NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5th December 2018

Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL)
Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Blaengwrach

Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund - Phase 2 Redevelopment of Cwmgwrach Welfare Park

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to fund a project proposal that requests financial support under the Members Community Fund. The project has been tabled by the respective Ward Member.

Executive Summary

2. The Members Community Fund was approved in its present form at Cabinet Board on the 16.05.18 and was launched at an All

Members Seminar on the 14.06.18.The Fund is to be used to address local needs and to support projects and initiatives that will contribute towards creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

The Project Development & Funding Unit (PDFU) within ELLL is charged with the governance of the Fund and will act as the Grant Management Organisation.

Bids can be made for projects that enhance existing Council services, assist voluntary sector provision or form part of a larger initiative that is in need of additional financial support.

Eligible projects will include those that enrich the environment, promote non - statutory education and learning, assist Health & Well Being, and promote culture and / or recreation in all its forms.

Another project proposal now seeks funding and has been formally submitted to the PDFU. The bid has been checked for completeness, accuracy and deliverability and is 'fit for purpose' and ready for determination by Cabinet.

Project Proposal

3. Phase 2 of the redevelopment of Cwmgwrach Welfare Park in the Ward of Blaengwrach.

A bid for new, dynamic and challenging fixed play equipment, the conversion of a tennis court into a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), rejuvenating the existing Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) by installing new ball catch netting and perimeter fencing, embarking upon a modest landscaping scheme including the planting of trees and shrubs, installation of bollard lighting, new disabled friendly park furniture, a graffiti project in collaboration with a local artist and pupils from Blaengwrach Primary School and the installation of an 'Outdoor Events Area' with bandstand style shelter and a space which can be adapted for community events such as 'Armed Forces Day.'

This bid has been developed as part of a complex scheme requiring input from the PDFU to facilitate its delivery. The PDFU has been instrumental throughout the whole process including consultation, acquiring the funding package, procurement and delivering and

managing the project. The first phase of the project, the demolition of a derelict paddling pool pumping station and a drainage scheme on a kickabout area, was recently completed using grant aid from the NPTCBC Community Minor Projects Grant (£14,000) and an award from the Selar Community Benefit Fund in Blaengwrach (£15,070.68). This application to the Members Fund is for the second and final phase of the project.

The need for this initiative has been brought to the attention of Blaengwrach Community Council via repeated requests from residents for improvements to the Park. These requests were further investigated by way of a survey which targeted every household in Blaengwrach and extensive consultation exercises involving all local community and voluntary organisations. The results gleaned from consultation have enabled the Community Council to determine what improvements would ensure the most generous arrangements for public enjoyment and what facilities would be most useful to local groups (Cwmgwrach Amateur Boxing Club, Cwmgrach Football Club, the Scouts, etc) - these have been instrumental at arriving at the final design proposal.

The NPTCBC Local Development Plan, in its 'Open Space Assessment', identified the Ward of Blaengwrach as having a shortfall in 'non-pitch areas' (such as MUGAs) and 'play.' This proposal will work towards satisfying the County Council's policies and priorities for Blaengwrach.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the project include improved health and wellbeing, providing greater access to play, physical activity and sporting opportunities, increasing activity and footfall, creating a greater sense of community spirit, making the Park more accessible to those who are less ambulant, reducing anti-social behaviour and encouraging greater social interaction, all of which result in making Blaengwrach a more attractive, vibrant and welcoming community.

Phase 2 of the project has already secured £99,000 from the Pen y Cymoedd 'Vision Fund', £77,629 from the Selar Blaengwrach Community Benefit Fund and £3,000 from the Aberpergwm Colliery Community Benefit Fund. This application to the Members Fund will complete the funding package and make this project a reality. The

proposal has been accurately costed at £184,629 (net of VAT which is recoverable). The Member for Blaengwrach would wish to invest £5,000 (which is 3% of the net total project cost) of her Members Community Fund allocation. This request from Councillor Carolyn Edwards is the first bid made to the £10,000 ring fenced for priority projects in Blaengwrach. With this award of £5,000 the Councillor will have £5,000 remaining in her Members Fund allocation to develop further priority projects.

Financial Impact

4. In order to win favour in Cabinet all projects must be sustainable. Projects must have a robust exit strategy that places no additional revenue or financial burden on the Council.

The Welfare Park falls under the jurisdiction of Blaengwrach Community Council who are the Leaseholders. The Community Council have made a firm commitment to the ongoing insurance, maintenance and inspection of the Park and they have established a specific 'Parks Maintenance Fund' to be used exclusively for that purpose.

The capital project will be of robust construction and installation will be undertaken by reputable, well established companies. The design by the chosen contractor, 'Wicksteed' conforms to the relevant British Standards. All new equipment will conform to European Standards, Safety Surfacing Standards and the quotation includes the cost of a Post Installation Inspection and Sign Off by a qualified RoSPA engineer. Annual inspection of the play equipment will be undertaken by an Independent Service Engineer from RoSPA at the cost of the Community Council.

Regular maintenance of the Park (grass cutting, litter picking, etc) will be undertaken by a groundskeeper who is employed by the Community Council.

The project places no additional revenue or financial burden on NPTCBC.

Equality Impact Assessment

5. There is no requirement under the Constitution for an Equality Impact Assessment on this item.

Workforce Impacts

6. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

7. The delivery of the Members Community Fund will come within the purview of the Local Government Act 2000 which introduced well-being powers which enable every Local Authority to have capacity to do anything which it considers likely to promote an improvement to economic, social or environmental well-being in the area. Under section 56 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 sanction is given for both Executive and Non - Executive Members to invest within their own Ward.

The Council's Constitution should be referred to for explicit guidance on governance.

Risk Management

8. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

10. (In line with the earlier agreed Council policies and priorities, the proposal has been thoroughly scrutinised and is deemed to be credible, well thought through and sustainable). The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

11. To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. The Members Community Fund will continue to receive bids until the due deadline date of 31.03.2020.

Implementation of Decision

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

List of Background Papers

13. This Blaengwrach initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Carolyn Edwards. Quotes, survey findings, performance specifications, minutes of the Blaengwrach Community Council, the project plan and an options appraisal have been retained for future reference.

14. Officer Contact

Paul Hinder, Project Development & Funding Manager, (ELLL).

Tel: 01639 763390, email: p.hinder@npt.gov.uk