

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

27 March 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Lower Brynamman

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 the Ward Member for Lower Brynamman.

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. To extend and connect the public woodland walks and interpretative footpaths circumnavigating the Amman Valley Trotting Club in Tai'rgwaith, Lower Brynamman.

This bid has been developed by the Amman Valley Trotting Club (AVTC) as a community owned Company limited by guarantee. The bid will assist Voluntary Sector provision.

The proposal is connect up two well established woodland walks by providing the 'missing link'. The existing terrain is under water and subjected to footfall erosion. The project will enable wheelchair and ambulant visitors to more easily access the long distance OS footpaths which cross the site.

The project will construct 80 running metres of footpath 1.5 metres wide. It will be laid on a bed of 150 mm limestone chip and dust edged with locally sourced recycled plastic boarding to prevent material slippage. The project will also provide interpretative marker etching posts to encourage school visits and school based environmental projects.

The need for the project stems from the desire to protect the wetland, the woodland and the ongoing management of the site whilst channelling visitors into areas that have been previously landscaped

and set aside for the development of biodiversity. The project will expand the on-site facilities, attract more tourism, arrest local ground erosion and permit school visits.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the proposal include making AVTC more viable as a social enterprise, encouraging community regeneration, enhancing educational and learning opportunities whilst diversifying the local economy.

The total cost of this scheme is £3,290 .Councillor Arwyn Woolcock would wish to invest £2,790 in order to make this project a reality. £500 is being donated as 'in - kind' labour.

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 by making best use hard wearing and recycled materials with warranties of 25 years. Interpretative ground posts and etchings are of recycled plastic. Ongoing maintenance of the paths and minor repairs will fall to the volunteer workforce within AVTC.

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 a fully accessible link path around the perimeter of the Tai'rgwaith Trotting Track is approved and that Councillor Arwyn Woolcock's allocation of £2,790, under the Members Community Fund is 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 Lower Brynamman initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Woolcock. The Application has been made in association with a Third Sector Organisation and as a consequence the Constitution, Accounts, Bank Account details, Insurance Policy and the Quotations

that have been generated for the proposed work, by Amman Valley Trotting Club, 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

