

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

9 December 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Taibach

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 two Ward Councillors for Taibach.

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 supply and plant eleven semi -mature deciduous specimen trees to enhance the grounds around the Taibach Community Centre, Lady Charlotte Lane, Taibach.

This project has been born out of the need to soften the landscape and create height and permanence around the community facility. The initiative will make Taibach greener and make the facility more welcoming to patrons and visitors. The species chosen will enhance the environment and will help with the filtration of atmospheric pollutants generated by the Steel Works and the M4.

The project involves planting 14-16 cm girth (measured at 1m above ground) Maple, Cherry, Birch, Redwood and Mountain Ash. Collectively they will produce an all year round display by bearing seasonal flowers, fruit, bark, deciduous foliage and architectural form. The positioning of the trees around the facility and its Car park has been agreed with the Leaseholder of the Community Centre 'Community Ventures' CIC.

The need for the project has been arrived at through consultations held locally and this proposal is seen as a precursor to other Greening initiatives planned for Taibach in the future. It will soften the otherwise urban sprawl and the current emphasis on hard surfaced areas.

The community benefits associated with this project will translate into a cleaner, greener, more vibrant and welcoming place to live. It will help promote 'Pride in Place', resilience and quality of life issues. The benefits will be visible, physical and tangible and will manifest as environmental enhancement and an improved streetscape.

The project costs have been arrived at through the 'Street Care' Division seeking out quotes from reputable tree specialists and agreeing a cost for planting, staking and tree tying using recognised Industry practices. The project will cost £2,925.13 (net of recoverable VAT). Councillor Anthony Taylor would wish to attribute the remainder of his Members Fund (£1,893.59) to realise this project. The funding shortfall of £1,031.54 is sought from the Councillor Rachel Taylor's Members Fund.

The ongoing husbandry and care for the trees will be the responsibility of the Leaseholder under the Terms & Conditions of a fully insuring and maintaining Lease. Maintenance will be minimal as the varieties of trees chosen are resistant to debilitating pests and diseases and they are tolerant of air borne pollutants and causative organisms that have hastened the demise locally of Larch and Ash species.

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 maintenance of the trees will fall within the existing management regime of the 'Community Ventures' CIC.

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 plant 11 semi - mature tree specimens within the grounds of the Taibach Community Centre is

approved and that the two Ward Members for Taibach contribute jointly under the Members Community Fund, and that the grant 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 Taibach initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Anthony Taylor. The cost breakdown for the trees, the ground preparations, planting, staking, tying and making good has been entered on File for reference. 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

