

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Port Talbot

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 one of the Ward Councillors for Port Talbot.

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 equip the converted Bowls pavilion in Port Talbot Memorial Park with ancillary furniture, heating and fittings as a means of completing its conversion to a Tea Room or Community Hub.

This investment is seen as the concluding part of an extensive conversion project funded previously by the Pant y Moch Solar Farm Community Fund. The Bowls pavilion now operates as a welcoming environment for all ages as its sympathetic conversion to a Tea Room has augmented the visitor experience and the role the Park now plays in education, in the appreciation of conservation, the local history and leisure time pursuits.

'The Friends of Port Talbot Memorial Park' acquired the former pavilion (in 2018) and have successfully sought grant aid to improve it and inject a new lease of life into an otherwise tired amenity. 'The Friends' have invested many volunteer hours in developing the facility, their Charity Events, Guided Walks and educational visits with the local schools.

This Application is to complete the fittings and furnishings and to provide the building with essential comforts like convector heaters, cushioned chairs with arm rests (for those visitors with mobility issues), a defibrillator(externally mounted for wider community use), and outdoor bistro tables and folding chairs.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of 'The Friends' through Coffee Mornings, postings on Facebook, canvassing the schools, by listening to the community and capturing opinions voiced by those that are in receipt of the Charity's Newsletter. Local Groups such as SNAC, the Historical Society, the YMCA and St. Theodore's Church have also influenced this bid.

The investment will enhance the use of the Park as a green oasis amidst the noise, pollution and dust associated with an otherwise heavily industrialised backdrop.

The project will help promote the Park, the public benefit, the protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and make best use of the otherwise scarce green infrastructure within Port Talbot.

The cost of the panel heaters (which are ideally suited and safe to use in environments that cater for very young inquisitive fingers!), the chairs, defibrillator, PA system (used for public address during the Charity Events) and the outdoor bistro furniture have been competitively quoted for. The project will cost £4,106.75 and the whole of this is sought from the Members Fund allocated to Councillor Sharon Freeguard.

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 storage, maintenance and future wellbeing of the furniture and fittings acquired through this investment will be the responsibility of 'The Friends'. The items sought under this Application will be housed in the converted Bowls Pavilion which now operates as a Tea Room and a Community Hub. The pavilion has been leased to 'The Friends' from the NPTCBC. The Lease is fully insuring and maintaining and the contents are covered under a Block Insurance Policy.

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 furnish the converted pavilion at the Port Talbot Memorial Park is approved and that Ward Councillor Freeguard contributes £4,106.75 under the Members Community Fund.

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 Port Talbot initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Sharon Freeguard and 'The Friends' of the Park. The cost breakdown for panel heaters, indoor and outdoor furniture, the defibrillator and the PA system has been entered on File for reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

Officer Contact

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