

SWADLINCOTE HERITAGE ECONOMIC REGENERATION
SCHEME SUB-COMMITTEE

13th November 2003

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Labour Group

Councillor Dunn (Chair) and Councillor Lane (Vice-Chair)

Conservative Group

Councillors Bale and Hood.

Made in Swadlincote Partnership

Mr. T. Freeman.

(The Chair welcomed Councillor Lane to his first Meeting of the Sub-Committee and for his benefit, the Design and Conservation Officer outlined the provisions of the Swadlincote Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme. In this regard, an explanatory leaflet together with a booklet on the Year 2 Review were circulated to all Members. Arising from this matter, reference was made to the recent refurbishment of the Birds shop frontage on the High Street and Members expressed their pleasure at the design, which had proceeded without the benefit of grant assistance.)

SHS/1. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st March 2003 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

SHS/2. **SWADLINCOTE HERITAGE ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCHEME**

It was reported that the 2003/04 budget had been set at £120,000 comprising £70,000 of English Heritage funding and £50,000 of District Council funding. It had been intended that £20,000 of the housing budget should be ring-fenced, as in previous years, for landlord grants for creating flats above shops but due to budget restrictions during the current financial year, this had not been possible. The Year 2 Review submitted to English Heritage at the end of the last financial year set out the case for the inclusion of several residential properties on Church Street. Their inclusion was approved, subject to a limit of £40,000 over the course of the financial year.

This was the final year of the currently approved scheme and although there had been substantial achievements since April 2001, much work remained. An application would be submitted towards the end of this financial year to extend the scheme for a further three years, subject to the continuing availability of District Council funding. Provided that the achievements could be demonstrated together with the continuing need, the chances of success for a second round bid were considered to be high.

The Design and Conservation Officer reported that a letter had been received from English Heritage advising that it was happy to extend the scheme for a

further period of three years but the funding had been reduced to £40,000 per annum. Subject to a successful bid, higher levels of funding could be obtained through the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Townscape Heritage Initiative' but this would involve further funding from this Council together with a need for additional staff resources to cope with additional expectations.

With regard to future funding, Members expressed a wish that all avenues for match-funding for the Scheme should be explored.

SHS/3. **GRANT APPLICATION – NO. 17 CHURCH STREET**

It was reported that this property was at the end of a terraced row built at the beginning of the 20th century at the north end of Church Street. This attractive red brick and slate covered terrace had suffered badly from visually disfiguring alterations in the more recent past, hence its inclusion in the HERS Scheme this year. The property had lost its historic joinery but was the only one on the row where the front wall had survived. The owners had expressed a long term desire to undertake a package of conservation works, including the reinstatement of sash windows and railings. However, at the present time, they were anxious to repair the original front boundary wall which leant over the public footway.

The proposed eligible works related to the rebuilding of the front garden wall to match its current appearance precisely and this work was eligible at a level of 50%. The total cost of the eligible work, based on the lowest of competitive estimates, was in the sum of £865 excluding VAT, as the builder was not registered for VAT purposes.

The project would result in an original feature being safeguarded and it was hoped that this would provide a pattern that other owners could follow. The grant offer could be met from the 2003/04 budget and would leave an outstanding balance of £119,568.

RESOLVED:-

That the owners be offered a 50% grant up to a maximum of £432 towards eligible costs of £865 for rebuilding the front boundary wall at No. 17 Church Street, as set out in the estimate from Statham Building Services Ltd dated 19th August 2003, subject to the standard conditions and to the following additional conditions:-

- (i) That, before the work is generally executed, a sample panel of brickwork including the pointing and samples of replacement bricks, including glazed bricks shall be approved.***
- (ii) That, before demolition works starts, a drawn and photographic record be made of all remnants on the existing wall of the former railing fixings.***

W. DUNN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 3.30 p.m.