

**Hampshire County Council**

**Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Heritage Lottery Fund Briefing Paper**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provides funding from the National Lottery to projects that aim to sustain and transform our heritage. There are a number of different HLF programmes; the main programme for grants over £100,000 that relate to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK, is the Heritage Grants programme.
- 1.2. Under this programme grants over £100,000 and under £2 million are assessed by the Regional Committee whilst decisions on grants over £2 million and under £5 million are made by the National Board. To receive a grant the project must fulfill the aims of the programme which are to:
  - help people to learn about their own and other people's heritage (learning)
  - conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy (conservation);
  - help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage (community involvement).
- 1.3. The canal network is a national heritage asset and as such a number of canals have attracted Heritage Lottery Funding in past years. The HLF can assist with some aspects of restoration, particularly if the work relates to the preservation of historic structures however all projects must meet the HLF key aims of conservation, learning and involvement as mentioned above.
- 1.4. HLF are a project based funding body and it is an very competitive process so it is important that a clear, cohesive project is formed that includes all the three key aims. For a project to be successful it must include clear project planning, partnerships and cohesion; simply putting forward a list of repair and restoration items will not win funding.

## **2. Heritage Lottery Funding potential for Basingstoke Canal**

- 2.1. Currently a visioning exercise is underway to identify the long term objectives for the canal. Once a way forward has been agreed by all parties we will be in a position to identify which elements can be packaged up to make an attractive project that could lever in significant HLF investment.

2.2. From initial meetings and discussions involving partners and staff the following areas that could be eligible for HLF funding have been identified as;

- Halting the deterioration of key assets and elements of the canal.
- Creating a navigable canal – bring both recreation and learning benefits
- Creating a reliable water supply and stopping the high leakage rates
- Bringing the SSSI areas up to a high standard- benefits to wildlife and for learning/involvement opportunities
- Improvements in community engagement and education provision (formal and informal learning)
- Broaden the age range of the current volunteer support (The Surrey and Hants Canal Society and Inland Waterways Association)
- Develop new opportunities for volunteering, training and direct involvement.
- Consultation and engagement with communities along the length of the canal (3m population)
- Further engagement with the estimated 1.3m current users of the canal.
- Improvements in interpretation along the canal length and through the use of technology and social networking
- Renew and refresh the current interpretation centre and broaden its use.
- Opportunity to open up new visitor/volunteer centre at Mytchett, and or another location

3. It is understood that current estimates put the cost to repair and open up the canal as a navigable route at over £5m. This is needed to repair the structures, make the canal “watertight” and make the necessary repairs to the banks and culverts. Surveys and studies have already taken place to ascertain condition and costs. An additional budget will also be required to increase learning and participation opportunities for communities along the full length of the canal.

#### 4. Heritage Merit

The Basingstoke Canal is a British Canal, completed in 1794, built to connect Basingstoke with the River Thames at Weybridge via the Wey Navigation. From Basingstoke, the canal passes through or near Greywell, North Warnborough, Odiham, Dogmersfield, Fleet, Farnborough Airfield, Aldershot, Mytchett, Brookwood, and Woking. Its eastern end is at Byfleet, where it connects to the Wey Navigation. This, in turn, leads to the River Thames at Weybridge. Its intended purpose was to allow boats to travel from the docks in East London to Basingstoke.

It was never a commercial success and, from 1950, lack of maintenance allowed the canal to become increasingly derelict. After many years of neglect, restoration commenced in 1977 and on 10 May 1991 the canal was reopened as a fully navigable waterway from the River Wey to almost as far as the Greywell Tunnel. Of the 37 miles originally constructed, 32 have been restored leaving just 5 miles west of Greywell unrestored. Unfortunately, insufficient water supplies, problems with funding, and conservation issues, have so far prevented the Basingstoke Canal from reaching its true potential as a restored waterway.

Today the canal is a popular facility for many forms of recreation including boating, walking, cycling and angling. The canal links to the national waterway network via the River Wey and the Thames. Importantly, the Canal is a designated SSSI (site of special scientific interest) for its rich aquatic plant life and dragonfly population. Maintaining the conservation value whilst providing recreational opportunities is a key challenge for the Basingstoke Canal Authority (a joint authority formed by Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council).

## 5. Suggested timetable for application

5.1. The HLF process involves a Pre application submission which outlines the scope of the project and receives initial feedback from HLF on the projects suitability for funding. This is followed by a Round 1 bid for funding to the Regional Committee or National Board, depending on the scope of the project, who both meet four times a year. If this is successful it generates funding from HLF to develop the project and provide detailed plans for a Round 2 submission. The following provides an indication of the likely timescales based on the visioning exercise completion and HLF timetable of meetings.

Date	Action
Visioning Consultation and Report	February 2012
HLF Workshop	March 2012
HLF Pre application	April 2012
Round 1 Submission	August 2012
Round 1 Award	December 2012
Detailed Development Phase	January – August 2013
Round 2 Submission	August 2013
Round 2 Award	December 2013
Start Project	January 2014

## 6. HLF Work Stages

### 6.1. Step 1 - Pre –application Stage

This will determine the scope of the project and budgets and broadly identify the aims.

This will be initiated through a community/partnership workshop event and led by an external facilitator. All will have the opportunity to positively participate in identifying the following scope of the project

- Exploring the heritage of the canal – place, people, stories
- Overarching heritage themes
- New ways of involving people in the canal’s heritage
- New Activity Strands for the canal audiences
- Outline Budget Parameters

Consider the options (including analysing the strengths and weaknesses of each option) and develop reasons for choosing the preferred option. Designs to -RIBA Stage A

### **6.2. Step 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> Round Applications**

Tasks are as follows;

- Set out the basic proposals,
- Produce a timetabled programme of capital (physical) work and activities,
- Identify the basic costs and likely sources of partnership funding
- Broadly identify the types of people who will benefit,
- Broadly consider any limitations and risks,
- Consult the main people who have a direct interest or who would be affected by your project (stakeholders),
- Create an outline cost plan for the development phase to the second-round application,
- Write briefs (written description of the work or services needed) for consultants (if these apply). Building and landscape designs to RIBA Stage B

**DEVELOPMENT GRANT ONLY AWARD IF SUCCESSFUL AT THIS STAGE- (this is a competitive round with a 1:4 chance of success)**

### **6.3. Step 3 - Round 2 (Development)**

- Detailed designs to RIBA Stage D for all capital works
- Detailed Activity and Participation Plan (included detailed public consultation).
- Business Plan
- Detailed Budget and Cash flow
- Detailed Conservation Management Plan
- 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan
- Committed Community Support
- Confirmation of partnership Funding

**FINAL CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY FUNDING AT THIS STAGE IF SUCCESSFUL – Still competitive**

**6.4. Step 4 ( Delivery Phase)** All capital and activity work

## 7. Resources required to apply for HLF Funding (Indicative)

### Pre application and Round 1 Submission

This part of the application is funded by the applicant.

Estimated costs are;

Project Coordination, workshop and application production.	£6500
Suite of visual aids	Support from HCC architects
Conservation Statement	Support from HCC Countryside Team

### Round 2 (Development)

If we are successful in securing a Round 1 pass in December we will be eligible for a Development Grant from HLF to undertake the detailed planning work required for Round 2. This grant can be up to 90% of all the costs. (Applicants should always look to maximise the amount of partnership funding that they raise so as to increase the value for money in light of the stiff competition for HLF funds).

### Indicative Round 2 Costs

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Project Management	£30,000
Consultation and Development of an Activity Plan	£20,000
Surveys and Fees	£130,000
Volunteer Time	£10,000
Contingency	£20,000
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>£210,000</b>
<b>Income</b>	
HLF Grant	£157,500 (75% grant)
Volunteer Time (In Kind Support)	£10,000
Partner Contributions	£42, 500
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>£210,000</b>

**Delivery Phase (Indicative)**

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Capital	£5,400,000
Activity	£500,000
Professional Fees	£500,000
Volunteer Time	£100,000
Contingency	£600,000
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>7,150,000</b>
<b>Income</b>	
HLF Grant	£5,362,500 (75% grant)
Volunteer Time (In Kind Support)	£100,000
Partner Contributions	£1,687,500
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>£7,150,000</b>

**8. Recommendations**

- 8.1. That the proposal to seek funding from HLF and the application timetable is agreed.
- 8.2. That the Partnership supports the Heritage Lottery Fund application. There are costs associated with the preparation of the pre-application and round 1 submission. Whilst there is a commitment to fund this from Hampshire County Council, Surrey County Council and the Canal Society support is sought from other members of the partnership. There will be more significant support and contributions required from all the partners should the application be successful at Round 1.