

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 16 June 2015

Summary report of the meeting held on 16 June 2015 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  
Ian Grosvenor  
Izzy Mohammed  
Alan Taylor  
Tom Tew  
Jude Walker

**Apologies:** Marion Blockley

**Speaking Observer:** Manisha Patel (Big Lottery Fund)

## 1. Chair's report

Oral

The Chair welcomed Carole Souter (Chief Executive) and Andrew Nathan (Head of Secretariat) (deputising for Sue Mellish) to the meeting.

He reported that this would be Reyahn King's last meeting before she took up a new post as Chief Executive of York Museums Trust. The Committee congratulated Reyahn on her appointment and expressed the hope she would keep in touch.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Alan Taylor declared conflicts of interest in:

- *Tamworth Assembly Rooms* (item 13) as he dealt with the listed building application for English Heritage and had had numerous discussions with the team.
- *Parish of Great Ness Church Tower restoration* (part of item 12) as he was a member of the Diocesan Advisory Council which recommended faculty for these works. He left the room whilst this item was determined.

Alan Taylor also mentioned that on a professional basis he knew members of the applicant teams for *Hanley Park* (item 23) and *Queen Street Gateway THI* (item 17) and the architect for The Old Toll House Restoration Project (item 10). He confirmed that he had not discussed and had no knowledge of the bids. The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

Marion Blockley had advised that had she been present she would have declared a conflict of interest in *Queen Street Gateway THI* (item 17) because her partner had worked for Wolverhampton City Council Conservation Team until he retired in September 2014.

## 3. Minutes of last meeting on 17 March 2015

CWM 2015 (2) 3

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting subject to:

- the inclusion of Jude Walker in the list of members present;
- minute 25 (v): altering 'not intend to apply for a change in approved purposes' to 'not intend to apply for a grant increase'

- minute 25 (vi) – altering the heading to read Shakespeare’s Birthplace **Trust** and replacing ‘regional Development Agency’ by ‘English Heritage’.

#### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### 5. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2015 (2) 4

Reyahn King presented an amended version of the budget paper which had already been circulated. The West Midlands budget for 2015-16 was £14,300,000 of which £8,400,000 had been allocated to Heritage Grants and Heritage Enterprise applications under £2m for Committee decision.

Assuming an equal division of the first round pass budget and the grants budget between the four meetings, the:

- grants budget for the meeting was £2,100,000. Applications totalling £5,763,000 had been received. The Committee noted that it could support all second round applications providing they met the quality and value for money standards.
- first round pass budget for the meeting was £2,100,000. Applications totalling £1,996,200 had been received which meant that all cases could be supported, but Committee members were requested to consider the future pipeline and the quality standards as they decided which projects to support.

She further tabled a schedule of applications received for the September meeting, as the deadline for these had been the previous Friday. At this stage there were seven First Round applications totalling £6.149 million, and Second Round applications totalling £4.1 million.

The Committee noted the report.

#### SF4 First round applications

- Heritage Grants

#### 6. Withdrawn item

#### 7. Virtuous Circles

CWM 2015 (2) 7

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Archbishops’ Council, Church of England sought a first round pass with development funding to explore the viability of and business model for inserting reversible accommodation pods into redundant churches. The Church of England had approximately 16,000 churches that were becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and upkeep. The focus of this pilot project was the redundant, Grade II listed St Michael’s Church at Dulas in rural Herefordshire which would become a holiday let for up to four people. Learning and participation opportunities would arise through training in traditional techniques and skills and apprenticeships.

The Committee agreed that the application was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £518,900 including a development grant of £49,700 (66% of total eligible development costs).

#### 8. Harnessing Steam: Black Country and the Birth of Steam Power

CWM 2015 (2) 8

Black Country Living Museum sought a first round pass of £933,900 including a development grant of £87,100 (75% of total eligible development costs) to tell the story of the rise of steam power and the key part played by the Black Country with live and operational exhibits. The project would put into context the full significance of the Museum’s existing replica of the Newcomen Steam engine. Capital works would include the construction of a Steam Power House next to the Newcomen replica to act as the interpretation hub for telling the story of the birth and evolution of steam power. An associated

programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered. The project was timed to participate in major national commemorative activities marking the bicentenary of James Watt's death in 2019 and also the museum's 40th anniversary as a visitor attraction in Spring 2018.

The Committee agreed that the application was a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application on the basis that it did not meet the quality threshold for support.

**9. Derek Evans: Herefordshire Life Through a Lens** **CWM 2015 (2) 9**

Catcher Media Social sought a first round pass including a development grant for a three-year oral history project examining the social aspects of Herefordshire life from 1950 to 1980 through the images of the Derek Evans photographic archive. Project outputs would include an exhibition of up to 30 key images from the Derek Evans photographic archive and the scanning and uploading of up to 5000 images from the archive onto the Herefordshire Histories website.

The Committee agreed that the application was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £342,900 including a development grant of £28,200 (68% of total eligible development costs).

- **Heritage Enterprise**

**10. The Old Toll House Restoration Project** **CWM 2015 (2) 10**

Stratford Historic Buildings Trust sought a first round pass including a development grant to restore the derelict, Grade I listed Toll House at the north end of Clopton Bridge in central Stratford-on-Avon and adapt the building for use as commercial office space. A demountable public exhibition about the history of the Toll House and Cox's Timber Yard would be installed in the lower ground floor during the delivery phase. The building was on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register as one of the top ten priority sites in the West Midlands.

The Committee agreed that the application was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £200,500, including a development grant of £10,500 (30% of total eligible development costs).

**11. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items** **Oral**

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

- Virtuous Circles (item 7); Derek Evans: Herefordshire Life Through a Lens (item 9) and The Old Toll House Restoration Project (item 10) were a high priority for support
- Harnessing Steam: Black Country and the Birth of Steam Power (item 8) was a medium priority for support

The Committee awarded first round passes with development funding to Virtuous Circles; Derek Evans: Herefordshire Life Through a Lens and The Old Toll House Restoration Project. Harnessing Steam: Black Country and the Birth of Steam Power (item 8) was rejected on the grounds that it did not meet the quality threshold.

- **Grants for Places of Worship**

**12. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands** **CWM 2015 (2) 12**

*Alan Taylor declared a conflict of interest and left the room during the determination of the application for Great Ness.*

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 first batch of applications for 2015/2016, six first round applications had been received in the West Midlands with a total grant request of £931,500. Two second round applications were received for St Mary the Virgin including an uplift of £7,800 (6%) on the first round pass and St Michael and All Angels, Knighton-on-Teme including an uplift of £14,800 (24%). Since second round uplifts had to be deducted from the available budget, the budget available for the first round applications to be considered at this meeting was £451,112.

The Committee made the following decisions:

Item	Project name	Applicant	Decision
<b>SF4 Second Round Applications</b>			
12i	Ullenhall- Church roof, tower and community access project	Ullenhall Parish Council	AWARD GRANT OF £143,700 (65%)
12ii	Knighton on Teme Church Bell Turret restoration	The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Knighton on Teme	AWARD GRANT OF £75,800 (73%)
<b>SF4 First round applications</b>			
12a.	Repairs to Grade 1 Listed Georgian Church and Enhanced Educational/Cultural use of the Building	St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £219,100 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £12,100 (48% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12b.	Repairs to Tower, Lady Chapel and Chancel, plus new heritage activities, and a new kitchen	St James the Great Parochial Church Council, Malvern	REJECT
12c.	Preserve the Legacy - Promote the Heritage	St Mary's Church, King's Pyon Parochial Church Council	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £142,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £12,000 (68% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
12d.	Maintenance and repairs arising from the quinquennial inspection and accompanying new works	Goodrich Church, Ross on Wye	REJECT
12e.	Church Tower Restoration	St Andrew's, Parish of Great Ness, Shrewsbury	REJECT
12f.	Urgent structural repairs to St Mary's Atherstone	St Mary's Atherstone, Parochial Church Council	REJECT

The cases marked:

- 12b and 12d were rejected in the light of the available budget
- 12e and 12f were was rejected due to insufficient urgency compared to others in the batch.

### **SP3 Second round applications**

- **Heritage Grants**

**13. Tamworth Assembly Rooms Heritage Project**

**CWM 2015 (2) 13**

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

Tamworth Borough Council sought funding towards Phase I of a project to conserve and improve intellectual and physical access to the Grade II listed Tamworth Assembly Rooms. The project formed part of a wider, separately funded project to build a two storey extension to the side and a single storey extension to the rear to further deliver art programmes and performances. The Committee had awarded a first round pass with development funding in June 2012. Due to the decision to deliver the new build elements in parallel with the HLF funded project, the intervention rate had decreased from 67% to 20% whilst the grant request was unchanged.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £903,400 (20% of total eligible delivery costs).

**14. Worcester Porcelain: Celebrating 250 years of Innovation, Industry and Craftsmanship**

**CWM 2015 (2) 14**

The Dyson Perrins Museum Trust sought funding to reorder the layout of the museum galleries and update interpretation. The wider aim was to diversify audiences in order to secure the Museum's longer term future. The Museum held a nationally important collection of ceramics and a range of tools, moulds, printing plates and social history material about the Royal Worcester factory from 1751 until the factory's closure in 2009. The project would also improve access to archive materials and deliver a programme of learning and participation opportunities.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,282,700 (86% of total eligible delivery costs).

### **SF4 Second round applications**

- **Heritage Grants**

**15. Drapers Hall**

**CWM 2015 (2) 15**

Drapers Hall Trust, in partnership with Coventry University, sought funding to restore, extend and provide the redundant Grade II\* listed Drapers Hall in Coventry with a new use as a music focused destination for performance, composition and technology. In addition, the heritage of the Hall would be researched and an associated programme of learning and participation opportunities delivered.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,990,400 (21% of total eligible delivery costs).

**16. Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, Stratford-upon-Avon**

**CWM 2015 (2) 16**

King Edward VI Grammar School (Stratford upon Avon) sought a grant to restore and provide public access to the Grade I listed, 15th Century Guildhall in Stratford upon Avon. The Guildhall would be made publicly accessible by improving facilities and increasing opening hours. Volunteering opportunities would be created and interpretation and learning enhanced.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,411,000 (79% of total eligible delivery costs).

### **SF4 Second round applications**

- **Townscape Heritage Grants**

**17. Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Scheme, Wolverhampton** **CWM 2015 (2) 17**

Wolverhampton City Council sought a grant for a Townscape Heritage Scheme focused on Queen

Street in the City Centre Conservation Area. Four of the nine high priority projects were Grade II listed buildings.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £864,100 (38% of total eligible delivery costs).

#### **SF4 First Round Board applications**

- **Heritage Grants: July Board**

#### **17a. Restoring Whixall Moss, Shropshire**

**CWM 2015 (2) 17a**

Shropshire Wildlife Trust sought a first round pass of £880,600 including a development grant of £105,800 (96% of total eligible development costs) to restore 40ha of land in Whixall (including industrially contaminated land) and manage it as lowland bog. The land would form part of over 1000ha of mosses and peatbogs in an existing Nature Reserve. Physical and intellectual access would be Improved and learning and participation opportunities delivered.

The Committee noted that this was a cross territory project to be delivered in England and Wales.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board. The Board would determine the application in July 2015.

- **Parks for People: June Board**

The Chair welcomed Manisha Patel (Regional Development Manager, Big Lottery Fund) to the meeting.

#### **18. Parks for People Overview**

**CWM 2015 (2) 18**

The Committee noted the overview. *Parks for People* was a UK wide bi-annual programme. In England the programme was jointly funded by Heritage Lottery Fund / Big Lottery Fund. The Committee noted that the funding available for applications from England during 2015/2016 was £30.7m rather than £30m due to a new accounting process for the programme which permitted unspent funds from the previous financial year to be ring-fenced and added to the next financial year's budget.

For this batch of applications, 14 first round applications with a total grant request of £25.94m had been received from England for a budget of £15.35m. There were three first round applications from the West Midlands and one second round application.

#### **19. Restoration of Heritage Features in West Smethwick Park**

**CWM 2015 (2) 19**

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council sought a first round pass of £4,830,700 including a development grant of £337,300 (88% of total eligible development costs) to restore and reinstate heritage features in West Smethwick Park and enhance visitor and leisure facilities. This 35 hectare Park contained a Grade II listed memorial to James Chance who had gifted the Park to the people of Smethwick in 1895. Capital works would include the restoration of the boating lake and upper pools including dams and rustic bridges. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would target disadvantaged groups, elderly people, those in further education, and people with disabilities. Activities to be delivered would include Asian festivals such as the popular Smethwick Mela.

The Committee's views would be reported to the HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee.

**20. Restoration of Victoria Park, Stafford****CWM 2015 (2) 20**

Stafford Borough Council sought a first round pass of £1,705,100 including a development grant of £185,800 (78% of total eligible development costs) to conserve and enhance Victoria Park in Stafford by returning it to its Edwardian design. This 2.77 hectare park contained several listed structures the Mottram Shelter and the County War Memorial, both Grade II listed. Capital works would include the conversion of a thatched building, adjacent to the River Sow, into a café with a riverside terrace. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would include horticultural apprenticeships.

The Committee's views would be reported to the HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee.

**21. London Road Cemetery, Coventry****CWM 2015 (2) 21**

Coventry City Council, in partnership with the Charterhouse Coventry Preservation Trust, sought a first round pass of £1,998,000 including a development grant of £305,800 (88% of total eligible development costs) to restore the historic features in the northern part of this Grade I listed arboretum cemetery located in Coventry and improve visitor facilities. The project was the second phase of a wider project to develop a Heritage Park linking to the adjacent Charterhouse grounds. Capital works would include repair and conversion of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel for community use and the repair of the Grade II listed Promenade walls which include two war memorials. A programme of learning and participation opportunities would also be delivered.

The Committee's views would be reported to the HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee.

**22. Prioritisation of items 19 to 21****Oral**

The Committee's views would be reported to the HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee.

**SP3 Second Round Board application**

- **Parks for People: June Board**

**23. Hanley Park, Stoke-on-Trent****CWM 2015 (2) 23**

Stoke on Trent City Council sought a grant of £4,579,300 (76% of total eligible delivery costs) to restore and increase participation in the Grade II listed Hanley Park. This 24 hectare, Thomas Mawson designed park was one of the largest Victorian public parks in the UK. Significant project elements would include refurbishment to bring back into use the main pavilion, boathouse and two lodges. An associated programme of learning and participation opportunities would be delivered. The HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee had awarded a first round pass of £4,920,000 including development funding of £420,000, 84% of eligible development costs, at the December 2012 Board.

The Committee's views would be reported to the HLF Board and BIG England Parks for People Committee.

**Papers for Discussion****24. Annual Review of Small Grants****CWM 2015 (2) 24**

Peter Morgan introduced this report which set out information on small grants schemes (awards up to £100,000) covering the 2014/15 financial year. The Board of Trustees had asked all Committees to report annually on small grants in their region and contribute to an annual report to the Board each year.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board.

**25. West Midlands Overview Report**

**CWM 2015 (2) 25**

Reyahn King presented the overview report for the period 3 March to 4 June 2015.

The Committee noted the report.

**Papers for Information**

**26. Corporate Update**

**Oral**

Anne Jenkins, Deputy Director of Operations, reported that Board minutes had been circulated separately, and that the April Board had allocated £98 million in Major Grants to nine projects. She further reported that the new Chair of the Board, Sir Peter Luff, was fully in post.

The Board noted the update.

**27. West Midlands Annual Report 2014-2015**

**CWM 2015 (2) 27**

Reyahn King introduced the report which summarised the team's performance against corporate standards, budget spend and development work, as well as a list of awards across the year.

The Committee noted the report.

**28. West Midlands Team Operating Plan 2015-2016**

**CWM 2015 (2) 28**

Reyahn King introduced this report which set out how the West Midlands Team's plans contributed to corporate goals.

The Committee noted the report.

**29. Communications Report**

**CWM 2015 (2) 29**

The Committee noted the communications report covering the period March 2015 to May 2015.

**30. West Midlands Communications Plan 2015-2016**

**CWM 2015 (2) 30**

The Committee noted the HLF West Midlands Communications Plan which outlined HLF corporate communications strategy and West Midlands communications strategy and activity for the period June 2015 to June 2016.

**31. Minutes of Regional & Country Chairs meeting held on 12 May 2015 CWM 2015 (2) 31**

The Committee noted the minutes.

**32. Any other business**

**Oral**

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Reyahn King for her contribution to the work of the Committee and of HLF and wished her well for the future.

**The next meeting will be held on 22 September 2015 in the Birmingham Office.**