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## Grant Application Disappointment For Ledbury Places

Ledbury Places Director, Alex Clive has today expressed disappointment at the news the project has been unsuccessful in its initial bid for grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The grant submission was for support to secure the long-term future and sustainability of six of the town's most iconic buildings – the Barrett Browning Institute, Burgage Hall, the Heritage Centre, the Market House, the Butcher Row House Museum and the Town Council office – and the Ledbury Places Board has been waiting patiently for news on its bid since the end of August.

Decisions were shared privately with all applicants just under two weeks ago, but it is only today that HLF have publicly announced the projects that have been selected for funding.

Giving the thoughts of the Ledbury Places Board on the news from HLF, Mr Clive said: 'Clearly the over-riding emotion is one of disappointment, but we are not completely surprised as we were already aware that many projects are unsuccessful with their first application.

'We have been advised that this round of bids for funding was over-subscribed and, as we were already aware there are a large number of projects seeking this important funding, we always knew there was a possibility we might miss out because this is such a competitive process.

'In the next few weeks we will receive detailed feedback on our application from HLF, and this will give us valuable information for how we can reshape or develop our bid as and when we decide to re-submit. We also have other funding options to look at, so we are going to take a little time to assess where we are and what our next steps should be.

'On behalf of the Ledbury Places Board, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in the project so far – we are very grateful for the time and effort so many people have put in up until this point.

'Although we would have loved to secure grant funding at the first attempt, we all retain full belief in the aims of this project as we feel it will be of huge benefit to the local community and will help protect historic buildings that are among Ledbury's greatest assets.

'Once we have taken some time to digest the formal feedback we receive from HLF, we will plan our next steps and then ensure we share our thinking with the local community.'

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