

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

30 October 2019

### **Report - Head of Transformation - A.Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Crynant

### **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 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. Installation of a self-closing safety gate at Crynant Community Centre toddler play area.

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

The proposal is to remove a 1.2 metre section of stone wall and insert a self-closing safety gate at the toddler play area, situated within the grounds of Crynant Community Centre. Access to the play area is currently prevented when the Community Centre is not open, and movement between the toddler play area and the junior play area, which is located on the opposite side of Woodland Road, necessitates a journey around the Community Centre building and along two busy roads. The new gate would allow access to the toddler play equipment at all times, and would create a thoroughfare between the junior and toddler areas suitable for children and their parents/carers, pushchairs, prams and wheelchair users.

The need for the proposal has been brought to the attention of the Ward Member for Crynant on numerous occasions by local residents. The primary concern is for the safety and wellbeing of children who, when debarred from entering the play area when the Community Centre is closed, take it upon themselves to try and climb over the high stone wall. Parents/guardians of children in different age groups have also raised concerns regarding the lack of a 'line of sight' between the two play areas, and have remarked on how difficult it is

to observe multiple children using both the junior and toddler zones at the same time.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include improving community safety, and providing better access to a play provision which cannot currently be utilised to its full potential.

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,004.00 from Councillor Sian Harris' allocation, which is the total value of the project. If this application prevails Cllr Harris will have £7,935.09 remaining in her Members Fund portfolio to invest in further community projects.

### **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 toddler play area falls under the jurisdiction of Crynant Community Council, who are wholly responsible for the ongoing costs associated with insurance, maintenance and annual inspections. The self-closing gate is comprised of powder coated steel and is approved by RoSPA.

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 the project proposal for installation of a self-closing safety gate at Crynant Community Centre toddler play area, be approved, and that £1,004.00 of Cllr Harris' allocation 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. Full Funding Applications can

be made to the Members Community Fund until the end of the financial year. 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 Crynant initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Sian Harris. The Constitution, Audited Accounts, Insurance documentation, quotations and bank account details for Crynant Community Council have been retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

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