

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

30 October 2019

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Peleenna

### **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 for Peleenna.

#### **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 provide Pontrhydyfen Bowls Club with mechanised grounds maintenance equipment that will consolidate the self-management arrangements at this one time Council managed Bowls facility.

The project involves the procurement of a 24" Power Unit which is uniquely manufactured to accept bladed cutting cassettes, brushes, a spiker roller and Slitter aerator.

The Pontrhydyfen Bowls Club has adopted all maintenance and day to day operational matters from the Council under the prevailing austerity measures. It is now faced with maintaining the Green to a high standard and carrying out the post season renovation work. New apparatus is required to allow the volunteer workforce to maintain and improve the standards of performance on the Green. The state- of - the- art pedestrian mower with attachments would allow the Club to cut, brush, spike and aerate the playing surface. The accuracy and trueness of the Green is very much dependant on timely professional upkeep.

This investment will safeguard the future of the Green and the Club allowing it to grow its membership, extend patronage towards junior participation and realise its ambition, which is stipulated within its Constitution, of becoming a mixed Club attracting lady bowlers.

The need for the project revolves around keeping the facility playable, improving on the current maintenance regime and making the green

more resilient to the wear exerted by a growing membership. The Bowls Club offers the only sporting amenity within the centre of the village and has appeal to the many, not the few. The Club has had the foresight to apply successfully to the Sport Wales 'Places for Sport' Grant and has secured £4,000 from that programme. A well thought through, comprehensive bid to the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has also yielded a further £5,000 towards a project cost of £9,806.40 (inclusive of non - recoverable VAT).

The community benefits associated with this project include protecting this amenity into the future, consolidating its appeal to all citizens both as participants and spectators, and keeping people active outdoors irrespective of age or gender. This investment will help the Club develop its long term ambition of becoming a mixed Club and extending the pavilion to provide enhanced social and changing facilities.

The project costs are based upon a quotation secured from a reputable supplier of specialist fine sports turf machinery. The project has a funding shortfall of £806.40. The Bowls Club are contributing £123.90 and the shortfall of £682.50 is sought from Councillor Jeremy Hurley's Members Fund allocation.

The project will be sustained through Club Membership fees, Match Fees and Fundraising. The new acquisition will be safely and securely stored in the recently extended machinery store which is immediate to the Green.

### **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.

Upkeep of the machine, its use and its servicing will be the responsibility of the Club.

There will be no revenue implications for the Council going forward.

## **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 acquire new grounds maintenance machinery for Pontrhydyfen Bowls Club is approved and that Councillor Hurley's allocation of £682.50, 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. 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 Pelenna initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Jeremy Hurley. The Quotation for the supply of the Power Unit with attachments has been entered on File for reference. The Constitution, Bank Account details, signatories and Insurance Policy that have accompanied this bid made to the Members Fund by the Third Sector Group have been retained. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

## **Officer Contact**

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