



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – HUW JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected Blaengwrach and Glynneath West and Glynneath Central and East

Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Glynneath Town Council

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Glynneath Town Council under the Council's Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme.

Background

2. Neath Port Talbot Council has approved a Community Council Minor Projects Grants Scheme in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects. Approved grants are required to be claimed within two years of approval.
3. The Council has received an application for grant aid under the above mentioned scheme from Glynneath Town Council.

This application is for grant assistance in the amount of £804,342 to transform Glynneath Miners Welfare Park into a destination park, by building on the potential of existing facilities, and adding new ones which will serve the community for generations to come.

Due to the scale and complexity of delivering the proposal, it has been split into several phases. We are applying to the Community Minor Projects Grant to assist with Phase One, which will include:-

- Converting the former bowling green into a bold, visionary and out of the ordinary play and learning space for children from pre-school age, up to age 11.
- Refurbishing three of the existing tennis courts, with the fourth being converted into a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) line marked for 5v5 football, netball and hockey.
- Creating a new, dynamic and challenging play area for juniors and teens.

Following a full and open tender exercise, our chosen contractor, 'Sutcliffe SW' has provided us with a quotation valuing the work at £804,342.

If we are successful with this and subsequent grant applications, we expect to break ground in early 2025, with a projected completion date for 'Phase One' in April 2025.

How will the balance of the project costs be financed?

The £10,000 requested from the Community Minor Projects grant would be used as match funding towards applications to the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm 'Vision' Fund, valued at £393,240.10, the Maes Gwyn Wind Farm Fund valued at £395,000, and the Selar Glynneath Community Benefit Fund valued at £6,101.90.

What are the revenue implications?

The cost of routine maintenance will be borne by the Town Council, its precept and its specific Welfare Park Maintenance Fund, as agreed in Council on 09.01.24. £15,000 has been allocated to this budgetary heading in order to kick start the Fund, and there will be further contributions as the precept becomes available every fiscal year.

RoSPA annual inspection will identify deficiencies in the new apparatus (although these are unlikely in the first 5-10 years of operation given the extended warranties on steelwork, laminated play panels, safety surfacing, components and consumable parts).

The Town Council already invests in replacing the wearing parts on apparatus that is in excess of 30 years old. New equipment will be much more economic to maintain.

Our Grounds Staff will be responsible for day-to-day maintenance, supervision, grass cutting and litter picking.

Has your organization approached other funding bodies e.g. National Lottery? Yes

If yes, who have you approached and at what stage is your project?

As stated above, we will be making a Full Funding Application to the Pen y Cymoedd 'Vision' Fund. This is a two-stage application process comprising an initial 'Expression of Interest (EOI)', followed by a 'Full Funding Application (FFA).' We are pleased to report that our EOI was well received by the Pen y Cymoedd Board of Directors, and we have been given the go ahead to submit our FFA by the due deadline date of 19.08.24, for decision at the Assessment Panel scheduled for 23.09.24.

Our application to the Maes Gwyn Wind Farm Fund will be assessed by panel on 24.07.24, and our application to the Selar Community Benefit Fund will be assessed on 31.07.24.

4. How will this project contribute to the Council's four well-being objectives as set out in the 2022-2027 Corporate Plan?

Our initial needs analysis and spatial mapping has revolved around the NPT Revised Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (LDP), which computes the need for play, Public Open Space (POS), pitch and non-pitch provision. We have also taken advice from the Play Strategy Implementation Group and the Play Sufficiency Assessment. These point to an unmet demand or unsatisfied need for equipped play provision in Glynneath.

The project aligns closely to three of the four NPTCBC Corporate Plan 2022-2027 wellbeing objectives:-

1. All children get the best start in life

To ensure that local children and young people get the best from this proposal, we have worked heavily with pupils from

YGG Cwmnedd and Cwmnedd Primary School. Children and young people have been involved at every stage, from giving opinion on what play apparatus they would like, to helping us choose the successful tender. Once complete, the Park will be used as an outdoor base for curricular activities and sport, as well as an important thoroughfare between Cwmnedd Primary School and their Morfa Glas Reception site. This facility on their doorstep will create positive opportunities for play, sport, socialising and learning for children of all ages, as well as their parents and carers.

2. Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations

The Welfare Park has not seen any major investment in 30+ years. It no longer serves the needs of the community, yet our consultation exercises reveal that it is a much valued facility, and its improvement is the 'top priority' for residents. As a Town Council we feel it is our duty to bring this facility back from the brink, providing amenities that enrich and enhance the local environment and guarantee longevity for future generations. The equipment to be installed has been chosen based on its ability to stand the test of time. All apparatus will be of robust construction, ensuring that it will serve the community for many years to come.

3. All communities are thriving and sustainable

The new facility would provide opportunities for our residents to thrive; enjoying a better quality of life, making the most of the outdoors, and ensuring the area is more attractive and vibrant.

Glynneath is the main service centre for the Neath Valley, and is home to a number of shops and small businesses, all of which will benefit from increased footfall as a result of this project.

The appeal of this project will generate usage from the adjoining Wards, as well as by those who visit the area to explore the nearby Waterfall Country (around 40,000 per year) and the Brecon Beacons.

The proposal will imbibe a greater sense of community pride and spirit. Residents have been involved in the design of the play area and we know, through consultation, that this project is very close to their hearts.

Proposal and Financial Impact

5. The application from Glynneath Town Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 50% up to a maximum of £10,000 in accordance with the Minor Projects Grants Scheme and payment be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There are no impacts in respect of the obligations to the Council under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and support via this grant is a positive impact in respect of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Valleys Communities Impacts

7. Applications for grant are available to Community Councils across the county borough.

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts

9. Grants are provided in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Risk Management Impacts

10. All grant applications are considered on their own merit and in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Consultation

11. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Members approve a grant of 50% of actual costs up to a maximum of £10,000 to Glynneath Town Council Council.

Reason for Proposed Decision

13. The decision is in compliance with the approved policy and to enable community improvements.

Implementation of Decision

14. The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

List of Background Papers

15. Application from Glynneath Town Council.

Officer Contact

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