

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

16 February 2017

**Joint Report of Head of Streetcare
M. Roberts and
Head of Property and Regeneration
S. Brennan**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

RHIANNA'S SWING - GNOLL COUNTRY PARK

Purpose of Report

- 1 To consider a request for a 5 year repairing lease to an area of land adjacent to the existing children's playground within the Gnoll Country Park, Neath

Executive Summary

- 2 To accommodate play equipment specifically designed for disabled children, the authority has been asked to consider leasing an area adjacent to the children's playground in the Gnoll. The request is from a constituted fundraising group called 'Rhianna's Swing' and is for a 5 year period. During the lease, the group would manage the facility and be responsible for all repairs/maintenance and liability matters. At the end of the lease the site would become the responsibility of the council.

Background

- 3 Within the Gnoll Country Park, there are two playgrounds. One is an adventure playground situated near the main car park, with a toddler playground close to the visitors centre.
- 4 The Authority has been approached by Mrs Jillian Dale on behalf of a group that who wishes to lease an area adjacent to the

existing toddlers playground in memory of a young girl who had learning difficulties. The group has asked if the Authority would consider a lease of land to accommodate play equipment which is specifically designed for disabled children.

- 5 Mrs Dale has set up a constituted fundraising group namely 'Rhianna's Swing' to take on such a lease.
- 6 The group are fundraising, including an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to fully fund the project, which will include all ground works, safety flooring, fencing and specialised play equipment.
- 7 During the lease, the group would manage the facility and be responsible for all safety inspections, repairs/maintenance and liability matters.
- 8 Officers have met Mrs Dale and representatives of a local play equipment provider, who have identified a cost of circa £69K.
- 9 The applicant has confirmed that to meet the criteria of the HLF grant they are required to be responsible for the area for a minimum of 5 years. On completion of the 5 year period the group are proposing that the playground becomes the responsibility of the authority, but with no commitment for the council to continue to provide replacement equipment once it becomes beyond economic repair. Having said that, it may be that the provision has been very well received and successful and the Council may wish to maintain provision going forward.

Financial Impact

- 10 There are no initial set up costs to the authority, as this will be covered by the fund raising group.
- 11 In addition during the lease period all subsequent costs will be the responsibility of the fundraising group.
- 12 On completion of the five year lease then should the facility remain in place, on-going maintenance costs need to be met by the Neighbourhood Services budget.

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 Equality Impact Assessment. The provision of specialist play facilities designed for children with disabilities would have a positive impact.

Workforce Impact

- 14 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

- 15 There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

- 16 The authority would be expected to meet all costs and responsibility for the equipment on completion of the 5 year lease period. Furthermore, any decision to dis-continue the facility after that time is likely to have a negative equality impact.

Consultation

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

Recommendation(s)

- 18 It is recommended discussions continue with the fund raising group and pending a satisfactory outcome, in principle authorisation is granted for a 5 year lease on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property and Regeneration.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

- 19 To provide a greater experience for visitors to the Gnoll Country Park by installing quality play equipment specifically designed for disabled children.

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 No Background Papers

Officer Contact

- 23 Mr Wayne Curtis, Principal Officer Tel: 01639 686390 or email: w.curtis@npt.gov.uk
- 24 Mr Andrew Lewis, Waste and Neighbourhood Services Manger Tel: 01639 686021 or email: a.lewis@npt.gov.uk
- 25 Mr David Phillips, Property & Valuation Manager Tel: 01639 686980 or email: d.phillips@npt.gov.uk