



**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Exeter
City Council

Press release

For immediate release

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St David's community kickstarts ambitious heritage project

An ambitious community project in St David's has received a boost after securing support from the National Lottery Fund and funding from Exeter City Council [1]. Exeter Community Centre Trust and St David's Neighbourhood Partnership are working together to bring the currently derelict top floor of the Community Centre, by the Iron Bridge on St David's Hill, back into community use. The project is also inviting the local community to help plan how to celebrate the local area's unique heritage, which has the much loved Centre at its heart.

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the project has been awarded initial support* and development funding of £34,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This will enable the project plans to be developed and an application for the full grant of £333,700 will be applied for at a later date.

Kelvin Lacy, Chair of the Exeter Community Centre Trust said,

"Residents worked hard in 2012 to save the listed building and raise £1.7m to restore the first phase of the building for the community. At that point we mothballed the top floor. The Centre is now thriving and we are running out of space! So now it's time to bring the top floor back into community uses.

It's huge! The top floor is 406m2, with structural challenges, but it will be worth the investment."

The St David's Neighbourhood Partnership, which brings local residents' groups, businesses and Councillors together, has seen the area's heritage as an important asset and is a priority in the 'Vision 2020' plan for the area. The project is also planning to map and celebrate the area's heritage.

Christine Fraser, Chair of the Partnership, said *"St David's is a special area with a fascinating heritage and important features such as the iron bridge, and even the red phone boxes, which residents value. But there's also much to uncover that most residents don't know about. This project will make it easier for residents to love where they live."*

Exeter City Council awarded £50,000 towards the project from the Grass Roots Grants fund, which played an important role in convincing the Heritage Lottery Fund to back the project.

Cllr Phil Bialyk, Exeter City Council Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport, said, *"It is good to see that our investment, which comes from developers' fees, will make such a difference in the area. Community buildings like these are so important to bring people together and run vital services."*

The project team will be popping up at community events over the summer [2] as they ask people what they'd like to see as the project plans are developed ready for the second stage of the National Lottery which will be submitted in the autumn.

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Notes:

[1] Exeter Community Centre Trust Ltd and St David's Neighbourhood Partnership have received initial support and development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This is enabling them to engage residents to develop the project. The Grant is also match funding to the Exeter City Council Grant for the building and this stage will see the appointment of property experts to advise on planning, structural and building works as well as piloted community engagement activities. Fundraising towards the overall project cost of £680,000 is ongoing. A second stage bid will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the autumn.

[2] Meet the project team at: Exeter Respect (Saturday 30th June); St David's Parish Fete (Saturday 7th July 11:30 - 2:30), St David's Primary School Fete (Friday 13th July 5-7pm) and at the Community Centre open day (Saturday July 14th 2-5pm).

[3] About the Heritage Lottery Fund

HLF main grants programme applications are assessed in two rounds. 'Our Big Map, Our Big Building' has initially been granted round one development funding of £34,900 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £333,700.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the Heritage Lottery Fund invests money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.