

Consultation on petition P-04-410 Permanent Memorial to Wales's Workers
Response from Heritage Lottery Fund

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William Powell
Committee Chair
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2012 outlining the petition recently received by the Petitions Committee from the Bevan Foundation. I note and appreciate the sentiments of the petition in highlighting this important issue.

The emphasis of Heritage Lottery Fund grant giving is on achieving a lasting difference for heritage and people. We try not to be too prescriptive on the type of projects we support, but we do place great weight on bringing heritage into better condition, or better management; and particularly in helping people learn about heritage and gain new skills through it. With these outcomes in mind, it would be difficult to be too optimistic in encouraging an application to fund a new memorial because I think it could struggle to achieve these outcomes.

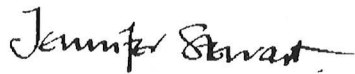
However, I do think it is worth highlighting that we have funded projects which help communities learn and commemorate local people and events without putting significant funding into the creation of a new memorial. For instance, earlier this year we awarded £48,800 to the Aber Valley Heritage Group to work with community groups to research and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the explosion at Universal Colliery Senghenydd in which 440 men lost their lives. Amongst other activities, the HLF grant is funding the following:-

- An intergenerational research project at the public records office; young people and volunteers will search for the death certificates of the victims learning research skills, what is held in public records and more about the history of the Universal Colliery.
- Local primary schools will visit the Aber Valley Heritage Museum to research the details and role of the miners that were killed looking. Volunteer ex-miners will also be present to support the children's research.
- 12 volunteers will receive a day of oral history training delivered. Using these skills, they will record 10 interviews with local residents who have stories of the explosions and its aftermath passed down through generations. These will be transcribed and used in the current displays at Aber Valley Heritage Museum.
- Young people will participate in a digital storytelling workshop, using creative writing skills to bring to life the stories of the miners using images from the Museum.
- Ceramic workshops will be led by an artist to guide young people in making the commemorative tiles for each miner.
- There will also be an interpretation panel and audio post with excerpts of the collected oral histories.
- A quarterly newsletter will be disseminated to provide up-to-date information about the project to the community and other interested parties.

If the Bevan Foundation want to pursue a project along these lines they will need to submit a Project Enquiry Form through the HLF website (www.hlf.org.uk) and we will give them advice on how to proceed. The process for applications varies depending on the amount requested.

I hope this information is helpful to you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours Sincerely,



Jennifer Stewart

Pennaeth Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri, Cymru/Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, Wales

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