

Grant Application Process

The grant application is relatively straight forward:

- Stage 1 - initial meeting with the Project Coordinator to discuss eligibility and extent of works
- Stage 2 - prospective applicant appoints agent to prepare specification of works for application.
- Stage 3 - draft specification of works submitted to Project Coordinator.
- Stage 4 - once approved by Bushmills THI Partnership technical advisors, the specifications are put out to tender.
- Stage 5 - once tenders are received an application is submitted to the various funding bodies. The scheme is approved by the HLF and the Bushmills THI Partnership Board who issue a letter of offer.
- Stage 6 - following return of letter of offer authority to commence works is given.
- Stage 7 - grant payment by installment or one off payment will only be issued on production of architects certificate.

Please note if works are commenced without written authority the application will be returned and the works rendered ineligible for assistance.

Scope of this Guidance

This guidance only extends to the criteria of HLF assisted works. Other funding partners guidance, eligibility criteria and repayment provisions should be consulted separately.

For further assistance contact:

Margaret Craig
C/o Moyle District Council
Shesburn House
7 Mary Street
Ballycastle
BT54 6QH.

Tel: 028 2076 2225
Fax: 028 2076 2515
bushmillsthi@moyle-council.org



European Union
Structural Funds

Bushmills Townscape Heritage Initiative is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Moyle District Council as part of its Trade Development Programme, which is supported by the EU Building Sustainable Programme.



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



An Introduction to Bushmills Townscape Heritage Initiative

The Bushmills THI Partnership has been successful in securing a grant with the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme focused on the core commercial area within Bushmills conservation area.

This guidance leaflet is an introduction to the Bushmills Townscape Heritage Initiative and further guidance and clarification should be sought from the Project Coordinator whose details are on the back of this leaflet.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

THI is a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) programme intended to support strategic action through partnership of public and private bodies to address problems of disrepair, erosion of quality and the under use of historic buildings. THI aims to bring together partners interested in preserving and enhancing the distinctive character of historic areas, by offering grant assistance towards:

- Repairing historic fabric
- Restoring authentic details & materials
- Securing the continued use of historic buildings
- Bringing vacant floor space back into use

The THI programme will contribute to business development and economic regeneration within the village by improving its historic buildings and the wider environment. Specific projects will help make the centre of the village more appealing to both visitors and residents.

The Bushmills Partnership

Bushmills THI and Moyle District Council are the principle bodies within the Partnership, supported where appropriate by other associate partners. The Partnership operates under strict guidelines stipulated within its contract with HLF.

The Grant Scheme

The project fund, from which grant assistance is awarded amounts to £440,000 from the HLF with an estimated common fund of £2million.

- All awards for grant aid must be signed up within 2 years.
- All grant assisted work must be completed within the period of this scheme.

Projects

Specialist advisors were engaged during stage one and two of the Partnerships application process to evaluate all the buildings in the village and identify the key buildings and sites that require attention.

Twenty projects have been identified as a result of their heritage merit and need, economic use, location and impact on the historic character of the village as well as an urgent need for action to arrest further deterioration of the townscape in Bushmills.

Details of the buildings selected can be obtained from the Project Coordinator.

General Eligibility Criteria

Properties eligible for assistance must be of:

- Architectural or historic interest
- Preferably of townscape value
- Lie within the THI boundary and Bushmills area

Eligible applicants must either be:

- The freeholder of the property
- A leaseholder with an un-expired interest of not less than ten years

The priority of the project is to tackle buildings in a poor state of repair. Priority will be given to buildings requiring comprehensive schemes of work to bring them back into good repair and enable them to be used again. Other minor works are eligible but are considered less of

Eligible Works

Grant assistance will be made available for:

- Works of repair to the external fabric of the building
- Structural repairs both internal and external
- The reinstatement of lost external architectural detail
- The reuse of underused floor space (*only in association with external works*)
- Environmental enhancement
- Professional fees
- VAT (where it is not reclaimable)

In addition, it is a requirement to qualify for assistance that:

- A chartered building professional (such as an Architect or Chartered Surveyor) be employed as your agent to prepare the application and specifications, undertake the tendering process, monitor works on site and certify payments.
- A comprehensive scheme of works is proposed that tackles all elements of work required.
- Consideration should be given to providing disabled access sympathetic to the historic character of the building.
- Ensure that signage is appropriate.

Grant Rates

Grant rates will vary for individual elements within the scheme.

Repayment

The grant or part there of may be repayable if the owner sells or otherwise disposes of the grant assisted property. The period in which repayment may apply varies depending on the level of grant assistance offered.