

Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for West Midlands Meeting on 6 September 2016

CWM (3) 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for West Midlands held on 6 September at 10:00 a.m. at Dudley Zoological Gardens, Castle Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4QF

Members:

- Sue Beardsmore (Chair)
- Marion Blockley
- Rachel Chiu
- Jude Pilgrim
- Alan Taylor
- Tom Tew (Trustee)
- Alison Wedgwood

Apologies:

- Izzy Mohammed

Committee Business

1. Welcome and apologies

Oral

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Dudley Zoological Gardens.

2. Chair's report

Oral

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

- Attending a dinner to commemorate the contribution of Indian soldiers during World War I, at which the Indian High Commissioner had spoken.
- Shakespeare's New Place was now open.
- The West Midlands team had received a number of expressions of interest in the Great Place scheme.

3. Declarations of interest

Oral

Marion Blockley declared conflicts of interest in:

- **Item 10 - Home Hub Spaces** as she has continued to work with the applicant on the restoration and interpretation of the steam engine at Middleport Pottery over the past year.
- **Item 20 – Restoring the Montgomery Canal** as she had produced the Activity Plan for this project.

Marion Blockley declared an interest in St Dubricius Church (GPOW application – item 13.b) as she had liaised with them on a visitor experience strategy for the Wye Valley for a previous HLF bid more than 5 years ago. Committee were content this did not represent a conflict of interest.

Alan Taylor declared an interest in Wildlife and Wellbeing in Wychavon (item 9) as he knew the project manager. Committee were content this did not represent a conflict of interest.

4. Minutes of last meeting on 7 June 2016

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

Oral

There were none.

6. West Midlands Overview Report

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

7. West Midlands Budget

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The Committee noted the paper.

Four Heritage Grant first round cases had been received totalling £3,607,800 against a budget of £2.8m. Committee noted that the round was competitive and prioritisation would be required.

SF4 First Round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

8. Falling Sands Viaduct: Restoring and learning about an iconic railway structure

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Applicant: Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

Request: First round pass of £902,200 including a development grant of £41,400 (76% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A two-part project to restore and stabilise the Falling Sands Viaduct and an associated programme of engagement and education. The viaduct would be sympathetically restored and stabilised, enabling continuing rail operations. Local groups would be engaged through a programme of interpretation and an apprentice recruited, developing heritage skills.

Committee agreed the project as a medium priority for support and in light of the concerns raised **REJECTED** the application. Committee noted that a strengthened resubmission that addressed these concerns would be welcomed.

9. Wildlife and Wellbeing in Wychavon

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Applicant: Wychavon District Council

Request: First Round Pass of £270,200 including a development grant of £35,900 (61% of total eligible development costs)

Project: Four nature reserves in Wychavon (Stoulton Woodland, Broadway Gravel Pit, Droitwich Community Woodlands and Avon Meadows Local Nature Reserve) would be enhanced for the wellbeing of local people and wildlife. The project would recruit and train volunteers, develop and deliver community education and engagement activities and work with local schools to enable the reserves to be used as outdoor classrooms. Conservation work would be undertaken and management plans would be developed for each site.

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

10. Home Hub-Spaces: Engagement in Heritage

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

Applicant: United Kingdom Historic Building Preservation Trust

Request: First round pass of £1,099,900 including a development grant of £125,400 (89% of total eligible development costs)

Project: The restoration of eleven Harper Street houses, saving the last undeveloped Victorian pottery workers' terrace in the Local Conservation area from demolition. The buildings would be reconfigured and refurbished. A research centre, archive and heritage centre would be created, including workshops for crafts people and community meeting spaces. A programme of activities would be delivered and a ceramics collection would be acquired and catalogued. Student placements and volunteering opportunities would be created.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,099,900 including a development grant of £125,400 (89% of total eligible development costs).

11. The Wigmore Interpretive and Heritage Centre

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Applicant: The Wigmore Centre

Request: First round pass of £1,335,500 including a development grant of £171,700 (93% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To re-order and adapt the Church of St James, providing a sustainable future by repurposing it as an interpretive and heritage centre. The facilities would serve the local community whilst also enhancing the tourist offer for the area. The Centre would be a flexible, multi-functioning space offering a range of services, including a live performance space, meeting rooms, conference spaces, a community café and a recording studio. Activities delivered through the Centre would be broad ranging and interactive to provide a variety of learning and development opportunities.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,335,500 including a development grant of £171,700 (93% of total eligible development costs)

12. Prioritisation of and feedback on first round items

Oral

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

- Home Hub-Spaces: Engagement in Heritage (item 10) and The Wigmore Interpretive and Heritage Centre (item 11) were high priorities for support
- Falling Sands Viaduct: Restoring and learning about an iconic railway structure (item 8) and Wildlife and Wellbeing in Wychavon (item 9) were medium priorities for support.

During prioritisation it was agreed that Home Hub Spaces (item 10) and The Wigmore Interpretive and Heritage Centre (item 11) were the highest priorities and were awarded first round passes.

Falling Sands Viaduct (item 8) was rejected following concerns that community engagement and interpretation plans were not sufficiently strong. A resubmission would be welcomed.

Wellbeing in Wychavon (item 9) was rejected due to concerns that the application was underdeveloped.

13. Applications for Places of Worship in the West Midlands

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Four first round applications with a grant request of £565,100 were received against a budget of £523,900.

All four applications were taken forward at the initial sift, and 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 four cases and Committee made the following decisions.

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
13a.	Repairs to Tower, Lady Chapel and Chancel, plus new heritage activities, and a new kitchen	St James the Great PCC	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £178,000 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £18,000 (75% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
13b.	St Dubricius Church, Hentland: Conservation Works	Parochial Church Council of Hentland & Hoarwithy	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £137,500 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £14,000 (65% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
13c.	St Laurence Alvechurch High level repairs	St Laurence Church, Alvechurch	REJECT
13d.	St Mary Magdalene Repairs and Development Project	St Mary Magdalene Quatford	REJECT

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

One second round application had been received that requested an uplift above the threshold for decision at delegated Batch level.

The Committee made the following decision on the SF4 Second Round application:

Item	Project Title	Applicant	Decision
13e.	Phase 1: repair of bell tower masonry and roof retiling, installation of central heating	St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine	AWARD GRANT OF £181,400 (62%) INCLUDING UPLIFT OF £34,900 (24%)

SP3 Grant increase for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

14. Craven Lane Hall refurbishment

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Grantee: Heart of England Community Foundation

Request: A grant increase of £105,800 to make a total grant of £471,700 (92% of total revised project costs)

Project: To conserve and restore Craven Lane Hall, located in Southam Conservation Area. The Hall was a rare First World War military billet hut. The Hall was 'at risk' of loss to the community. The project would also research the Hall's history and a programme of learning and participation opportunities, aimed at widening audiences, would be delivered.

Second round award: Committee awarded a grant of £365,900 (91% of total eligible delivery costs) in March 2014.

Key changes: Unexpected legal costs and related delays had resulted in increased project costs from £400,318 to £512,178.

Committee **AWARDED** a grant increase of £105,800 to make a total grant of £471,700 (92%).

SF4 First Round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Enterprise (September Board)

15. Moreton Hall Restoration and Hotel Training School Project

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Applicant: Warwickshire College

Request: First round pass of £5,000,000 including a development grant of £635,100 (100% of total eligible development costs)

Project: Restoration of the Grade II Listed Moreton Hall, converting it into a commercially operating boutique hotel and a hospitality training academy. Capital works would restore the house and reinstate the gardens. A range of activities would be delivered, including schools outreach activities, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities, local engagement through tours and the development of weekend leisure courses.

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

SF4 First Round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Landscape Partnerships: October Board

16. Landscape Partnerships Overview Paper

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Simon Lewis presented the overview paper. The Committee noted that the first round Landscape Partnerships budget for 2016 was £25m. 19 applications had been received across the countries and regions with a total first-round grant request (inclusive of development funding) of £40.17m. The West Midlands had received 3 applications.

17. The Vale of Evesham - the market garden on the banks of the River Avon

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Applicant: Worcestershire County Council

Request: First round pass of £2,410,000 including a development grant of £229,300 (69% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To reveal the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Vale of Evesham and the Avon floodplain, so it can be better understood by local people, visitors and future generations. 17 projects would be delivered across four programmes of work to improve access to fruit orchards and market gardens. Meadows, wetlands, wet grasslands and woodland habitat would be restored. A range of activities would be delivered, interpreting and celebrating the landscape's past. Volunteering, research and skills training opportunities would be created.

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

18. Transforming the Trent Valley

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Applicant: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Request: First round pass of £2,976,200 including a development grant of £256,300 (67% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To deliver a more connected, higher quality and resilient landscape where the heritage was better understood, interpreted and valued by visitors and local people. A wetland landscape of national importance for wildlife and recreation would be created through the enhancement of the rivers, the reconnection of their floodplains and a coordinated programme of quarry restoration. Community workshops would feed local decision-making into the strategy. Volunteering and education programmes would be delivered.

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

19. The Wrekin Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme

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Applicant: Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Request: First round pass of £1,961,600 including a development grant of £145,800 (90% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five year scheme delivering two major projects: rationalising and slowing of visitor traffic and a new visitor centre and car park.

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

SF4 Second Round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (September Board)

20. Restoring the Montgomery Canal as a resource for people and wildlife

CWM 2016 (3) 20

It was noted that the grant request on the case paper presented to Committee was incorrect and that the amount requested was £2,525,000 (63% of eligible delivery costs).

Grantee: Canal & River Trust

Request: A grant of £2,525,000 (63% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: Capital restoration works to improve the navigability of the canal for narrowboats, the creation of nature reserves, and repairs to built heritage features. An active programme of events, volunteering and training would be delivered to engage people with the historical and ecological significance of the canal.

First round pass: Board awarded a first round pass of £3,910,200 including a development grant of £160,200 (82% of total eligible development costs) in September 2013

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

Papers for Information

21. Corporate Update

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Committee noted the report.

22. Communications Report

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Committee noted the report.

23. Any other business

Oral

There was none.

The next meeting will be held on 22 November 2016 in the Birmingham Office.