

# Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North West Meeting on 17 September 2008

CNW 2008 (3) Minutes

## Summary Report of the meeting of the Committee for the North West on 17 September 2008 in the Marion Dorn Room, Midland Hotel, Marine Road, Morecambe, LA4 4BU at 9am

**Members** Jennifer Latto (Chair)  
Ian Bancroft  
Neville Brownlee  
Mike Emmerich  
Edmund Southworth  
John Whittle  
Roger James

### 1. Chair's report Oral

The Chair thanked members for their input after visits to the projects under consideration and for attending public openings in their advocacy capacity.

The Chair reported that the Head of Region had been engaged in a large number of strategic meetings in the region. Further consideration was being given to the best way of building on these regional partnerships.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting on 5 June 2008 CNW 2008 (3) 2

The minutes were approved and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes Oral

i) Minutes of the Regional and Country Chairs meeting on 6 May 2008 (item 25)

It was noted that representatives of Grant Thornton had interviewed three Committee Chairs during the governance audit. The Audit Committee meeting of October 2008 and the Board meeting of November 2008 were scheduled to receive the audit report.

### 4. North West Overview CNW 2008 (3) 4

Sara Hilton (Head of Region) presented the report. She highlighted the following:

- *Postcards from the Park*: The date of the exhibition in Birkenhead was under review (*later confirmed as Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10.30-12*)
- DCMS Regional Review: The disbanding of the regional cultural consortia and recent changes in the structure of Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and other regional bodies had reduced strategic capacity in the region at a time when culture was high on the government agenda.
- Visits and Openings: The Chair and Head of Region had met the new NW Heritage Skills Ambassador for the Centre for Construction Innovation, Heather Emery. The importance of accrediting heritage skills was emphasised. The Chair of Trustees and Chief Executive were attending the opening of Victoria Baths on 17 September 2008. The launch date of 21 November in Burnley had been changed to Tuesday 25 November 2008.

- HLF was hosting a fringe meeting to explore the concept of Britishness at the Labour Party Conference on 22 September 2008.
- Applications and Funding Decisions: Strategic Plan 3 (SP3) had started and applications received. A slight under commitment on small grants particularly Young Roots would be considered at management's next six monthly review meeting. The Head of Region undertook to give the Committee an update on Young Roots at the next meeting.

*The meeting adjourned for the Parks for People (England) North West Committee meeting at 9.45am and resumed at 11.30pm.*

## **5. Project Allocations CNW 2008 (3) 5**

There were no project visiting allocations as all the case papers for consideration at the next meeting would be stage one SP3 applications not requiring visits.

## **6. North West Budget CNW 2008 (3) 6**

Sara Hilton (Head of Region) presented the report.

The regional budget for Heritage Grants in 2008-9 was £9.44m allowing £1.989m per quarterly meeting. The budget for the June 2008 meeting had been underspent as the value of grants awarded was £371k. The Committee agreed to review the cases for this meeting and make a decision based on the quality of those applications rather than agree in advance to allocate all the under-spend from the June 2008 meeting to this meeting or apportion it across the three remaining meetings at this point.

## **7. Declarations of interest**

Edmund Southworth declared that although his employer, Lancashire County Council, had advised the applicant he had no knowledge of and had played no part in developing the application nor would he be involved in the future. On this basis it was agreed that he could participate in the discussion and decision.

### **Case papers for discussion and decision – List A**

## **8. Restoration and Conservation of the Old Station Building CNW 2008 (3) 8 Longridge; HG-07-01682 DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £221,600**

Longridge Town Council sought funding to restore, refurbish and convert for community use the old Station Building in Longridge, near Preston. The Station, built in 1872 - closed in 1967, was a rare example of a small market town railway station that had survived almost intact. The Station was currently in a dilapidated condition, partly empty and partly used for storage and Town Council office space.

The Committee awarded a grant of £221,600 (43% of eligible costs).

## **9. Keswick Museum and Art Gallery; HG-08-00215/1 CNW 2008 (3) 9 DECISION: 1. AWARD STAGE ONE PASS OF £1,214,000 2. AWARD GRANT OF £55,000 (DEVELOPMENT FUNDING)**

Allerdale Borough Council (ABC), on behalf of Keswick Museum and Art Gallery Trust and North Pennines Heritage Trust, sought a stage one pass with development funding to repair and redevelop Keswick Museum and Art Gallery's (KMAG) building and to enhance displays, visitor facilities and activity space.

The Museum is Cumbria's oldest purpose – built museum and art gallery which first opened in 1898. The Museum's building was being put forward for listing as Grade II and for inclusion within the Keswick Conservation Area. The Museum was a Registered Museum housing a mixed collection of locally and regionally significant items such as information relating to the Abrahams Brothers who were important pioneers in photography of the Lakes. The Museum also housed nationally important items relating to the Lakeland poets and a unique collection of stone lithophones. The project would allow the Mountain Heritage Trust's (MHT) large collection of nationally and internationally important objects and manuscripts relating to the mountaineering heritage of the UK, such as those related to early British expeditions to Everest, to be brought out of storage and put on public display.

The Committee awarded a stage one pass of £1,214,000 (66% of eligible costs) and development funding of £55,000 (55% of eligible costs).

**10. Hale Youth Centre Restoration & Renovation; HG-07-01651 CNW 2008 (3) 10**  
DECISION: REJECT

Hale Youth Centre (HYC) sought a grant of £333,700 (60% of eligible costs) to repair the Youth Centre, restore historic features, upgrade facilities and improve access of the Centre. The grant would also allow for the recruitment of a part time centre manager and two part time youth workers for 2 years. The Centre occupied part of The School House a Grade II listed building within a Conservation Area in the historic village of Hale in the borough of Halton. The building had an unbroken tradition of use by young people stretching back to the C.19<sup>th</sup> when it was constructed to serve as the village school. The repair and refurbishment works were expected to render the Centre 'fit for purpose' so that it could be enjoyed by future generations.

The Committee rejected the application on the grounds that the activity and participation elements needed further work.

**11. Burton Manor Walled Kitchen Garden; HG-07-01718 CNW 2008 (3) 11**  
DECISION: AWARD GRANT OF £488,200

Burton Manor College (BMC) sought funding to restore the walls and south greenhouse of Burton Manor's kitchen garden. The project would also introduce safe access to the ice house, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, situated to the rear of the Manor. Burton Manor and Gardens were both Grade II listed whilst the whole estate lay within the Burton Conservation Area. The glasshouses had special heritage merit as they had been designed by Foster and Pearson.

The Committee awarded a grant of £488,200 (60% of eligible costs) subject to the special conditions recommended at the meeting.

**12. Rochdale: Renewing Our Co-operative Heritage; HG-08-00031/1 CNW 2008 (3) 12**  
DECISION: 1. AWARD STAGE ONE PASS OF £1,449,000  
2. AWARD GRANT OF £136,700 (DEVELOPMENT FUNDING)

*The priority and risk boxes which had been omitted from the case paper were tabled.*

The Co-operative Heritage Trust sought a stage one grant with development funding to conserve and improve access to the Rochdale Pioneers Museum located in 31 Todd Lane, Rochdale; the location of the Rochdale Pioneers (founders of the Co-operative Movement) first shop opened in 1844. The building was Grade II listed and located in a Conservation Area.

The project would also conserve the most important items in the National Co-operative Archive (a designated archive) and improve physical and intellectual access to the archive. The archive contained key co-operative collections such as the Robert Owen letters, original Pioneers' Minute Books and early film of the internationally important Co-operative Movement.

The Committee awarded a stage one pass of £1,449,000 (68% of eligible costs) with a development grant of £136,700 (67% of eligible costs).

- 13. Conishead Priory Restoration Project Phase II; HG-07-01708/1 CNW 2008 (3) 13**  
DECISION: 1. AWARD STAGE ONE PASS £899,000  
2. AWARD GRANT OF £95,000 (DEVELOPMENT FUNDING)

New Kadampa Tradition (NKT) - International Kadampa Buddhist Union sought a stage one pass with development funding for Phase II of restoration works at Conishead Priory; a Grade II\* listed Priory situated near Ulverston in South Cumbria with fantastic views across Morecambe Bay. The Priory was a Victorian Gothic house built in 1823 which had originally been used as a hydropathic hotel and convalescent home for Durham coal miners. It was rescued in 1976 by NKT for use as a Buddhist residential teaching college. The site comprised the main house, a contemporary temple and 70 acres of grounds which incorporate formal gardens, various C18<sup>th</sup> and C19<sup>th</sup> built features, and extensive woodland including an arboretum.

Phase II would complete urgent repairs (identified in a quinquennial report) to the high level fabric of the Priory including the landmark towers and the chapel roof, and restore the links between the house and the grounds by carrying out landscaping works, and reinstating the main entrance through the Chapel. This Phase also provided an opportunity to create a new exhibition and education space in the Chapel and improve visitor facilities allowing the extension of the Priory's heritage education programmes.

The Committee awarded a stage one pass of £899,000 (52.2% of eligible costs), with development funding of £95,000 (49.8% of eligible costs).

- 14. New Beginnings – Bolton Museums: HG-07-01680/1 CNW 2008 (3) 14**

This application had been withdrawn.

#### **14a. Prioritisation of Heritage Grants Cases**

The Committee confirmed that:

- Restoration and Conservation of the Old Station Building (item 8), Longridge Keswick Museum and Art Gallery (item 9), Burton Manor Walled Kitchen Garden (item 11), Rochdale: Renewing Our Co-operative Heritage (item 12) and Conishead Priory Restoration Project Phase II (item 14) were high priority for support.
- Hale Youth Centre Restoration & Renovation (item 10) should be rejected.

Since the total value of all the high priority cases was £4.558m, the Committee agreed that all the unused funding from the June meeting should be allocated to this meeting giving a budgetary total of £4.349m. Since the total cost of the high priority cases was within the permissible 20% tolerance in the budget available, the Committee agreed that grants should be awarded to all the high priority case.

#### **Board case papers for discussion Heritage Grants**

- 15. Ordsall Hall; HF-06-00532/2 CNW 2008 (3) 15**

Salford City Council (SCC) sought a grant of £4,134,000 to repair and restore the fabric of Ordsall Hall, Salford and develop the grounds into a landscape more suitable for audience development activities. The Hall was a Grade I listed building, of national and regional importance. It was one of only three buildings in Greater Manchester and Lancashire which retained significant elements of C14<sup>th</sup> construction and contained two rooms dating to the C14<sup>th</sup> which represented the best preserved and finest domestic apartments of their date and type in the North West.

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

### **Landscape Partnership Schemes**

The annual budget for Landscape Partnership Schemes (LPS) was £10m of which £2m had been allocated at the Board's April 2008 meeting. Applications to be considered at the September 2008 Board meeting totalled £12m for £8m of funding.

#### **16. Sefton Coast; LP-07-01699/1**

**CNW 2008 (3) 16**

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), on behalf of Sefton Coast Partnerships, sought a stage one pass of £1,174,000 (71% of eligible costs) with £56,200 (56% of eligible costs) development funding for a Landscape Heritage Scheme on the Sefton Coast; an area of approximately 80sqkm to the south of Southport on Merseyside.

The area was characterized by low-lying coastal tracts with intertidal sands, dunes and slacks, deciduous woodland, dune heaths and dune backlands which held 20% of the total dune area in England. The area was covered by a wide variety of local and national designations, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and was famous for its population of Red Squirrels and 'Another Place', the Gormley statues standing on Crosby Beach. The cultural history of the area stretched from asparagus farming, to WWII defences and Mesolithic footprints. Regular visitors came from the main urban areas of northern England who saw the area as their 'coastal green lung'.

The LPS would not only bring back into good management practice this 'at risk' dune landscape but also enable the partnership to improve access to the area and educate a wider group of local people and visitors about its special character enabling them to get involved in protecting the area in the long term.

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

#### **17. Pennine Lancashire Woodland; LP-07-01703/1**

**CNW 2008 (3) 17**

Newground CIC (part of Groundwork), on behalf of a partnership of Local Authorities and the Forestry Commission, sought a stage one pass of £1,416,000 (58% of eligible costs) with development funding of £140,500 (96% of eligible costs) for the Pennine Lancashire Woodland Heritage Programme. The Woodland lay towards the south east corner of the County of Lancashire and ran from the Borough of Chorley in the west to the Borough of Pendle in the east (an area of 160 sq kms with a population of 500,000). The area had a rich history of woodland heritage ranging from the most ancient hunting forests to post medieval woodlands which were largely cleared during the industrial revolution.

The LPS would build on the achievements of a woodland regeneration scheme which had four strategic aims echoed in four programmes each with three or four large thematic projects.

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

### **National Cases**

#### **18. Lest We Forget: The Personal Histories of Our Nation's War Memorials; HG-08-00058**

**CNW 2008 (3) 18**

The UK National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNIWM), in partnership with the War Memorials Trust, sought a grant of £472,000 (57% of eligible costs) towards a three year project which would improve access to the inventory of war memorials, enhance the information held and provide learning resources on memorials in the UK commemorating all wars from the Roman Occupation to the present day.

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

**19. Girl Guiding UK Oral History Project; HG-08-00063 CNW 2008 (3) 19**

Girl Guiding UK (GGUK) a grant of £306,500 (21.89% of eligible costs) to stage a three year oral history project to celebrate the centenary of Girl Guiding, to conserve and catalogue the information collected into the GGUK's existing oral history archive and to improve access by developing an archive specific website.

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

**20. Black Trade Unionists' Oral History Project; HG-08-00090 CNW 2008 (3) 20**

The Working Lives Research Institute sought funding of £637,500 (85% of eligible costs) to record oral histories from 350 people in BME groups within trade unions. The funding would be used to train 35 volunteers in oral history recording, employ a project manager and 3 staff, produce a conference and 8 regional exhibitions and create a website and teaching packs.

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

**Board case paper for information**  
***Landscape Partnership Scheme***

**21. The South Pennines Watershed Landscape; LP-08-00179/1 CNW 2008 (3) 21**

The South Pennines Rural Regeneration Company Ltd sought a stage one pass of £1,878,000 (63% of eligible costs) and development funding of £100,500 (65% of eligible costs) for a five-year Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) covering approximately 350km<sup>2</sup> in the South Pennines Watershed Landscape.

The scheme's main objective was to raise the awareness of the significance and value of this upland landscape and encourage people to extend their understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. The scheme included 6 programmes, comprising 36 projects, which intended to provide long-term improvements in conservation, access, education, involvement and training.

The Committee noted that the Yorkshire and Humber Region was taking this application forward to the Board and that the scheme had the potential to benefit people in the North West.

**Papers for information and discussion**

**22. Report on NHMF/ HLF Board Business CNW 2008 (3) 22**

The Committee noted the report which included minutes of the May, June and July 2008 Board meetings.

The Committee also noted that the Board had approved a different budgeting approach to national cases whereby funding would come out of the Board's budget rather than the assessment region's budget.

It was reported that, because of increased competition for Heritage Grant funding, the success rate at the June 2008 Board meeting was 20%.

**23. Communication's Report**

**CNW 2008 (3) 23**

The Committee noted the report on communications activity for the period May to August 2008.

Sara Hilton (Head of Region) highlighted a number of current and forthcoming events and outlined plans to generate feature stories about the HLF's work in the region.

**24. Townscape Heritage Initiative Overview Report 2007/2008**

**CNW 2008 (3) 24**

The Committee noted the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Annual Report for 2007-2008. It was reported that 15 THIs were underway in the region and of these 2/3 faced challenging issues which needed to be resolved.

Oxford Brookes' forthcoming evaluation report on the social and economic impacts of the scheme was highlighted.

It was confirmed that the Committee would receive full case papers for future THI schemes.

**25. Guidance on Project Visits**

**CNW 2008 (3) 25**

The Committee noted the guidance on project visits, particularly the changes under Strategic Plan 3 which the Board had approved in July 2008. Stephen Boyce (Deputy Director of Operations) explained that under SP3 visits would happen at the point of the substantive decision (Second Round) when detailed project information was available.

**26. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held on **4 December 2008**.