

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

25 September 2019

Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Aberdulais

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 Councillor for Aberdulais.

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. To create a new modern community kitchen within the vestry of Pisgah Congregational Chapel in Cilfrew.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector providers'.

The Chapel vestry, as a result of the closure of other local amenities, has now taken on a new mantle as a community meeting place. The facilities within the vestry kitchen are in need of upgrading and the electrics are not to modern day NICEIC Certification.

The vestry is a popular meeting point for Cor Meibion Morgannwg, Drama Club, Young Farmers and various family and fundraising events. The volunteers organise seasonal activities for the children and these are always well supported.

Success with this Application will ensure that the kitchen is equipped with new worktops, new cabinets, a dedicated circuit for a 3kw water heater, new fluorescent LED batten light fittings and an upgrade to the Consumer Unit in order to meet current regulations.

The scheme has been brought to the attention of the local Member by the Pisgah Chapel Volunteer Group. The Group provide teas and refreshments for visitors but now feel that a timely investment in modern heating and lighting would help them to sustain their role and grow community involvement.

The need for this initiative has been established from representations made by residents. The inclusion of energy efficient technology would save on utility costs, encourage more users and safeguard the future of the Pisgah vestry as a community resource.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,500. The total project cost is £1,577.98 (inclusive of VAT which is non - recoverable) of which the Pisgah Volunteers are contributing £77.98.

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 ongoing maintenance of the project will be the responsibility of the Pisgah Vestry Volunteers. This will be paid for from funds raised at monthly coffee mornings and functions.

There will be no revenue burden on 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 this project proposal to enhance the facilities at the Pisgah Chapel vestry is approved and that Councillor Doreen Jones contributes £1,500 under the Members Community Fund. This bid will conclude Councillor Jones' Members Fund investment in Aberdulais having already attributed £2,000 to a woodland walk in Craig Gwladys, £2,000 to double yellow lines in Ger - y - Afon, £2,500 to parking restrictions in Penscynor Lane and £2, 000 for a Pre - School Parent/Carer/Toddler Group in Cilfrew Primary School.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. Full funding Applications can

be made to the Members Community Fund until the 24.02.2020 in readiness for Cabinet decision on the 11.03.2020. The Fund will then close. Funds left unallocated will be returned to Reserves.

Implementation of Decision

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

List of Background Papers

14. This Aberdulais initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor D. Jones. The Quotes generated by the Pishah Vestry Volunteer Group have been entered on File for reference. The supporting documents (the Bank Account details, Insurance Policies, etc.), that accompany a bid made to the Members Fund by a Third Sector Organisation, have been entered on record. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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

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

