
Stourbridge Area Committee – 10th March 2008

Report of The Director Of The Urban Environment

Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapel – Update On The Applications Made For External Funding To The Architectural Heritage Fund & Heritage Lottery Fund

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Committee with:-
 - An update on the success of the applications made by the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) to the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) for a series of four separate grant packages.
 - An update on the progress of the Single-Stage application to the Heritage Lottery (HLF) and the actions required in order to move the project forward.

Background

2. At the meeting of this Committee on 5th September 2007, the Committee noted the results of the Options Appraisal and the consultation responses received from the public and external organisations including the Diocese of Worcester. From the evidence gathered from the consultation exercise and from the Options Appraisal, the following conclusions were reached:-
 - It is necessary to find an alternative, sustainable new use for the building.
 - That use has to be sympathetic to the fact that Lye & Wollescote Chapel is a Grade II listed building located within an operational, consecrated graveyard.
 - Using the building for residential or a nursery purpose is strongly opposed by the public.
 - Using the building as offices or a community use or both has the support of the public.
 - The involvement of a Building Preservation Trust (BPT) such as the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) is welcomed as this provides the most likely way of securing the future of the chapel and external funding.

- The only way a BPT can obtain the necessary external grant aid is if they are the owners of the building. If therefore, disposal of the chapel did become the only option for the Council the disposal of it to a charitable organisation such as a Building Preservation Trust would be supported by the public.
 - In order to fund the repair and restoration of the building and its conversion to a new acceptable use it is vital that external grant aid be obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).
3. It was agreed therefore at the meeting of this Committee on 5th September 2007 that the next step towards obtaining the necessary external grant aid is to prepare an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. In pursuit therefore of a full application to the HLF, the Director of the Urban Environment was supported by this Committee to approach the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) to request that they apply to the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) for a series of four separate but linked grant packages (a Project Administration Grant, a Business Planning Grant, a Project Organiser Grant and a Project Development Grant) coming to an overall total of £56,500. The funding from the AHF would then enable an application to be put together to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Single Stage bid which would fund the repair and restoration of the Chapel.
 4. This report provides the Committee with an update on the outcome of the applications made to the AHF and an update on the progress of the Single Stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Applications to the Architectural Heritage Fund & Heritage Lottery Fund and the actions required in order to move the project forward

5. The applications made by the WMHBT to the AHF have been successful and accordingly the WMHBT have created a Project Steering Group who have in-turn appointed Conservation Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Structural Engineers etc who are charged with the task of providing the information required in order to put together the HLF Single-stage application. It is proposed that the Single-stage bid be submitted to the HLF by the end of March 2008. Once the application to the HLF is submitted the HLF will then have 6 months in which to consider the application.
6. Whilst the application to the HLF is being considered it will be necessary for the WMHBT to apply to the local planning authority for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent seeking permission for the change of use of the Chapel into office/community use. As with all planning applications/listed building consents, the public will be provided with 21 days in which they are offered the opportunity to comment on the applications and indicate whether they support or oppose the proposals. Once the Planning application and Listed Building Consent has been determined by the local planning authority, it will then be possible to apply to the Diocese of Worcester for a

Faculty seeking their permission for the change of use of the consecrated part of the chapel. The HLF will not be able to reach a conclusion on the Single-Stage application without first knowing whether a favourable outcome has been reached on the applications for change of use. The outcome of the decision made by the HLF on the Single-Stage application will then ultimately determine whether the WMHBT are able to continue with their involvement in the project.

Finance

7. The AHF have agreed to provide the WMHBT with the maximum grant available - £51,500 thus requiring the Council to provide £5,000 towards these costs, providing an overall total budget of £56,500. This amount can be found within budgets held within the Council's Directorate of the Urban Environment. The cost of submitting the Single-Stage application to the HLF is to be found within budgets held by the WMHBT.

Law

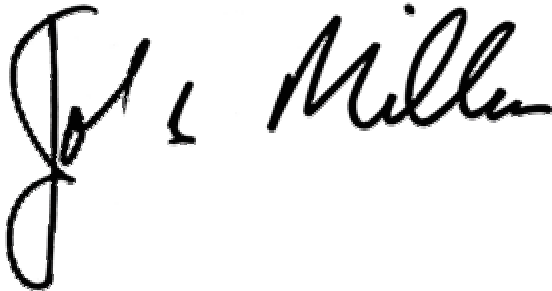
8. The relevant provisions regarding listed buildings are contained in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
9. The Council's powers to manage and improve Cemeteries are contained in a variety of legislation, including Section 214 and Schedule 26 of the Local Government Act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

Equality Impact

10. The proposals contained in this report are in full accordance with the Council's 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

11. That Committee notes:-
- The success of the applications made by the WMHBT to the Architectural Heritage Fund for a series of four separate grant packages for Lye Chapel.
 - That an application is to be submitted to the HLF at the end of March 2008 by the WMHBT (in partnership with the Council) for a Single-stage bid. The outcome of this application to the HLF will be reported back to this Committee later this year.



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List of Background Papers

1. Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 15th September 2003
2. Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 9th February 2004
3. Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 14th November 2005
4. Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 30th January 2006
5. Stourbridge Area Committee report dated 5th September 2007
6. Meeting of Cabinet 12th December 2007 – Capital Programme Monitoring Report.
7. Letter from the Heritage Lottery dated 8th July 2004.

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