

# Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

## CWLS (2) 15-06 (p1)

**Meeting date: Wednesday, 15 November 2006**

**Meeting time: 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd**



### **The Heritage Lottery Fund**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is Wales' leading heritage funder, distributing the heritage share of National Lottery proceeds.

The Fund aims to:-

- conserve and enhance our diverse heritage;
- encourage more people to be involved in and make decisions about their heritage and;
- ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to, and enjoy their heritage.

HLF is the only heritage organisation that funds all types of heritage – industrial, maritime and transport heritage; built heritage; natural heritage; museums, libraries and archives; and the heritage of language, oral history and cultural traditions.

Heritage makes up the physical fabric of many communities, and is a powerful source of both social capital, and identity and pride. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) invests lottery good causes money in the broadest spread of heritage, conserving a valuable national asset and realising the potential of heritage to improve quality of life, extend opportunity and deliver social justice.

From Big Pit in Blaenafon to Skomer Island, from Swansea's National Waterfront Museum to the Twyi Valley, HLF is funding all that is distinctive and special about the heritage of Wales, enabling the celebration of its national story. At the same time, HLF is supporting hundreds of local groups across the country in exploring and enjoying their own stories, histories and traditions.

Since 1995 HLF has committed over ?165million in more than 1,300 awards to heritage projects

across Wales.

- Every local authority area in Wales has received funding from HLF
- 71% of grants in 2005-06 were to community groups for grants of under £50,000
- HLF funding of £165million has attracted an additional £111 million in partnership funding
- HLF has invested almost £25 million in projects to preserve Wales' industrial heritage. Big Pit at Blaenafon was voted 'Museum of the Year' after its lottery funded makeover, winning the coveted Gulbenkian Prize in 2005, the UK's biggest museum prize
- Over £72 million of HLF's grants in Wales have helped to save, conserve and open up the country's historic buildings and monuments.

## **Heritage Matters**

HLF knows that heritage matters to the people of Wales and that successful HLF funded projects can touch lives and make a real difference to communities:

- heritage is at the heart of strong local, regional and national identity, helping us to understand where we have come from and what makes us who we are today;
- heritage projects can help transform communities, contributing to regeneration, learning and quality of life;
- heritage is an important contributor to the Welsh economy through tourism, regeneration and construction.

In 2005, HLF ran a Citizens' Jury in Cardiff, Pontypool and Blaenafon exploring public views on the value of heritage in order to inform its work. A standout feature of the Welsh Jury was a very strong sense of cultural and national identity. Participants had a developed understanding of Welsh industrial heritage and the Welsh language was identified as of central importance to national identity.

HLF is encouraging people to become more involved in their local, regional and national heritage through Wales Identity Day. Started by HLF last year, this now annual event seeks to engage people across Wales in an exploration and celebration of their diverse identities. This year at a series of five community events across Wales, local people have shown what is important and distinctive about their local heritage. Their ideas will feed into a mural which is being unveiled in Newport on Wales Identity Day, November 24th. The community events have been very popular, igniting local interest and stories, encouraging a sense of local pride and identity.

## **Future plans**

HLF is committed to remaining a devolved organisation, operating out of our Cardiff office. The UK Government confirmed on 21 June 2006 that HLF will retain its one-sixth share of lottery good causes proceeds from 2009 to 2019. HLF is currently considering specific proposals for its third strategic plan, which will run from 2008-2013. The broadly based framework of HLF's three aims – heritage conservation, participation in heritage and learning - was very positively endorsed by a wide range of potential applicants and stakeholders in its recent consultation and Trustees have pledged to

keep those core criteria. HLF will also continue the drive to broaden public participation in heritage activities and has pledged to further simplify and streamline its application procedures.

In the next few months HLF will be developing and consulting on detailed proposals for changes to its programmes and how it offers support to applicants throughout the process. Dedicated development staff will continue to offer advice to potential applicants on grant-making priorities at an early stage in their planning. The third Strategic Plan for 2008-2013 will be published in spring 2008 with all revised programmes expected to open to new applications in autumn 2008.

**Heritage Lottery Fund**  
**8 November 2006**