

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Neath North

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 Cimla Ward Councillors.

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 essential training equipment, nets, posts and ancillary items to assist the Neath Community Tennis Club in bringing the degraded tennis courts in Dyfed Road back into community use.

This investment builds upon the success of the Neath Community Tennis initiative and its plight to upgrade the four NPTCBC owned tennis courts. Two of the courts have been refurbished with a Sport Wales' Places for Sport' Grant worth £36,988. The Club was able to provide coaching sessions over the summer months which attracted 80 children and this was sponsored by a Sport Wales 'Community Chest' Grant.

The Neath Community Tennis initiative was born out of 400 people supporting a Facebook campaign and the Club was set up by parents who were keen to see tennis resurrected at Dyfed Road. Parents were directly involved in cleaning, litter picking, pressure washing and weeding the courts. The first three months of the initiative were a great success and the Club now has 535 registered users (the Lawn Tennis Association {LTA} research has identified a latent demand from a potential 700 participants).

This Application is to purchase tennis nets, posts, centre bands, tennis rackets, balls, safety cones, throw down lines, target markers, a windbreak and a promotional banner which will support participation at all levels.

The need for this initiative has come from the initial post on Facebook, the interest shown by former users of the courts and children from Dwr- Y- Felin Comprehensive School and Ysgol YG Castell Nedd.

The investment will safeguard the facility from further deterioration; help establish the new Club, engage young people in worthwhile leisure pursuits, develop local talent and promote health & well-being across all ages. This is an 'Active Space for Active Communities' initiative.

The costs of the tennis equipment and the items which will assist in the use of the refurbished courts have been competitively quoted for. The project will cost £2,412.84 and the whole of this is sought from the allocation that remains within Councillor John Warman's Members Fund.

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.

All equipment acquired in this Application, its upkeep and storage will be the responsibility of the Club. The Neath Community Tennis Club has a fully insuring and maintaining Lease with the County Borough Council. They will continue the good work achieved in 2019 by refurbishing the remaining two courts, building upon the qualified coaching sessions and attracting new participants.

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 equip the Neath Community Tennis Club is approved and that Councillor Warman contributes £2,412.84 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 Neath North initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor John Warman and the Tennis Club. The elemental cost breakdown for 15 separate pieces of equipment 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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