

# **PIONEER PROJECT - Proposal**

## **FROM FORT TO PIT TO PORT**

### Proposal

To investigate and make apparent the history of parts of South East Wales from the Silures (Celtic tribe that was the most prominent in the area) through to the growth of the region through industrialisation.

To use the historical waterways of South Wales to act as a metaphor for linking the physical environments and the histories of the communities of Cardiff and The Valleys and for exploring their place in the rest of the world.

To collect and share stories in written, aural and visual formats to celebrate the living history experience of people who have lived and worked in these communities.

To work with Communities First Clusters ACE (Ely Caerau, Fairwarter), BRG (Butetown, Riverside, Grangetown) in Cardiff and North Merthyr (Gurnos and Dowlais) in Merthyr.

To work with community members in these Communities First clusters, involving them in historical and archaeological activities, courses and other creative responses and activities.

To provide opportunities for communities to meet with each other and share experiences and learning.

To raise the profile and awareness of historic sites in the target areas such as the Caer Iron Age hill fort, The Glamorgan canal, The Coal Exchange, Cyfarthfa and Dowlais Iron works and Morlais castle.

To engage the community in ongoing heritage and history projects through initiatives such as the Coal Exchange proposed regeneration the ongoing CAER Initiative and activities at Cyfarthfa Castle.

Raise awareness of the historic links between the communities of Cardiff and the surrounding valleys and their links to the wider world.

To explore and celebrate the cultural diversity and the historical ebbs and flows of different communities in South Wales

To develop and provide community owned resources that reinforce community identity.

To work in partnership with Cardiff University to develop and provide resources packs for local schools to assist in the study of local history and heritage.

To encourage sustainable community response to local heritage and sense of place

To promote cultural tourism.

### **Use of Funding**

The initial funding for the year 2015 – 16 will be administered by Cardiff University and will be used to complement University resources available through the Strong Communities Healthier People (SCHeP) engagement initiative to support a number of exploratory visits / events between the two areas involved in Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil. This would include a visit from the Cardiff residents to explore the historically and culturally significant sites in Merthyr Tydfil and vice versa for Merthyr residents to visit sites in Cardiff. A joint event/celebration would also then be envisioned where both groups to come together to visit those waterways that have historically linked the two areas together such as the River Taff and the site of the Glamorgan canal