

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE – 30TH JANUARY 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

LYE & WOLLESCOTE CEMETERY CHAPEL

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee as to progress made in relation to the future of Lye/Wollescote Chapel with specific regard to:-
 - i) The outcome of discussions held between the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) and the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) with regards to the provision of a 75% grant towards the cost of undertaking a Feasibility Study on the building.
 - ii) The future actions required to move the project forward.

Background

2. At the meeting of this Committee on 14th November 2005 the Director of the Urban Environment was authorised to:-
 - Approach the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) and request that they apply to the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) for grant assistance to undertake a Feasibility study on Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel.
 - To explore internally, potential sources of money to fund either the full 100% cost of undertaking a feasibility study or to provide a 25% contribution towards the cost of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust undertaking the feasibility study (hereafter referred to as 'Options Appraisal').
3. This report provides the Committee with the current position as regards the above.

Outcome of the WMHBT application to the AHF for grant assistance

4. Following the meeting of this Committee on the 14th November 2005, the WMHBT applied to the AHF for an 'Options Appraisal Grant'. The AHF contacted the WMHBT on the 13th December 2005 to confirm that their application for an options appraisal grant had been successful and that the AHF Council of Management had agreed to offer a grant of up to £5,725 towards the cost of undertaking the options appraisal (this equates to 75% of the total cost).
5. The grant offer from the AHF to the WMHBT is however the subject of a number of standard conditions:-
 - The study for which the grant is offered should begin within three months of the date of this letter (dated 13th December 2005).
 - The grant will be paid upon receipt of an acceptable options appraisal report
 - The WMHBT must inform the AHF of the action it proposes to take to implement the recommendations contained in the options appraisal report not more than six months after it has claimed and the received the grant.
 - The WMHBT will send the AHF a brief report on the project undertaken as a result of the options appraisal or an explanation of its reasons for not going ahead with the project.
 - The AHF reserves the right at its discretion to allow access to the options appraisal report to other Building Preservation Trusts and to bona fide students for the purposes of research.
 - The WMHBT will ensure that the AHF has the right to use photographs provided by the WMHBT in any way the AHF sees fit.
 - It is a condition of the AHF's funding that their assistance is mentioned in all publicity material produced in relation to the project.
 - Evidence is provided to the AHF (in the form of a letter) that the 25% match funding is in place and that should the Options Appraisal identify a suitable scheme that WMHBT are willing to pursue, then Dudley MBC will be willing to enter into negotiations with the WMHBT for the disposal of DMBC's interest in Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel.
6. The WMHBT must therefore write to the AHF to confirm that they do intend to claim the grant and that the WMHBT is in a position to adhere to all of the above conditions. For the WMHBT to do this, Dudley MBC must confirm to the Trust that they are content for the Trust to proceed to claim the grant and that Dudley MBC will assist the WMHBT in its attempt to meet with all of the above conditions.

Finance

7. The feasibility study will cost in total **£7,630**. The AHF agreed to provide the WMHBT with an 'Options Appraisal Grant' of up to **£5, 725** (which equals 75% of the money required). The remaining £25% or **£1,905** will be found by Dudley MBC from the Directorate of the Urban Environment budget.

Law

8. The relevant provisions regarding listed buildings are contained in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
9. The Council's powers to manage and improve Cemeteries are contained in a variety of legislation, including Section 214 and Schedule 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Cemeteries Order 1977.

Equality Impact

10. The proposals contained in this report are in full accordance with the Councils equal opportunities policies and should in no way have any impact of different racial groups, disabled people, both genders and/or other relevant groups.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

11. Stourbridge Area Committee notes the success of the WMHBT application to the AHF for a 75% grant towards the cost of the undertaking a Feasibility Study and that this Committee endorses as appropriate the WMHBT, the Director of the Urban Environment and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture to take all necessary steps to implement the undertaking of the Options Appraisal (the results of which will be reported back to this Committee for consideration).

List of Background Papers

- 12 Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 15th September 2003
- 13 Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 9th February 2004
- 14 Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 14th November 2005
- 15 Letter from the Heritage Lottery dated 8th July 2004.

- 16 Correspondence from DCMS dated 8th March 2005 confirming that that Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel has been added to the Statutory List of buildings.
- 17 Copy of the feasibility study specification sent out Consultants on the 26th August 2005.
- 18 Correspondence from AHF to the WMHBT confirming the success of the application for an Options Appraisal Grant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John B Millar'. The signature is stylized, with a large 'J' and 'M'.

John B Millar
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