

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

10 July 2019

Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Rhos

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 Ward Member.

Executive Summary

2. The Members Community 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.

Background

3. Restoration of a BMX Pump Track at Rhos Park.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers' by working closely with the Cilybebyll Community Council.

The existing BMX track although still serviceable has been affected by excavation and spoil generated from the construction of the nearby allotments. Scrub has been allowed to develop and the drop off at the back of the track is now dangerous. A design has been secured from a reputable Contractor and the advice is to remodel and sculpt the existing soil to create new humps and better edges. The proposal includes the removal of scrub, protection of the rear drop off with post and rail and a new Gateway graphic.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Member through representations made by BMX enthusiasts in the village, their parents and via a Consultation Day held in the Rhos Park Community Centre in May 2019. This provision does not duplicate existing as the nearest comparable facility is in Gorseinon.

The long term sustainable community benefits associated with the project include keeping young people physically active, further developing a sense of community at Rhos Park and protecting BMX cyclists who might otherwise endanger themselves whilst pursuing their interest on the local roads rather than in a dedicated activity space.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for the total cost of the project (excluding recoverable VAT) of £9,990.00 - this to be met from Councillor Alex Thomas' allocation.

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 restored facility will come within the management of the Cilybebyll Community Council as they have the freehold, insurance, inspection and maintenance responsibilities for Rhos Park.

This scheme has no financial implication for NPTCBC.

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 or the Welsh language.

Valleys Communities Impacts

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 restore the BMX Pump Track in Rhos Park be approved and that Cllr Alex Thomas' allocation of £9,990, under the Members Community Fund be 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 Rhos initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Alex Thomas. The Freehold Conveyance, Insurance Policy and Bank Account details for

the Cilybebyll Community Council have been retained for future reference, as have the Quotations for the Pump Track restoration and the first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal.

Officer Contact

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