

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 June 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 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.

A further 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.

Background

3. Supply and installation of two benches in Lower Brynamman, one in Banwen Place and one in New Road, between Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Tai'rgwaith.

This bid has been developed to 'enhance existing Council Services' and has the full support of NPTCBC's 'Streetcare Services'.

The benches will be of robust construction comprising 100% recycled plastic so they will not rot, splinter or crack. They are very durable and can stand up to any attempts made to vandalise or destroy them. Minimal maintenance is required to keep them in good condition. The benches will be installed onto concrete platforms thus negating the need to mow or strim underneath them.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Councillor. Representations have been made by constituents that benches are needed to allow people a place to rest when walking towards their preferred bus stop. This initiative was brought to the attention of Cllr Woolcock at a recent Ward Surgery/meeting.

The long term sustainable benefits associated with the project include the addition of more amenities, increased social interaction between

members of the public using the benches as a meeting point or as a place to just 'sit and chat' and improved health and wellbeing.

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,202 which includes the cost of the benches, their installation and the creation of two concrete base plinths for the benches to rest upon. This is the third proposal received to the Members Community Fund from Cllr Woolcock and if it prevails the whole of the £10,000 allocated to the Ward Councillor for Lower Brynamman will have been successfully invested.

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 area of verge is currently maintained by NPTCBC's 'Streetcare Services' and that arrangement will continue following installation of the benches. The 'Streetcare' Team have agreed to absorb the small amount of additional maintenance associated with mowing the grass around the concrete bases at no additional cost. There is no need for further investment to sustain this development.

The installation of the benches at Banwen Place and New Road will take place following a CAT Scanning exercise to identify underground services.

Integrated Impact Assessment

5. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010), the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well - being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in - depth assessment is not required as the summary concludes there are positive outcomes for the sustainable development principle, collaboration and involvement, with no impact on equalities and Welsh language.

Valleys Community Impact

6. No implications

Workforce Impacts

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

Legal Impacts

8. 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

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

Consultation

10. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

11. That the project proposal to provide two benches at Banwen Place and New Road in the Amman Valley is approved and that Councillor Arwyn Woolcock's allocation of £1,202 under the Members Community Fund is awarded.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. 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

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

List of Background Papers

14. This Lower Brynamman initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Arwyn Woolcock and additional research conducted by the PDFU with 'Streetcare Services'- this information has been retained for reference as have the documents associated with the first stage Impact Assessment.

Officer Contact

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