

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the West Midlands Meeting on 20 September 2011

**Summary report of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 at 9.30 a.m. in the Birmingham Office, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank House, 8 Cherry Street, Birmingham B2 5AL**

**Members** Les Sparks OBE (Chairman)  
Harriet Devlin  
Kathy Gee  
Ian Grosvenor  
Clive Harris  
Jenni Ord (for items 5 to 24)  
Susan Vaile (for items 5 to 24)

**Shadow Members** Paulette Francis-Green

**1. Chairman's Report** **Oral**

The Chairman welcomed the former Committee shadow, Tariq Khan, who had joined the West Midlands team as a Development Officer.

**2. Minutes of last meeting on 21 June 2011** **CWM 2011 (3) 2**

The minutes were approved, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes** **Oral**

Item 5iii) Officers confirmed that mystery shopper visits had to be completed by 31 March 2012 and confirmed that briefings would be provided.

**4. Communications Report** **CWM 2011 (3) 4**

The Committee noted the Communications Report for the period May to August 2011. It was reported that the first round pass for the Stiperstones Landscape Partnership had been featured on Midlands Today.

**5. West Midlands Overview Report** **CWM 2011 (3) 5**

Anne Jenkins, Head of Region, presented the overview of the work of the West Midlands Team for the period June to early September 2011. A list of the pre-applications received since the last meeting was tabled. The Committee was informed that:

i) Meetings and Visits

Shabana Mahmood, MP for Ladywood, had recently visited the Coffin Works.

A meeting with Shropshire County Council to discuss changes in the organisation was scheduled for the week commencing 3 October 2011.

ii) Story of the Nation

The HLF funded small grants programme associated with this BBC series would be launched after the series had been broadcast in April/May 2012.

iii) Your Heritage Application Outcomes

The level of competition for Your Heritage grants continued to be extremely high across HLF: the next small grants meeting for the West Midlands alone would consider applications totalling £595,000 for a budget of approximately £150,000. Many applications were now being rejected because of insufficient funds. There would be an opportunity for the Committee to consider viring additional funds to the programme later in the year.

iv) Between Meeting Recommendation

The Committee would be asked to consider and make a between meeting recommendation to the November 2011 Board meeting on an application for a grant of approximately £4.7m from Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust for Hartlebury Castle & Hurd Library.

Members emphasised the benefits of having an opportunity to discuss the application. It was agreed that members would discuss the project via email, telephone and for those who were able meeting informally at the office before returning the voting forms.

v) Project Shadows for Second Round Applications – December 2011

Echoes from the Heart	Clive Harris
REP100	Kathy Gee
East Park, Wolverhampton	Harriet Devlin

**6. West Midlands Budget**

**CWM 2011 (3) 6**

Anne Jenkins presented the report which set the context for the Committee's decision taking in 2011/2012 financial year.

The notional grants budget for the meeting was £1,221,568 for applications totalling £656,900. The notional first round pass budget for the meeting was £1,930,668 for applications totalling £2,700,900. The Committee noted the pipeline of applications for future meetings and noted that the budget was sufficient to allocate funds to all applications meeting the quality threshold at the September meeting.

**7. Declarations of interest**

**Oral**

Item 16 Worcester Porcelain: Kathy Gee mentioned that she knew the Chair of Dyson Perrins Museum Trust as he was also Chair of Avoncroft Museum Trust where she was a Trustee. She confirmed that she had not discussed the application with him and had no prior knowledge of the project. The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

Item 12 Moor Pool Heritage Project: Ian Grosvenor pointed out that in several places the paper referenced the applicant's plans to develop links / involve his employer, Birmingham University, in the project. He confirmed that he had no involvement or prior knowledge of the project. The Committee was content that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

**SP3 Second round applications for discussion and decision**

**8. Unlocking the Heritage of Warwick**

**CWM 2011 (3) 8**

DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £367,700 (77%)

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

A first round pass of £339,700 including a development grant of £48,400 was awarded in March 2010.

The Committee awarded *Unlocking the Heritage of Warwick* a grant of £367,700 (77%).

**9 Pugin 2012 Bicentenary Celebrations CWM 2011 (3) 9**  
DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £153,100 (65%)

Urban Vision North Staffordshire sought funding to deliver a twelve month programme of activities and events to mark the bicentenary of the birth of A.W.N Pugin, one of the most influential architects and designers of the C19<sup>th</sup>. A diverse programme of learning, participation and volunteering opportunities designed to engage a wide range of audiences and a schools programme would be delivered. The project would focus on the buildings he designed in North Staffordshire including Cotton Hall, St Giles' Church in Cheadle, Alton Towers and Alton Castle.

A first round pass of £104,100 including a development grant of £8,900 had been awarded in December 2010.

The Committee awarded *Pugin 2012 Bicentenary Celebrations* a grant of £153,100 (65%).

**10 Prioritisation of second round items Oral**

The Committee awarded grants to *Unlocking the Heritage of Warwick* (item 8) and *Pugin 2012 Bicentenary Celebrations* (item 9).

**SP3 First round applications for discussion and decision**

**11 Centre of Refurbishment Excellence CWM 2011 (3) 11**  
DECISION: FIRST ROUND PASS OF £761,500 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £11,500 (28% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

Stoke on Trent City Council sought funding to redevelop and restore the Grade II listed former Enson Pottery Works in Longton. The scheme formed part of a wider £11.4m project involving new build elements to create a Centre for Refurbishment Excellence (CoRE). The site would become a training facility and lecture space offering training in building refurbishment with the aim of helping to regenerate existing building stock making it fit for modern day use. The project aimed to provide a series of buildings at risk of collapse with a new sustainable use.

The Committee rejected the application on the basis that the project was considered high risk at this stage, did not fully satisfy all of the HLF criteria and did not offer value for money.

**13 Multistory - Museum Collections Centre CWM 2011 (3) 13**  
DECISION: FIRST ROUND PASS OF £999,600 INCLUDING A DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £51,100 (56% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)

The British Motor Industry Heritage Trust sought funding to improve physical and intellectual access to, and the environmental conditions of, its reserve car collection through the provision of a new Museum Collection Centre and volunteer programme. This internationally important collection comprised almost 300 vehicles of which up to 200 could be displayed at any one time with the remainder forming part of the museum's reserve collection, housed in contained storage units on site with limited public access. The Centre's archive contained the world's largest collection relating to the British motor industry including business records, sales and technical material, film and videos.

The Committee agreed that *Multistory - Museum Collections Centre* was a high priority for support and awarded a first round pass of £999,600 including a development grant of £51,100 (56% of total eligible development costs).

#### **14 Prioritisation of first round items**

**Oral**

The Committee had rejected *Moor Pool Heritage Project* (item 12) during the case by case discussions.

The Committee agreed that *Centre of Refurbishment Excellence* (item 11) and *Multistory – Museum Collections Centre* (item 13) were a high priority for support and awarded first round passes with development funding to both applications.

### **SP3 Second round Board application: September meeting**

#### **15 Bees for Everyone**

**CWM 2011 (3) 15**

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust sought a grant of £340,000 (43%) for a three year project to conserve bumblebee species and their habitats across Scotland, England and Wales whilst providing a wide range of participation and learning activities. In the past 70 years bee populations had declined, two species had become extinct and their habitats had declined by 97%. Seven of the 24 bumblebee species remaining in the UK were listed as UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Bees were fundamental to the ecosystem and were a crucial element in crop production: the total value of insect pollination to the UK economy was in excess of £400m annually.

The Board had awarded a first round pass of £322,000 without a development grant in March 2011.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board, which would decide whether to award a grant.

### **SP3 First round Board applications: September Meeting**

#### **16 Worcester Porcelain: Celebrating 250 years of Innovation, Industry and Craftsmanship**

**CWM 2011 (3) 16**

Dyson Perrins Museum Trust sought a first round pass of £2,969,500 including a development grant of £288,700 (86% of total eligible development costs) to redevelop, re-interpret and re-vitalise the Worcester Porcelain Museum. Access to archive materials would be improved and a programme of learning, participation and volunteering opportunities delivered. The original Worcester porcelain company was the oldest porcelain manufacturer in Britain. The Museum's nationally important collection contained over 10,000 ceramic pieces, Royal Worcester's pattern books, manufacturing artefacts and social history material covering the period from the founding of the company in 1751 through to 2009 when production ceased.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board, which would decide whether to award a grant.

#### **17 Reconnection Offa's Dyke - New Light on a Dark Age**

**CWM 2011 (3) 17**

The Rural Media Company sought a first round pass of £752,300 including a development grant of £50,000 (68% of eligible total development costs) for a project to improve understanding and conservation of Offa's Dyke and explore its cultural legacy in marking the origins of England and Wales as separate nations by bringing together local communities, heritage specialists and creative professionals. The Dyke, an 8th Century bank and ditch running along the English/Welsh border, was Britain's longest Scheduled Ancient monument stretching 130 miles from Treuddyn in

north east Wales to Sedbury Cliffs on the Severn Estuary, Gloucestershire. The monument ran through three Areas of Outstanding National Beauty and a National Park. A network of trained community volunteers engaged in practical conservation management of the monument would be established. Project outputs would include audio-visual material and educational resources and a programme of community archaeology, events, screenings and exhibitions.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board, which would decide whether to award a grant.

## **18 The Magnificent Severn**

**CWM 2011 (3) 18**

Shropshire Wildlife Trust, as lead applicant for a partnership involving the Wildlife Trusts of Gloucestershire, Montgomeryshire and Worcestershire, sought a first round pass of £701,100 including a development grant of £99,700 (91% of total eligible development costs) to deliver a three year activity based project to work with people living in riverside cities, towns and villages to help them understand the impact that their lifestyle has on the river and how they can make positive changes to improve the river for people and wildlife in the face of a changing climate. Volunteers would be recruited and trained to run much of the project which fitted well with Sir John Lawton's *Making Space for Nature* report. The River Severn was at 354km Great Britain's longest river flowing from Plynlimon near Llandidloes in mid Wales to the Severn Estuary in Gloucestershire.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board, which would decide whether to award a grant.

### **SP3 First round Board application: November meeting**

## **19 The John Muir Award in England**

**CWM 2011 (3) 19**

The John Muir Trust sought a first round pass of £347,400 including a development grant of £8,600 (41% of eligible development costs) towards a five year project to implement the successful John Muir Award educational programme in Scotland and Wales across England. The programme supported and encouraged people on an individual and group level to connect, enjoy, and care for wild places and presented them with an award to recognise their achievements. The applicant anticipated that the project would reach 90,000 new participants (90% under 25 and 25% from socially excluded backgrounds), both individuals and groups and aimed to establish a wide range of partnerships to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes.

The Committee's views would be reported to the Board, which would decide whether to award a grant.

### **Papers for information**

## **20 NHMF/HLF Board Business**

**CWM 2011 (3) 20**

Sheena Vick, Deputy Director of Operations, presented the report. The Committee noted that the:

- Board would discuss a proposal to change the delegation level to Committees at its September 2011 meeting. The Committee welcomed this proposal.
- Catalyst, joint HLF, DCMS, Arts Council (England) initiative, would be launched at the end of September 2011.

## **21 Value for Money**

**CWM 2011 (3) 21**

The Committee noted the report.

**22 Annual Report of the Equality Steering Group**

**CWM 2011 (3) 22**

The Committee noted the report.

**Papers for discussion**

**23 Towards HLF's next Strategy 2013-20**

**CWM 2011 (3) 23**

The Committee received the report which presented the conclusions drawn from the consultation undertaken to inform HLF's strategy for 2013-2019. The Board had discussed the report in July 2011 and agreed that further work should be undertaken to bring forward options for discussion at their October 2011 meeting. Country and Regional Committees were invited to discuss the report. Regional Chairs would also have an opportunity to discuss at their meeting scheduled for 11 October 2011.

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

**24 Any Other Business**

**CWM 2011 (3) 24**

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held on **6 December 2011**