



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

2 OCTOBER 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – HUW JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected Rhos

Report Title – Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Cilybebyll Community Council

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Cilybebyll Community 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 Cilybebyll Community Council.

This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works in the amount of £91,266.00.

The grant would help towards the funding sought to realize the Community Council's ambition of developing a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Rhos Park. This would augment earlier investment in the equipped play area and the football field that is used by Rhos FC. A defunct BMX track has been a source of concern for the Community Council for some years and this proposal will not only remedy that situation by re-purposing the site of the former BMX but also give the village a new sports amenity. The origins of the project can be traced back to consultation carried out some four years ago. Many options have been explored and exhausted and we are confident that the MUGA will be of greatest appeal to the widest of audiences.

The MUGA Specification will include a playing surface footprint (12 x21m), of porous tarmac marked out for netball, basketball and football enclosed with a 3m perimeter fence with recessed goal mouths, hoops and a chicane. Link paths, reinstatement, curb edging, and litter bins, benches and a bike rack are included in our project proposal.

Our vision is to create an informal space for recreational sport in a secure, safe environment which is within easy walking distance of a captive audience.

This project has been under consideration for four years. We find that as years go by and we wait for a general consensus of opinion the value of the grant aid available to us depreciates.

It is now time to act as we have seen 15% increases in the cost of stone, steel, rubber, labour and raw materials since the pandemic. Further prevarication will make this project proposal less deliverable, being beyond the current funding arrangements that are currently within our grasp.

How will the balance of the project costs be financed?

The £9,000 requested from the Community Minor Projects grant would be used as match funding towards a secured Section 106 community contribution for 'play, open space, pitch and non-pitch provision' valued at £71,266. The remaining £11,000 will be a contribution from the Cilybebyll Community Council Reserves (agreed at Community Council meeting 03.09.24).

What are the revenue implications?

Annual inspection, ongoing maintenance and insurance will fall to the Community Council. The upkeep of the MUGA will be in accord with the current arrangements for inspecting, maintaining and insuring the equipped play area in Rhos Park.

There are no moving parts to the MUGA and all components are heavy gauge (equivalent to 356 prison mesh). We anticipate minimum maintenance costs. There will be a need for sweeping autumn leaves, control of moss and algae and emptying of litter bins which our on-site Community Centre Caretaker will attend to.

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

No, not for this project as the core funding is available from Section 106 and this 'community contribution' must be invested within Rhos Park and committed within certain timescales which are due to lapse. With the Community Minor Projects grant the total funding package will exactly mirror the total project cost of £91,266.

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

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

The most recent Census data indicates that there are 414 individuals between the age of 0-17 living in the Ward of Rhos, and a further 552 in the neighbouring Ward of Alltwen. This new facility would be on their doorstep, and will create positive opportunities for play, exercise, sport and socialization for children of all ages, as well as their parents, grandparents and carers. This project proposal will foster community cohesion, engagement and positive leisure time pursuits across a wide range of age groups, being of maximum appeal to children and young people.

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

As a Community Council we feel it is our duty to revitalize this area by providing a new amenity which adds considerably to the provision currently on offer at Rhos Park, one which is better aligned to what the community needs. The equipment to be installed has been chosen based on its ability to stand the test of time (it comes with generous warranties which cover the steel components, groundworks and court furniture). All components will be of robust construction, ensuring that the facility will serve the community for many years to come. The Play environment at Rhos Park will be multi-faceted with the arrival of the MUGA. It will give generations of children and young people years of service and enjoyment, making Rhos a better place to live, work, play, enjoy and relax.

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. The new facility will foster neighbourhood renewal, community pride in place and community spirit. It will provide for the young families that have moved into the new 'Permissions' development. The new MUGA would enhance the activities currently offered by Rhos FC, and help to make the Club more financially sustainable.

Proposal and Financial Impact

5. The application from Cilybebyll Community Council Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 45% up to a maximum of £9,000 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 45% of actual costs up to a maximum of £9,000 to Cilybebyll Community 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 Cilybebyll Community Council.

Officer Contact

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