



PRESS RELEASE:

CURZON ONE STEP CLOSER TO MAJOR LOTTERY FUNDING

The Curzon Cinema is celebrating the first round pass* of its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

This announcement gives the Curzon Cinema the green-light to develop its project, *The Curzon Clevedon: conserving and sharing the living history of cinema, film and projection*, which will combine the most urgent protection needs of the building with the refurbishment of key interior areas and improved presentation and interpretation. This will enhance public access, experience and understanding of the cinema building and the Curzon Collection of Heritage Cinema Equipment, that together demonstrate the living history of cinema from the early 20th century to the present.

While this does not guarantee that the £400,000 project will be fully funded, it means the historic cinema has been awarded £31,700 to help develop a more detailed bid for second phase of the awards process.

Hilary Neal, Chair of the Curzon Board, said "In a difficult economic climate, when competition for funding is tougher than ever, we are delighted that the HLF has recognised the community and historic value of the Curzon. We look forward to working with the HLF to further develop our plans for stage 2 of the application process."

The Curzon will be holding a public meeting at the cinema on Saturday 28 March at 11.30am, at which Hilary Neal will update the public on progress to date, and on the cinema's plans for the future.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

* A first-round pass means the project meets HLF criteria for funding and that it has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. However, a first-round pass does not guarantee the applicant will receive a grant although the chances of receiving a grant are high the second-round application will still be in competition for funding, and no money is set aside at this stage. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4billion across the UK, including £395million to the South West alone.

Website: www.hlf.org.uk.

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