



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

13 NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – HUW JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected – Coedffranc Central

Report Title – Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Coedffranc Town Council

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Coedffranc 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 Coedffranc Town Council.

This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works in the amount of £22,000 net with VAT being recoverable.

The grant would contribute towards enhancing the current provision of play equipment at Skewen Park. Feedback from parents

suggests that there is insufficient age appropriate equipment for toddlers with the emphasis being on junior play. The proposal which has attracted interest from three reputable play companies, will add new equipment in the form of a 2.4m swing bay complete with three cradle seats and one inclusive seat for those with poor lumbar support or mobility issues. The proposal also includes for a Hop & Climb toddler Multi play unit, an inclusive seesaw and two play panels. This represents good value for money. The grant will be used to assist the supply and installation of the equipment to BS EN1176 and Safety surfacing to BS EN 1177.

How will the balance of the project costs be financed?

Planning Application (P2020/0423) and the conversion of the former Snooker Hall in Coedffranc Central has yielded a 'community contribution' towards 'play' valued at £13,620 and this will be used to finance the lion's share of this proposal. £8,000 from the Minor Projects Grant will leave a funding shortfall of £380 which the Town Council will honour.

What are the revenue implications?

The inspection, insurance and maintenance implications will be as these are now with the Town Council commissioning repair, servicing and an annual review of the condition of all play equipment under its custodianship, as part of its Parks and Open Spaces revenue budget. The new equipment will pose less of a maintenance concern (as it comes complete with extended warranties), that some of the older items of equipment so this initiative can be seen as spending to save.

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

No – The funding package can be fully met by the Minor Projects Grant, the Section 106 payment from the Planning Development and a contribution from the Town Council, there has been no financial need to seek additional external sources of grant aid.

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

Initial needs analysis and spatial mapping has revolved around the NPT Revised Local Development Plan (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 evidenced need for additional play equipment at Skewen Park.

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

1. All children get the best start in life

The most recent Census data tells us that there are 997 children and young people between the ages of 0-15 living in the Ward of Coedffranc Central, and a further 1,129 in the neighbouring Wards of Coedffranc West and North. This proposal will provide additional opportunities for play, exercise and physical activity in an outdoor setting. It will give the children additional chances to interact with their peers in a safe, secure and friendly environment.

2. To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable

The project will add to and extend visits made to Skewen Park during school holiday events, helping the Town Council and local businesses to become more sustainable and encouraging greater community cohesion.

The equipment to be installed has been chosen based on its ability to stand the test of time. All components will be of robust construction, ensuring that the new play equipment will service the community for many years to come.

Proposal and Financial Impact

5. The application from Coedffranc Town Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 40% up to a maximum of £8,000 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 40% of actual costs up to a maximum of £8,000 to Coedffranc Town 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 Coedffranc Town Council.

Officer Contact

16. Mr. H. Jones. – Director of Finance
Tel. 01639 763575 - email: h.jones@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk