill Conservation Area in Lichfield. The scheme had identified 35 properties for restoration including six listed buildings on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register. Public realm works would include the restoration of the centrally located war memorial. A programme of learning and participation opportunities focused on the area's industrial heritage would also be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

26. Transforming Ledbury Townscape Heritage

CWM 2014 (4) 26

Ledbury Places Ltd sought a first round pass of £1,996,500 including a development grant of £87,900 (57% of eligible development costs) for a Townscape Heritage scheme located in the Ledbury Conservation Area, Herefordshire. Six listed buildings had been identified as the priority projects. These buildings included the Grade I listed Market House which would become a fully accessible, heritage centre. Learning and participation opportunities would include an interpretative town trail and workshops delivered by local traders, artists and craftsmen.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

27. Dudley Historic Core Townscape Heritage Scheme

CWM 2014 (4) 27

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council sought a first round pass of £1,222,000 including a development grant of £44,000 (77% of eligible development costs) for a Townscape Heritage scheme focused on the Dudley Town Centre Conservation Area. English Heritage considered that the conservation area was 'at risk'. Capital works comprised improvements to 24 buildings including four Grade II listed buildings. A programme of learning and participation opportunities included a Dudley Town Centre Geology Trail.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

28. Prioritisation of items 25 to 27

Oral

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

- **Heritage Grants: January Board**

**29. Aqualate Mere Restoration Project –
"Revealing the Hidden Depths"**

CWM 2014 (4) 29

Natural England External Funding, in partnership with a group including the Environment Agency and Aqualate Estate, sought a first round pass of £2,916,400 including a development grant of £47,600 (90% of total eligible development costs) to restore Aqualate Mere in Newport, Shropshire. The Mere was a natural lake (a glacial relic) in a National Nature Reserve. Capital works included improvements to water quality, recolonisation of lost species of aquatic plants and animals and the restoration and reconstruction of built heritage features. Physical and intellectual access would be improved and a programme of learning and participation opportunities delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

30. Charterhouse Heritage Park Phase 1, Coventry

CWM 2014 (4) 30

Charterhouse Coventry Preservation Trust sought a first round pass of £4,729,800 including a development grant of £400,000 (82% of eligible development costs) to restore, conserve and open to the public the former Carthusian monastic site known as the Coventry Charterhouse. The Grade I listed Prior's House and Refectory was derelict and on English Heritage's Buildings At Risk Register. The building contained three C15th and C16th wall murals, considered to be some of the finest in the country. Capital works would include the construction of a two storey building to provide visitor facilities and education/conference space. A programme of learning and participation projects would be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

31. Prioritisation of items 29 to 30

CWM 2014 (4) 31

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

SF4 Second Round Board applications

- **Heritage Grants: January Board**

**32. Compton Verney Chapel and Landscape
Restoration Project**

CWM 2014 (4) 32

Ian Grosvenor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Compton Verney House Trust sought a grant of £2,296,900 (65% of eligible delivery costs) to consolidate and conserve the Grade II* registered 'Capability' Brown designed parkland and to restore a Grade I listed Chapel in urgent need of repair and stabilisation. A new welcome and visitor centre would be created at the entrance to the park as an orientation and interpretation area to promote understanding and appreciation of the landscape. A programme of learning and participation opportunities and skills development opportunities would be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

33. Polli:Nation CWM 2014 (4) 33

Learning Through Landscapes Trust sought a grant of £1,389,100 (72% of eligible delivery costs) for a three year, project working with 260 schools to improve the schools grounds in order to attract more pollinating insects and create a series of stepping-stone environments. The overall aim was to improve diversification and the numbers of species across the UK. A UK-wide data recording survey, regional networking events, national conferences, and a child-friendly website with resources and guidance materials would also be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The application would be determined in January 2015.

Papers for Discussion

34. West Midlands Overview Report CWM 2014 (4) 34

The Committee noted the report.

35. Communications Report CWM 2014 (4) 35

The Committee noted the report for the period September to November 2014.

36. NHMF/HLF Board Minutes CWM 2014 (4) 36

The Committee noted the Board minutes for the meetings held in September and October.

37. Heritage Enterprise – Review of Year One CWM 2014 (4) 37

The Committee noted the findings and recommendations of the end of first year review of the *Heritage Enterprise* programme. Since the launch of the programme in April 2013, £46m of grants had been awarded.

The Committee was invited to provide feedback on what was working well and suggestions on where improvements could be made. The Committee's views would be reported to the Board.

Papers for Information

38. Strategic Review of Development CWM 2014 (4) 38

The Committee noted the report.

39. Annual Report of the Equality Steering Group CWM 2014 (4) 39

40. Annual Review of Delegated Grant CWM 2014 (4) 40

The Committee noted the reports.

41. Collecting Cultures Update **CWM 2014 (4) 41**

The Committee was pleased to see that two good schemes from the West Midlands had been funded: *Artists of the Black Movement in Britain 1979-1984 and their legacy* from Wolverhampton Art Gallery and *Representing Birmingham* from The Birmingham Museums Trust.

42. HLF and the Centenary of the First World War **CWM 2014 (4) 42**

The Committee noted the report.

43. Regional and Country Chairs Minutes of 14 October 2014 **CWM 2014 (4) 43**

The Committee noted the minutes.

44. Wedgwood Museum; HG-14-02645 **CWM 2014 (4) 44**

The Committee noted the report.

45. Any other business **Oral**

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held on 17 March 2015 at Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent.