

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

20th November 2019

### **Report - Head of Transformation (ELLL) Andrew Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Cwmllynfell

#### **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. Install an energy efficient LED floodlighting system at Cwmllynfell RFC.

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

Cwmllynfell RFC is a WRU affiliated Club participating in the West Central Division 3A. The Club currently fields a first's team, and has ambitions of expanding to include a second's team, a women's team and a junior division.

The proposal brought to the Members Fund is to modernise the existing floodlighting by updating the current sodium light fittings to a new, energy efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) system. LED uses 90% less electricity than sodium and very little heat is produced, making them a much 'greener', environmentally friendly, option.

If this project were to be realised, the Rugby Club would see an increase in the number of training sessions taking place during the winter months. It would also allow the Club to develop junior training practice sessions, and host youth teams which cannot currently be accommodated due to the lighting being of a poor standard.

The need for the proposal has been brought to the attention of the Ward Member for Cwmllynfell. The existing floodlights are some 25 years old

and inefficient. The costs incurred by the Club in merely keeping them operational in recent years has been substantial. In short, the poor quality of the current system is preventing the Club from achieving its full potential.

Consideration has been given to the Lux levels and the Glare Rating emanating from the new floodlights, and Pre-Application Advice has been sought by the Club. This has confirmed that the proposal does not necessitate an application for full Planning Permission as the existing floodlighting columns will be utilised, visually there will be no change, and any light overspill or pollution will not affect properties nearby.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include increased participation in the game of Rugby by all age groups, and greater flexibility in usage of the pitch. The savings gained by the Club through decreased utility bills will offset other costs such as maintenance and insurance, enabling them to invest in other areas including developing new teams and making further improvements to their existing facilities.

The total cost of the proposal is £16,472.80. The project has already benefitted from a £10,000 grant award from the East Pit Revised Opencast Community Benefit Fund and £4,000 from the Cwmllynfell Community Council East Pit Fund. The remaining £2,472.80 is now being sought from Cllr Hugh Jones' Members Fund Portfolio. This application, if successful, will complete the funding package and provide the Club with the financial wherewithal to make this project a reality.

## **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 new floodlighting will be wholly the responsibility of Cwmllynfell RFC. The Club have secured an ongoing maintenance contract with a team sponsor, and the expected lifespan of the new fittings is 100,000 hours. This will ensure that the floodlighting is kept in excellent condition for many years to come.

This scheme has no financial implications 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 install an energy efficient LED floodlighting system at Cwmllynfell RFC be approved, and that £2,472.80 of Cllr Jones' 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 Cwmllynfell initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Hugh Jones. The constitution, quotations, bank account details and insurance documentation for Cwmllynfell RFC have been retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

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

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