

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

20 February 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Bryn & Cwmavon

Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund

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 submitted by two of the three Bryn & Cwmavon Ward Members.

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. Pitch Improvement/Drainage Scheme for Parc Seincyn Powell (Parc y Llyn), Cwmavon.

This bid has been developed as part of a more complex project which would require input from the PDFU to facilitate its delivery.

The proposal is to promote positive drainage of the playing surfaces (laid out as rugby & football fields) in Parc Seincyn Powell (an area totalling 21,440 square metres). A soil consultant has been appointed to arrive at a Performance Specification which has led to a competitive tendering process. This initiative involves the Cwmavon AFC, Cwmavon RFC and the Cwmavon Boys & Girls Club as stakeholders and as Lessees of Parc Seincyn Powell. The three Clubs are bound by a fully insuring and maintaining NPTCBC 25 year Lease under a tripartite Agreement dated 16.09.15.

The improvement works include for site preparation, herbicide treatment, cultivation and grading, followed by top dressing, fertilising, over sowing and includes a three month aftercare package totalling £44,425.50 net of VAT.

The need for the project has arisen from the playing surfaces at the Parc being largely out of use during the winter months as a consequence of acute drainage problems. This denies the local sports Clubs and the Primary School their fixtures, training sessions and PE sessions (which in the school's case are often staged off-site in Llandarcy). All fixtures are concentrated on the Cwmavon Welfare Ground and the regular and aggravated wear and tear is now taking its toll on the only playable natural grassed area in the village. The development at the Parc will relieve the pressure on the Welfare and fixtures will be more guaranteed following amelioration work.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the proposal include increased participation, building upon partnership working, safeguarding the amenity from deterioration, providing a doorstep facility for 440 pupils on role in the Primary School, player retention in the sports Clubs and ensuring a steady income stream, protecting the lifeblood of the Clubs and the secondary spend - that which is associated with hosting a full programme of fixtures on any given weekend.

The total cost of this scheme is £53,310.60 inclusive of VAT (VAT is to be recovered by the project owner as they have registered charitable status). 92% of the net cost of the project is to be met from Grant aid that has been secured by the PDFU from Sport Wales, the WRU and the FAW Trust. The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,812.75 from Councillor Rhidian Mizen's allocation and another £1,812.75 from Councillor David Whitelock's allocation - this will complete the funding package (an 8% shortfall) and make the proposal a reality.

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 project will be sustained in the long term under the Terms & Conditions of the fully maintaining and insuring Lease granted to the three clubs. The Lease stipulates that the grounds are to be kept in 'good and substantial repair'. This is the case now and this will continue post Award.

Grounds maintenance for the Clubs concerned will be easier and less involved with an improved playing surface as the grass sward will prosper, being less prone to wear and debilitating disease.

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. That the project proposal for the provision of 21,440 square metres of positive drainage in Parc Seincyn Powell, Cwmavon be

approved and that Councillor Mizen's allocation of £1,812.75 and Councillor Whitelock's allocation of £1,812.75, under the Members Community Fund, be awarded.

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 Bryn & Cwmavon initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillors Mizen and Whitelock. The Feasibility Study, the Performance Specification, the Tender, the three Applications made by the PDFU to Sport Wales, the WRU and the FAW Trust have been retained for future reference.

14. Officer Contact

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