

Call for Expressions of Interest in partnering Powys CC in operating y Gaer

Statement from Brecknock Society and Museum Friends to Powys CC



- 1. Background** This statement by Brecknock Society and Museum Friends (BS&MF) is a response to the advert by Powys CC on 11 October for expressions of interest from potential partners in operating y Gaer. It follows on from our meeting with Cllr Rosemarie Harris and Powys CC executive (including Cllr Phyl Davies and Nina Davies) on 7 October when we undertook to submit a statement to Powys CC.
- 2. The BS&MF** is a Registered Charity founded in 1928 to study and promote the history and culture of Brecknockshire. We arrange lectures, meetings, exhibitions and other events for the public good. We produce the respected annual journal *Brycheiniog*. We support the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery by purchasing artefacts for display, raising funds for the Museum, and many of our members work on its behalf on a voluntary basis. See our website www.brecknocksociety.co.uk for further information.
- 3. Existing links with y Gaer project** Existing funding commitments through the BS&MF towards delivering elements of y Gaer total approximately £280,000. We are an existing local funding partner to the NHLF's 'Connecting Communities and Collections' award which has funded the renovation of the Museum and Art Gallery and sets out expectations for the future operation of these spaces. We have raised the funding for, and are leading, the Interpretation Project which will provide 45 digital touch-screen terminals to inform visitors to the Museum and Art Gallery. We have raised additional funding for the conservation and display of key exhibits in the restored galleries. We are also members of the existing Powys CC Stakeholder Group and Fundraising Group for y Gaer.
- 4. Future Vision for y Gaer** The BS&MF is a named local partner alongside Powys CC in the November 2018 [Vision Statement](#). To quote this Statement, we expect this cultural vision for y Gaer to be delivered through a '...model partnership with local partners and volunteers working alongside council staff to deliver services'. As a local partner, we expect to raise some income towards the overall operational budget for y Gaer (see 5 below). We would not lease any space (although we are interested in using appropriate rooms for BS&MF meetings and we would expect to pay for such room hire). We believe that future operational funds for y Gaer must be drawn from several different sources to achieve a comprehensive operational budget.
- 5. Our roles in future operation of y Gaer** The BS&MF expects to assist Powys CC with both income and contributions in kind related to our objectives in securing a sustainable future for y Gaer in the ways listed below. (We understand that the Brecknock Art Trust is submitting a similar statement to Powys CC, and some of the items listed below would involve both organisations).

Income

- a. Patrons' scheme** - As a local society and charity, BS&MF would lead in running an annual income scheme for patrons to support the operation of specified Museum and Art Gallery activities.
- b. Museum and Art Gallery Shop** - BS&MF would assist in securing income streams from an agreed schedule of retail items. We are already dealing with cards and postcards.
- c. Access to other funding organisations** - As a Registered Charity, BS&MF could access sources of funding not accessible to Powys CC for activities and acquisitions related to our objectives.
- d. Exhibitions and other special events** - BS&MF would play its part in the organisation and delivery of the programme of special Museum and Art Gallery events aimed at income generation.

Contributions in kind The BS&MF's members form a significant part of the y Gaer Volunteer cohort that will help to run the Museum and Art Gallery. Our regular programme of events (lectures etc) and our journal *Brycheiniog* will form a key part of y Gaer's cultural service to the community.

- 6. Future Trust status for y Gaer** We support Powys CC considering setting up some form of trust to operate y Gaer in due course. A trust would still require considerable resourcing but would be able to reclaim significant rate relief and could also have better access to some funding sources.

For Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

23 October 2019

Mervyn Bramley - Lead for BS&MF on y Gaer Project John Gibbs - Chair, BS&MF as Trustees