



# The Chamberlain Highbury Trust

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## **THE CHAMBERLAIN Highbury TRUST IS “DELIGHTED” TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED A SUBSTANTIAL LOTTERY GRANT**

May 13th 2024

In an exciting development for Chamberlain Highbury Trust, the organisation is pleased to announce its success in securing a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Valued at £5 million, this grant marks a pivotal moment in the Trustees' ongoing efforts to restore the historic Highbury estate.

Reacting to the news of the award of a delivery grant to Chamberlain Highbury Trust, David Kidney, the Chair of the Trustees, says:

"We are absolutely delighted that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has approved a £5 million grant to support our ambitious plans for the restoration of the Highbury estate. This funding serves as a crucial cornerstone in our pursuit of a total £12 million required for the comprehensive restoration of both the mansion and the expansive 30-acre grounds."

"Our Trust was established with a community-centric vision mandated by Birmingham City Council, emerged from concerns that Highbury was not fully realising its potential as a community asset. The restoration project aims to revive Highbury's connection with surrounding communities, specifically Kings Heath, Moseley, and Stirchley. The Trust intends to provide meeting spaces for community groups, establish new office spaces for local entrepreneurs, and fortify its leadership program for young individuals.

"Our mission is to forge a Unique Selling Point by leveraging Highbury and the Chamberlains' legacy to inspire young minds. We are committed to exploring issues of leadership, governance, and citizenship in today's world, building a model for community-led civic development," David Kidney explains.

The Trust's efforts extend beyond its immediate community, as it collaborates with esteemed partners such as the University of Birmingham, UpRising, and Operation Black Vote. Together, they are establishing a comprehensive programme for 11-30 year olds to delve into the realms of leadership, governance, and citizenship within the historic Highbury estate.

The Trust is actively working towards a target of raising £2 million through its own initiatives, with the remainder anticipated from a combination of funds, including from Birmingham City Council and the Highbury Trust. While plans are in place for the necessary restoration and building works, a delay is expected due to the Council's ongoing Section 114 process.

Chamberlain Highbury Trust looks forward to embarking on this transformative journey, revitalising Highbury and instilling a sense of community and leadership among the younger generation. The grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund stands as a testament to the collective dedication towards preserving heritage and fostering community engagement.

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS:

### **Heritage focus**

Highbury comprises a Grade II\* listed mansion and 33 acres of Grade II registered historic gardens set in a valued public park, a rare surviving example of a C19th villa with a remarkable interior, originally on the fringes of a major industrial city. Mansion and grounds are on the Historic England 'at risk' register.

Here, the Chamberlains' political dynasty was forged. Joseph made Birmingham 'the best governed city in the world', laying the foundations of modern local governance, generating radical new approaches to both national policies and the course of the British Empire. Our focus is on how Highbury, as home of Joseph, Austen and future Prime Minister Neville, was where Joseph 'made the political weather' (Winston Churchill's words) for good or ill or both.

### **The project**

#### *Activities:*

- Establish a visionary leadership programme of national importance that will inspire and promote the next generation of young citizens in Birmingham's political, business and community leadership roles.
- Emerge as a leading Midlands heritage and arts attraction whilst providing a vital centre for the community featuring; a reimagined inclusive visitor experience, a vibrant events programme plus new recreational spaces (including a café).
- Incubate a new wave of Birmingham entrepreneurs with the creation of affordable office spaces providing facilities for up to 30 businesses.

### **Capital works**

Fabric repair, interior restoration and renewal of building services to reduce carbon footprint, meet H&S standards and ensure sustainable conservation management for the future; and restoration of garden features, pathways, new planting and removal of invasive species. For access and income, new facilities including lifts and toilets, 207m<sup>2</sup> of flexible office spaces, catering, and space for staff/volunteers will be created.

### **Outcomes:**

#### *Inclusion*

A wider range of people will be involved through accessible offers developed with target audiences (e.g., Joseph's passion for orchids sparks young people's interest in sustainability). Leadership learning programme will give 2,500 young people a stake in Highbury. Partnership with Future Leaders Network will extend engagement nationally. Mentoring of our Youth Board to develop programming will continue. Implementing the recommendations of our Colonial History and Heritage Working Group will open up the process of historical research to a wider cohort.

#### *Economy*

By 2027, Highbury, will be an anchor institution in the local economy - restored as a centre for up to 30 incubator businesses, cultural events and activities to drive local inclusive growth in a post pandemic world based on the neighbourhood. Our Economic Impact Appraisal indicates the project will generate £3.86m of Gross Value Added (GVA) with adjustments for deadweight, displacement, leakage and optimism.

#### *Skills/Jobs*

The WM Strategic Economic Plan states that economic growth comes from entrepreneurship *and* civic leadership. Investment in the latter is minimal. Developing the civic leadership skills of Birmingham's diverse young people, CHT will act as catalyst for radical and distinctive thinking. 23 FTE jobs created will be: 8 CHT; 15 supply chain; 5 Level 3 apprenticeships, training for over 140 volunteers.

### *Wellbeing*

Visits to the Park are over 200,000 annually. With 5 community partners as part of the “Protocol Group”, we will radically improve the historic landscape as a biodiverse environmental asset which underpins the quality of life for those living within 15 minutes’ walk and encourages business location. Highbury is a space for environmental activism, through sustainability programming focussed on wellbeing, access to nature and greenspaces, and education. Around 100 volunteers will be involved in grounds-related clearance, replanting, propagation, delivering public demonstrations and wellbeing active sessions. This will include young people and adults with special educational needs and people with mental health challenges.

### *Local area*

At a pivotal point between the creative localities of Kings Heath, Moseley and Stirchley, Highbury will be a centre for neighbourhood dynamism, part of a local ecosystem. Collaboration will be fostered between microbusinesses, social enterprises, and creative industries. The mansion and park will be reconnected, demand for a café and toilets fulfilled, all linked to the new Kings Heath station opening early 2024.

### **Timescales**

R2 Application decision	End 2023
RIBA 4 planning starts	Summer 2024
Building works start	Spring 2025
Reopening	Summer 2027
Activities complete	Summer 2029

### **Cost**

Capital	£9,213,040
Activities	£635,124m
Contingency, inflation	£2,101,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11.949,922</b>

### **Past projects**

- (1) With Birmingham City Council, Heritage England and National Lottery Heritage Fund, completed works in the grounds to improve accessibility, including wider, weatherproof pathways and drainage works to prevent paths flooding;
- (2) With Birmingham City Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund, completed the development phase of the project, assembling a professional team and bringing the plans to RIBA Stage 3 readiness.