

Our ref FL/BJ/NMW2016

Date 26.Oct 2016

Ms Bethan Jenkins AM
Chair CWLC committee
National Assembly Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a
Chyfathrebu
Culture, Welsh Language and
Communications Committee
CWLC(5)-08-16 P14



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Dear Ms Jenkins,

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
CWLC(5)-06-16 P8**

I refer to the recent announcement by Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure, on the creation a new 'Historic Wales'.

I have worked with National Museum of Wales (NMW) in supporting their pioneering work in developing the nature and scope of volunteering - initially at St Fagans and now more widely.

You should know that NMW is held in very high esteem across the UK for its progress as one of 8 selected partners on the Our Museum Project, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. WCVA was one of the community partners on this project.

What has been achieved is a radical rethink about volunteering, including who can volunteer and what voluntary roles and activities can be undertaken. By working closely with community partners volunteering has been opened up to a wide range of people, including those who would never have considered volunteering within the museum before. This has necessitated a change of culture within the organisation, as well as a more outward looking way of working with external community organisations.

All of this is part of a wider commitment to reappraise who the museum is for, and how it relates to communities of Wales. There has been a deliberate attempt to become more accountable, and to be shaped more by, those whose heritage the museums represent ie people of Wales.

As such it is a model of co-production. It has become a model of excellence in volunteering (having achieved the Investing in Volunteers Quality mark) and is developing a culture which has community engagement at its heart, including through volunteering.

I would urge that any proposed developments consider the extent to which these inclusive values and developing relationships with local communities and partner organisations might be compromised. It is, I believe, the continued development of these relationships that will secure the sustainability of museums for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Liddell

Fiona Liddell
Volunteering Development Manager