

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

7 July 2016

### Report of the Head of Streetcare

M. Roberts

#### Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### Foot Golf within the Gnoll Country Park

#### Report Title

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 To consider including Foot Golf within the Gnoll Country Park.

#### Executive Summary

- 2 To explore additional income streams, as set out with the Forward Financial Plan, officers have met representatives from UK Footgolf with a view to introducing Foot Golf within the Gnoll Country Park. There would be an initial set up cost of circa £3K however this would be refunded if the Council did not recoup the money in the first 3 months of opening. There would be no alterations or additional works required to the existing fairways or greens and the course would become dual purpose with Golf and Foot Golf space being available to users at set times.

#### Background

- 3 Members may recall as part of the 2016/2017 Forward Financial Plan it was agreed that all possible additional income streams should be explored to further reduce the subsidy at the park to improve its sustainability going forward.
- 4 One suggestion is to give consideration to the introduction of Foot Golf

- 5 The UK Footgolf Association is the official governing body for Foot Golf which covers England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Currently there are circa 200 courses.
- 6 The current 9 hole golf course would continue to operate, with the Foot Golf holes being close to the golf greens. This would allow visitors to continue to enjoy the use of the golf course, plus providing an additional facility, which will hopefully attract more visitors and create a greater visitor experience.
- 7 There would be no requirements to alter or construct any further fairways or greens, as UK Footgolf confirm that the current set up and terrain is suitable for Foot Golf provision.

### **Financial Impact**

- 8 There would be a one-off set up fee to UK Footgolf of £2995.00 for the purchase of 50 various sized footballs, course furniture which includes tee-off markers, flags, Foot Golf holes and lids, 2000 score cards plus leaflets.
- 9 There would also be an annual subscription fee of £695. Benefits of this subscription include that the Groll Country Park would become part of the UK Footgolf association, to which a link is placed from their website directing people to the venue. In addition, UK Footgolf would organise competitions at affiliated venues, this would include the Welsh Open in August 2016.
- 10 UK Footgolf have provided a commitment that if the authority do not achieve a £3K return in the first 3 months of operating, they would reimburse these fees. The only stipulations set by UK Footgolf is that the park offers Foot Golf for a minimum of 6hrs a day, for 6 days a week in that period and the facility has to be in full operation by the start of August 2016.
- 11 It is expected that the introduction of Foot Golf would increase income. Additional visitors would also hopefully provide additional income through the car park and Café, which would assist the authority in meeting its commitments within the 2016/17 FFP.
- 12 Proposed charges for 9 holes is £5.00 for Adults and £3.75 for Children.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 13 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

## **Workforce Impact**

- 14 Bookings and general associated duties would initially be accommodated by existing staff within their current working day. This would be reviewed, pending the participation and success of the attraction.

## **Legal Impact**

- 15 There are not believed to be any legal impacts or reasons why the recommendation cannot be legally implemented.

## **Risk Management**

- 16 If the Gnoll Country Park does not continue to move toward a cost neutral position then the sustainability of the park going forward may be called into question given the current climate of austerity.

## **Consultation**

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

## **Recommendation(s)**

- 18 It is recommended that the authority trial Foot Golf within the Gnoll Country Park, and officers purchase the necessary set-up and subscription as detailed in the report

## **Reason for Proposed Decision(s)**

- 19 To increase income in line with FFP aspirations and to encourage more visitors to the Gnoll Country Park

## **Implementation of Decision**

- 20 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

- 21 None

## **List of Background Papers**

- 22 Equalities Impact Screening Assessment

## **Officer Contact**

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