

# FACTS ABOUT THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

(SPECIFICALLY RELATED below TO BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN HALL)

## Main aims:

1. 'To help people learn about their own and other people's heritage'
2. 'To conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy'
3. 'To help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage'.

Any project that they fund *must* do 1 **and** *either* 2 or 3 (or both 2 and 3).

Their definition of heritage includes historic buildings and townscapes.

Their definition of a project is 'work or an activity that is *on top of the everyday work of your organisation*, is limited by time and has specific aims. We can support capital work (including conservation and repair) with related activities' and they look for long-lasting benefits for the widest possible public.

## Other rules:

- prevent the funding of statutory requirements, such as compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
- restrict their funding of facilities such as toilets, unless they are a small part of a much bigger project.
- require that grant recipients put 5% of the total costs of their project in from their own resources, in cash or in kind, as well as seeking partnership funds from other sources.

Option 2 for the Town Hall aims to meet these criteria. See examples below.

The Town Hall is a Grade II\* listed building, which means it is a historic building of *national* significance as well as being pre-eminent in the town.

The extensive conservation work it is thought to require is beyond the scope of the Town Council's 'everyday work'.

The proposals for extending disabled access to wheelchair users go beyond the Town Council's duties of compliance with the DDA (which it has already fulfilled), *and* meet the HLF's aim of helping a wider range of people take an active part in their heritage, so should be eligible for funding.

Work to the basement toilets is not statutorily required, would be a small part of the overall project and would make the Town Hall a practical proposition for hosting school visits, thus further widening the range of people taking an active part in their heritage, so the case can be made for HLF funding again.

As the Town Council has about £60,000 put aside for spending on the Town Hall, reserving £30,000, after urgent repairs are dealt with, would mean it would still have available the 5% that it would be required to contribute to an HLF funded project, assuming total project costs of £600,000.

The partnership opportunity that exists with the Bishop's Castle Tourism Community Interest Company:

- Provides staff to open the Town Hall, most days of the week, at no cost to the Town Council.
- Brings assistance in seeking additional funding for the initial major project.
- Makes several additional uses practicable in this important building.

This one aspect of Option 2 thus enables more people (local schools and other groups and individuals) to learn about their own heritage and (tourists) to learn about other people's heritage; meets the partnership funding requirements; and makes a major contribution to securing the benefits of the project for the long-term, through increased uses and income.