

Enhancing Historic Building Conservation Across the Sheffield Methodist District

Proposal for Collaboration with Conservation Officer Joanne Balmforth

Introduction:

The Sheffield Methodist District is home to numerous historic and listed buildings that are integral to our heritage and community identity. To ensure their preservation and to promote best practices in conservation, we propose a collaborative project with Connexional Conservation Officer Joanne Balmforth. This initiative aims to leverage her expertise to benefit the Sheffield District and extend our learnings to the Yorkshire North East and Yorkshire West districts.

Project Objectives:

- **Assessment and Documentation:** Conduct thorough assessments of historic and listed buildings within the Sheffield District.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Develop a comprehensive knowledge base on conservation practices, learnings, and methodologies.
- **Training and Workshops:** Organize training sessions and workshops for stakeholders across the Sheffield, Yorkshire North East, and Yorkshire West districts.
- **Employment of a Conservation Support Officer:** Employ a Conservation Support Officer to assist with project coordination and implementation.

Project Activities:

Initial Assessment Phase (Months 1-6):

- Collaborate with Joanne Balmforth to identify key historic buildings in Districts.
- Conduct detailed assessments and document current conditions and conservation needs.
- Conduct feasibility study's, support needs and surveys.

Knowledge Development and Sharing (Months 7-12):

- Compile findings into a comprehensive report highlighting conservation challenges and solutions.
- Develop training materials and resources based on these findings.

Training and Implementation (Months 13-18):

- Organize workshops and training sessions for conservation officers, building managers, and volunteers from the Sheffield, Yorkshire North East, and Yorkshire West districts.
- Share best practices and innovative conservation techniques.
- Share business planning tools, Connexional Team to share resources

Ongoing Support and Evaluation (Months 19-24):

- Provide ongoing support and consultation for conservation projects across the three districts.
- Evaluate the project's impact and document success stories and lessons learned.

Supporting the Mission of the Methodist Church:

This project directly aligns with and supports the mission of the Methodist Church within the Sheffield District and beyond. The preservation of historic buildings is not only about maintaining physical structures but also about honoring and perpetuating the spiritual and community heritage they embody. By conserving these spaces, we enable continued worship, community gatherings, and social outreach, which are core to our mission.

Community Engagement:

The project will foster deeper engagement with the local community by involving volunteers and stakeholders in the conservation process. Workshops and training sessions will empower individuals with the skills and knowledge to actively participate in preserving their heritage, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship.

Sustainability and Legacy:

Preserved historic buildings provide sustainable venues for worship and community activities, ensuring that these spaces remain active and vibrant parts of our districts. By sharing conservation knowledge and best practices, we ensure that other heritage buildings within the Yorkshire North East and Yorkshire West districts can benefit, creating a lasting legacy of well-maintained and cherished sites.

Funding and Resources:

We propose to apply for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and English Heritage. This funding will support the employment of a Conservation Support Officer, project materials, and workshop costs.

Conclusion:

This project presents an opportunity to safeguard our historic buildings and share invaluable conservation, business knowledge and future planning across multiple districts. By working with Joanne Balmforth and securing funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and English Heritage, we can ensure the sustainability and preservation of our cherished heritage sites.

We seek the support and approval of the Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team to move forward with an application to the necessary grants.