



## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**13 NOVEMBER 2024**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – HUW JONES**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected – Resolven and Tonna**

#### **Report Title – Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Tonna Community Council**

#### **Purpose of Report**

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

This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works in the amount of £60,000 net with VAT being recoverable.

The grant would contribute towards establishing a newly equipped Childrens play area at Dolcoed (the Memorial Park) in Tonna. Quotes to the value of £60,000 from five reputable Play Companies have been sought and following extensive consultation and evaluation the Community Council wishes to develop the HACS proposal; which includes for a dynamic inclusive play area suitable for 3-11 year olds. The Minor Projects Grant will help towards financing a two bay swing unit, a Springer, a micro roundabout, three play panels, hopscotch thermoplastic ground graphics, a hammock play feature, a multi play unit (with rungs and towers) and a low resistance spiral complete with mushroom seating area.

The grant will help with supply and installation of the play equipment and the provision of impact absorbing safety surfacing to meet EN BS 1176.

### **How will the balance of the project costs be financed?**

The Community Council has been building its precept and reserves for the last five years in order to make this particular project a reality. The Community Council have £48,000 in their Parks and Open Spaces Capital Budget which will contribute the majority share of the total project cost.

### **What are the revenue implications?**

Only maintenance requirements and inspections which have, for the Community Council, become custom and practice at Dolcoed and a second equipped play area at the other end of the village at Dan y Bryn.

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

No, the remaining £48,000 can be met from Community Council reserves.

#### **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 revolve 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 Sufficiently Assessment. These point to an unmet demand or unsatisfied need for this type of play space in the heart of Tonna.

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

### **1. To ensure our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations**

There are currently little to no play opportunities at Tonna Memorial Park. Over the years, equipment that has exhausted its lifespan has been cut down and removed altogether, not to be replaced. Despite this, the facility is still well used due to its location adjacent to Tonna Primary School, and its use as a thoroughfare between the School and Tonna RFC.

The current state of the Park has effectively given us a blank canvas, leaving us with the opportunity, through this project, to enhance our local environment and 'start from scratch'. We have carefully considered five designs for the new play provision, and have selected the one which aligns most to the needs of local residents, and will serve the community for generations to come.

### **2. To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable**

This project will provide opportunities for play, exercise and physical activity in an outdoor setting. It will also be a resource for learning and improving motor skills, and it will give children the chance to interact with their peers in a safe, secure and friendly environment.

The project will add to and extend visits made to nearby Tonna RFC, helping the Club to become more sustainable and encouraging increased participation in the sport of rugby.

The facility will become part of daily life for the 211 pupils at Tonna Primary School. For the children, a dedicated play space to be enjoyed on the way to and from School and for the parents and grandparent an opportunity to socialise, form friendships and catch up on local news.

## **Proposal and Financial Impact**

5. The application from Tonna Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 60% up to a maximum of £12,000 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 60% of actual costs up to a maximum of £12,000 to Tonna 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 Tonna Community Council.

## **Officer Contact**

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