

## **£2m heritage project in Jewellery Quarter begins, thanks to National Lottery players**

08 May 2018

PRESS RELEASE



**A three-year project to regenerate buildings and improve visitor engagement in heritage is underway in the Jewellery Quarter.**

Managed by the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust (JQDT), the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage (JQTH) programme is a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) scheme, funded through money raised by National Lottery players. It will support building improvement works and heritage activity focusing on an area recognised as the 'Industrial Middle' which forms part of the Jewellery Quarter Conservation Area.

Commenting on the JQTH project, Philip Davis, Chairman of the JQDT said: "We already know that the Jewellery Quarter has a distinct historic townscape and through this new project, derelict properties will be converted into attractive, vibrant and interesting places for the benefit of the whole community. Complementing this will be an all-inclusive Activity Plan that will engage with a wide range of people on the heritage of the area including its buildings and people."

The total cost of the project is expected to be £2m with contributions from project partners; the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (JQBID), Birmingham City Council (BCC), Historic England and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP). The JQDT previously secured £1.8million from HLF in 2015.

Under the JQTH scheme, property owners of key historic properties within the JQTH area can apply for restoration grants that can support conservation repairs and

restore architectural features. The JQDT aims to bring these historic buildings back into use to continue the ongoing regeneration of the area.

The property owners have already been identified after their properties were appraised on the condition of the building, the heritage significance and the value in which the proposals would improve the area.

The JQTH Activity Plan will bring the area to life through a new programme of tours, talks, performances and events inspired by the people, objects and buildings of the Jewellery Quarter's 'Industrial Middle'. Working with local stakeholders including schools and community groups, local training providers, owners and residents, the JQDT will highlight local heritage and the importance of conservation amongst new and existing audiences.

Vanessa Harbar, Head of HLF West Midlands said: "This is excellent news for Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, whose 'Industrial Middle' contains one of the highest concentrations of derelict buildings in the city centre. Now, thanks to National Lottery players, this investment will enable and inspire property owners and volunteers to bring these important historic buildings back into life and back into use."

The JQDT has recruited a Capital Works Manager and Activities Programme Manager to oversee the building works, deliver the activity plan and collaborate with the teams working on the area's other HLF-funded schemes. The grants for New Standard Works and the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries project were approved in 2015.

The JQTH scheme which started in early 2018 will run for three years until spring 2021.

## **ENDS**

For further information please contact Parv Gandham, JQDT Communications Manager ([parv.gandham@jqdt.org](mailto:parv.gandham@jqdt.org) / 07475 148 446)

### **Notes to editors**

The JQDT was established in 2011. It is a Community Interest Company constituted and operated for the benefit of the communities in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. The JQDT carries out a range of activities for the benefit of all who live, work, learn within, invest in and visit the area.

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported.