
Ledbury Places Grant Application Submitted

Alex Clive, who is a member of the Ledbury Places Board, has today confirmed that a grant application has now been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The application for up to £2million of funding was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Townscape Heritage Scheme at the end of last week - prior to the deadline at the end of August – and the project is described as aiming to transform Ledbury through community led, creative re-use and regeneration of heritage assets.

Mr Clive has explained it will be January 2015 before Ledbury Places finds out whether its application has been successful and whether the project can progress to the next stage.

Giving an overview of the project's current status, Mr Clive said:

“A huge amount of work has gone into this 9000 word document and we are confident we are putting forward the best grant application we can.

“I'd like to thank everyone who has assisted with the project so far, whether that's the other members of the steering group, the expert advisors we have used or the ordinary people from the local community whose thoughts and ideas helped us complete our feasibility study and put together the business plan.

“We'd particularly like to thank all the volunteers who work at the Heritage Centre and Butcher Row House Museum for the thoughtful feedback they have given us.

“In addition, it's also important to thank all those individuals and organisations who have taken the time to write to us giving their support for this project – it seems that more and more people can see the fantastic opportunity Ledbury Places offers for the future of our town.

“In our application we have emphasised the wide range of opinions we have sought but I think it is vital that local people understand that the consultation process is ongoing. There will be opportunities for everyone to have their say during the development phase should our stage one grant application prove successful and allow the project to move forward.

“In terms of timescales, the additional consultation would take place on our business plan in 2015 – funding for this is included in the application – before final decisions are made on the work that will be done with the aim of starting development work in mid 2016.

“The business plan the grant application is based on has not changed since we shared it with the local community earlier this year and therefore all the options we have already publicised remain possibilities. The town council have had full sight of this plan and it is very pleasing they have thrown their support behind it. The backing of the body that represents local people is obviously crucial.”

Mr Clive then went on to emphasise what a great opportunity this project is for the town to protect some of its most treasured assets – the Barrett Browning Institute, the Heritage Centre, the Town Council offices, the Butcher Row House Museum, Burgage Hall and the Market House - and provide a sustainable future for all six of them.

“Many of these buildings are in urgent need of restoration work while as a community we must try to make better use of them to ensure their long-term viability and sustainability.

“Ledbury Places is not about benefitting any one individual, it is about benefitting our community by looking after a number of the buildings that make it so special. As it states in the grant application, the aim of this project is to convert these buildings into sympathetically restored, accessible, income generating heritage spaces that will contribute to the overall tourist appeal and economic prosperity of Ledbury.”

Although no further updates are expected in the near future while the grant application is being considered, please remember that any updates will be released via the Ledbury Places website (www.ledburyplaces.org) and on the project's Facebook and Twitter platforms.

Issued: Monday 1st September, 2014