

Heritage Extra

H.L.F. Grant Application

Readers will be aware that the Festiniog and Welsh Highland Railways are processing an application in respect of a possible grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The application is for a scheme designed to enhance the potential of the educational aspect of both railways. The application is in two stages – the first stage was approved at the end of 2010.

Stage II of the application is currently being ‘worked up’ in collaboration with a consultant paid for mainly by the Stage I funding from the HLF and topped up by both railways’ supporting societies including Welsh Highland Heritage Group (us!), FR Heritage Group, FR Trust and FR Board.

Whilst there is no guarantee of success the fact that the application has Stage I approval means that the core idea appeals to the HLF as the funding body.

The educational aspects of the application are twofold:-

- i) to develop a living ‘linear museum’ experience along forty miles of railway for the benefit both of local residents and to enhance the experience of passengers on the line
- ii) to encourage volunteering and learning new skills particularly by young local people.

The application aims to provide for the employment of an educational officer for three years.

Key Elements

1. **Provide** coordinated interpretation at sites along the railway and on the trains.
2. **Highlight** the immense influence the railways had on general railway developments world-wide because of its innovative approach to engineering challenges.
3. **Develop** awareness of the railways’ importance to the general socio-economic development of Gwynedd’s slate region.
4. **Facilitate** use of the railway by educational groups and individual learners by focussing on their needs.
5. **Encourage** new, younger and more local volunteers and training them up in the practical, interpretation and conservation skills required by heritage attractions and preserved railways, thus widening active participation in heritage work.

There are five key elements to the application as laid down by the HLF which need to be adhered to. (See above panel).

It is hoped that, if the bid is successful, some of the HLF funds, may find their way to the Tryfan Junction complex, based on the key elements specified by the HLF. At this stage in working up the grant application for Stage II submission (by August 2012) opinion is that station locations should be the focus of visitor/residents attention and that these ‘hubs’ should be available outside the railway’s operating season.

Overleaf is reproduced the consultant’s discussion document in respect of the WHR. Also included are suggestions for related ‘on train’ information. In the context of the WHR it has been subsequently suggested that these ‘hubs’ would be at Caernarfon, Dinas (largest available area/existing buildings, which gives us an excuse to publish the lovely picture of Dinas below!), Tryfan

Junction, Beddgelert and Porthmadog (shared with FR).

The consultants would be delighted to hear your views and constructive suggestions as to the best way of presenting the history and heritage of the line based on the ‘Key Elements’ and the schematic overleaf. How can they be made more attractive to passengers and at the same time tell ‘Our Heritage Journey’?

The consultants will be available to listen to your views during SuperPower weekend or simply send them direct to Alan Norton, the project coordinator, at Harbour Station. Email - ourheritagejourney@festrail.co.uk

WHR Station ‘hubs’

Caernarfon - Dinas - Tryfan Junction - Beddgelert - Porthmadog (joint with FR)



Interpretation Proposals - Welsh Highland Railway

For discussion

HARBOUR STATION

BEDDEGELERT

GLANRAFON QUARRY

TRYFAN JUNCTION

DINAS BUILDINGS

CAERNARFON

THEMES, TOPICS, STORIES, INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION TO THE LANDSCAPE
ORIENTATION
Journey overview
National Park
Promotion of Stops
Timeline of Welsh History, relating to area

ENJOYING THE LANDSCAPE
Historic townscape, inc St Mary's Church
Geler's Grave & Story
2 Rivers - Afon Colwyn, Afon Glaslyn
History of Tourism

LOOKING AFTER THE LANDSCAPE
The raw material
Link with National Park, promoting SNP and WHR together?

EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPE
Access to landscape
Leisure in Countryside
Walks
Trails to explore

THE HERITAGE OF THE LANDSCAPE
Living Heritage Hub
Collections & Storage
Conservation & Restoration
Running a Heritage Line
Buildings & Rolling Stock
Slate Trans-shipment

OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE
The Slate Quays
Historic Built Environment
The Castle
Standard Gauge Railway
World Heritage Site

CHARACTER - Device used on FR, it is probably not so appropriate here. This then would be another contrast with the FR interpretation. Link - different aspects of Natural Environment?

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

ON THE TRAIN JOURNEY - Guides/Facilitators, Guide Book, Leaflet - 3 Carriages option of I-Pad programme

INFORMATION FIRST IMPRESSIONS
Understanding the difference between the 2 Railways
Branding
Ticket Area Display
Graphics
Trails
Performance Area
Events

BRANDED DISPLAY
Linked Leaflets
Graphics
Wind up Sound Posts
Trails

BRANDED DISPLAY
Linked Leaflets
Graphics
Wind up Sound Posts
Trails
Trackside tableaux - loaded slate wagons

RESTORED PLATFORM BUILDING
Linked Leaflets
Graphics
More detail on the Natural Environment
Period Interior?
Use space as place to browse, rest, shelter
Is there a need for tableaux?
Trails

DISPLAY WITHIN BUILDINGS
Space for Interpretation
A/V - Film
People stories Interactivity
Display
Graphics
Promotion of other sites
Volunteer guides
Events
'One Stop from the End Information Station'

BRANDED DISPLAY
Linked Leaflets
Graphics
Wind up Sound Posts
Tactile maps
Townscape model
Improve look of Station Building?
Trails

Cafe & Facilities
Internal & external
Interpretation
Car parking

External
Interpretation
Car parking

Interpretation, external

Internal & external
Interpretation

Cafe & Facilities
Internal & external
Interpretation
Car parking

External
Interpretation
Revvamp/upgrade look of Shop