

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 22 November 2016

CWM 2016 (4) 8

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for West Midlands held on 22 November at 10:00 am in 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 (items 3-6)

1. Welcome and apologies

Oral

The Chair welcomed:

- Manisha Patel, Big Lottery Fund representative attending for the Parks for People items.

2. Declarations of interest

Oral

Alan Taylor declared an interest in item 14 *Visitor Centre for Claymills Victorian Pumping Station* and item 20 *Longton Town Centre Townscape Heritage Programme* as he had worked with both applicant teams for many years and was in regular contact with them. He had not discussed either application with the applicants. Committee agreed that this constituted a conflict of interest for both items and he would be required to leave the room for each discussion.

Izzy Mohammed declared an interest in item 16.5 *Building a new future for Birchfield, Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield* as he had previously discussed a similar project idea with the applicant however this had been 2 years ago. Committee agreed that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

SF4 First Round applications for discussion and recommendation: Parks for People

3. Parks for People Overview

CWM 2016 (4) 3

Nine first round applications had been received in England for consideration by HLF and Big Lottery Fund, representing a total request of £24.81 million against a budget of £17.16 million. The West Midlands had received two first round applications. No second round applications had been received in the West Midlands.

4. The Restoration of Brough Park, Leek; PP-15-04505

CWM 2016 (4) 4

Applicant: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Request: First round pass of £2,697,400 including a development grant of £228,600 (80% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A programme of capital works, including a new community hub with visitor facilities, accompanied by events, activities and opportunities for volunteering would encourage visitors to use more than just the leisure centre and access underused areas of the park such as the nature reserve and woodland. Interpretation would orientate people and tell the story of the park and Leek's industrial heritage.

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

5. Restoration Stevens Park, Quarry Bank; PP-16-03070

CWM 2016 (4) 5

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 the historic features of the park and to improve infrastructure to meet community and visitor needs. The Whitehouse would be extended for community use, including a community meeting space, café and facilities and education spaces. Training and volunteer opportunities would be developed and a programme of activities delivered. These would be targeted towards harder to reach groups through partnerships with appropriate organisations. Recreational activities including sports, fitness coaching and tournaments would be developed.

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

6. Prioritisation

Oral

The relative priority of the applications had been made clear during the case by case discussions.

Reports

7. Chair's Report

Oral

The Chair provided the Committee with an update on developments and activities since the last meeting, which included:

- Observing a Finance Committee meeting
- Attending the Country and Regional Chairs meeting
- Project visits with Ros Kerlake during a visit to the West Midlands office
- Trips to Stratford to visit Shakespeare's New Place and the Swan Wing
- An event at the Pen Museum
- Attending the launch event for Coventry's bid for the City of Culture.

8. Minutes of last meeting on 6 September 2016

CWM 2016 (4) 8

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were none.

10. West Midlands Overview Report

CWM 2016 (4) 10

Vanessa Harbar presented the report, providing an overview of recent developments including:

- An update on progress with Board and Committee level cases.
- Key development activities, which included a walking tour of projects with the MP for Newcastle.

11. West Midlands Budget

CWM 2016 (4) 11

The Committee noted the paper.

Three Heritage Grant first round cases had been received totalling £2,675,800 against a budget of £2,982,300. There was sufficient budget to fund all applications if Committee considered the projects to be of high quality and that risks were acceptably managed.

SF4 First Round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

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

CWM 2016 (4) 12

Applicant: Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Request: First round pass of £201,400 including a development grant of £4,400 (85% of total eligible development costs)

Project: The project at Hardwick Green Meadows, an important, priority biodiversity area and the largest unprotected Mesotrophic Grassland (MG4) Floodplain meadow in Worcestershire, would focus on three main areas: protection and restoration; creating public access and community engagement. The project would aim to have the site designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) upon completion through a conservation management and restoration programme. The site would become one of the applicant's nature reserves with public access free of charge. A programme of specialist activities would be planned.

Committee agreed the project as a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £201,400 including a development grant of £4,400 (85% of total eligible development costs).

13. St Mary's – Music, Markets and Mortimers; HG-12-12616

CWM 2016 (4) 13

Applicant: Pembridge PCC

Request: First Round Pass of £725,500 including a development grant of £99,500 (67% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To carry out a major programme of capital works to St Mary's church and increase community involvement with the heritage of the Herefordshire village of Pembridge through events and activities based at the church and other buildings. A water supply, drainage and toilet facilities would be installed and disabled access improved.

The Committee agreed the project as a low priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

14. Visitor Centre for Claymills Victorian Pumping Station; HG-16-03589

CWM 2016 (4) 14

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

Applicant: Claymills Pumping Engines Trust Ltd.

Request: First round pass of £1,748,900 including a development grant of £56,100 (51% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To improve the site of a Grade II* listed Victorian pumping station, enhancing the visitor offer and helping to secure a sustainable future. A new two-storey visitor centre with appropriate interpretation, educational/study space and archive would be built. A café and toilet facilities would be included and would be accessible. Improved interpretation across the site and programmes of educational and training activities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,748,900 including a development grant of £56,100 (51% of total eligible development costs).

15. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items

Oral

During the case by case discussions, the Committee considered that:

- *Hardwick Green Meadows – an essential link in a historic landscape* (item 12) and *Visitor Centre for Claymills Victorian Pumping Station* (item 14) were high priorities for support
- *St Mary’s – Music, Markets and Mortimers* (item 13) was a low priority for support

The Committee agreed to award first round passes to both high priority applications. The remaining application was rejected due to concerns raised.

16. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

CWM 2016 (4) 16

Nine first round applications with a grant request of £1,443,400 were received against a regional budget of £715,600.

At the initial sift Historic England advised that four schemes did not demonstrate that the works required were urgently needed within the next two years. These cases were not taken forward for further assessment.

The remaining five cases had undergone a full assessment. Historic England had provided detailed technical advice to establish the urgency of the repair works. HLF assessment had also looked at how well the applications met outcomes for communities. These two factors were used to arrive at an overall priority for the batch.

There were insufficient funds to support all cases and Committee made the following decisions.

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Recommendation	Decision	Project Reference
16.1	Holy Trinity Minsterley: Heritage and Repair Project	Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £166,600 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £18,000 (74% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £166,600 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £18,000 (74% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	GP-14-07288
16.2	Repair and History of Holy Trinity Church Preston Wynne	Holy Trinity Church PCC Preston Wynne, Herefordshire	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £249,600 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £28,700 (66% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £249,600 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £28,700 (66% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	GP-16-02957

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Recommendation	Decision	Project Reference
16.3	Tong Twenty Twenty Vision - restoring St. Bartholomew's church	St. Bartholomew's PCC Tong	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £194,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £32,700 (82% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £194,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £32,700 (82% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	GP-16-00141
16.4	The Forbury Chapel Leominster	The Leominster Church Institute	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £94,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £5,200 (71% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS).	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £94,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £5,200 (71% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS).	GP-16-02151
16.5	Building A New Future For Birchfield	Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £250,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £38,300 (64% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £250,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £38,300 (64% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)	GP-16-02586
16.6	Gable Repairs to WW1 Memorial Chapel	Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon	REJECT	REJECT	GP-16-02563
16.7	The Church of St Giles, Barrow	St Giles, Barrow PCC	REJECT	REJECT	GP-15-06356
16.8	Thomas Telford's Finest Church	St Mary Magdalene PCC, Bridgnorth	REJECT	REJECT	GP-16-00906
16.9	Major repairs to Astley Norman Church	St Peter's Church Astley	REJECT	REJECT	GP-16-01916

SF4 Second round grant applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

17. Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape Scheme; HG-14-02637

CWM 2016 (4) 17

Grantee: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Request: A grant of £1,037,600 (81% of total eligible delivery costs)

Uplift: £8,400 (1%) due to general small increases to costs across the project.

Project: Part of a long-term 50-year vision to create a thriving landscape of connected and enhanced ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows, where people come in contact with and value their local natural heritage, learning new skills to become an integral part of its continuing transformation and restoration. Four existing visitor hubs would become 'Gateways' to the wider landscape. Improved interpretation emphasising elements of four new connected themes would create a connected view of the whole landscape area. Restoration conservation work would be undertaken, access improvements would be made and a programme of training and activities would engage people with the heritage.

First round pass: Committee awarded a first round pass of £1,146,100, including a development grant of £116,900 (63% of total eligible development costs) in December 2014.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £1,037,600 (81% of total eligible delivery costs).

SF4 Second round grant applications for discussion and decision: Landscape Partnership

18. South West Peak – a landscape at a crossroads; LP-13-06061

CWM 2016 (4) 18

Applicant: Peak District National Park Authority

Request: A grant of £2,409,300 (59% of total eligible delivery costs)

Uplift: None

Project: To preserve the distinctive landscape of the South West Peak (SWP), enhancing threatened ecosystems and re-instating natural features that slow the flow of water and improve its quality in a major watershed. Building better relationships with the different parties accessing the SWP was a key element of the project in order to conserve the landscape and create long-term sustainability through mutual understanding and cooperation.

First round pass: Board awarded a first round pass of £2,563,600 including a development grant of £154,300 (62% of total eligible development costs) in October 2014.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £2,409,300 (59% of total eligible delivery costs).

SF4 First Round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Townscape Heritage (January Board)

19. Townscape Heritage Overview Paper

CWM 2016 (4) 19

28 first round applications had been received across the regions and countries, totalling a request of £43 million against a budget of £18 million. One application had been received in the West Midlands.

20. Longton Town Centre Townscape Heritage Programme; TH-16-02149

CWM 2016 (4) 20

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

Applicant: City of Stoke on Trent

Request: First round pass of £1,995,000 including a development grant of £20,000 (50% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To deliver a significant townscape heritage programme in Longton, the second largest and youngest of the six towns that comprised the Potteries. Two high priority properties, 26 medium and 30 reserve properties had been identified. Spread across the conservation area the corridor of identified properties would fall along the main roads running through the town centre. Capital works would be delivered, a TH Project Officer would be recruited for a five year contract, and a series of heritage events and a learning programme would be delivered.

The Committee recommended the application as a **HIGH** priority. The Townscape Heritage Delegated Decision Panel of the Board would determine the application in January 2017.

Papers for Information

21. Communications Report

CWM 2016 (4) 21

The report highlighted the key activities that had taken place in the region. The evaluation of the Routes2Roots project was due to be completed in December 2016.

22. Equality Steering Group Annual Report

CWM 2016 (4) 22

The Committee noted the report.

23. Corporate Update

CWM 2016 (4) 23

Anne Jenkins introduced the report updating the Committee on the key corporate business issues. Committee noted that the Heritage Index 2016 had been released by the RSA, in partnership with HLF.

24. Regional and Country Chairs minutes of 11 October meeting

CWM 2016 (4) 24

The Committee noted the minutes.

25. Overview of Single Round Grants and Delegated Decision Making

CWM 2016 (4) 25

The Committee noted the report.

26. Any other business

Oral

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 28 February 2017 in the Birmingham Office.