

Council wins Lottery funding for Pittville Park (Press Release)

Cheltenham Borough Council has just been awarded a Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund of £49,800, for Pittville Park and Estate.

The grant will be used to prepare a Stage 1 application to the HLF/Big Lottery, under the Parks for People programme, to restore the park and estate to its former glory while making it fit for purpose for the 21st century and improve the connection and integration with surrounding areas. The work will involve preparing plans for the park which will increase the range of audiences, involve more people, conserve and improve the heritage value, increase the range of activities and opportunities for local communities, encourage and extend the range of volunteers involved, improve skills and knowledge through training and improve management and maintenance. With the closing date for Stage 1 applications under this programme at the end of August 2008, the Project team has 11 months to complete the work.

The park is Grade II listed under the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special historic Interest, while the iconic Pump Room is a Grade one listed building. Current facilities at the park include a boating/fishing lake, skateboarding ramps, refreshment kiosk, playground, tennis courts, band stand and aviaries which are home to a variety of birds and mammals.

Councillor Chris Ryder, cabinet member for green environment said: "This is great news as competition for HLF funding is intense at Stage 1. Pittville park is very important for the whole of the borough and gaining this grant means that we will have the skills and resources needed to put in a strong visionary bid to the HLF, which will put Pittville park at the heart of the surrounding communities".