

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

5 February 2020

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

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

Coedffranc Central

### **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 respective Ward Members.

#### **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 semi-mature trees and enhance the grass verges at Parc Wern, Caewathan.

This proposal has been developed in partnership with Tai Tarian, who are the custodians of the grass verges under discussion.

This project has been born out of the need to beautify the landscape, reduce soil erosion and create habitat for local wildlife. The initiative will make Coedffranc Central greener and more attractive. The species chosen will enhance the environment and will help with the filtration of atmospheric pollutants generated by the nearby A465 and the M4.

The project involves planting nine 3-4 metre height Elm, Crab Apple and Rowan. Collectively they will produce an all year round display by bearing seasonal flowers, fruit, deciduous foliage and architectural form. The grass verges have been CAT scanned by Tai Tarian to ensure that new root systems do not disturb underground pipes or electrical cabling supplying utilities to properties nearby.

The need for the project has been arrived at through representations made by Tai Tarian to Cllr Angharad Aubrey. Tai Tarian have embarked upon a greening scheme to soften the area, and have already planted lime trees and wildflowers on the verges at Parc Wern. This proposal brought to the Members Fund would seek to continue that initiative.

Tai Tarian have agreed to work with the community to deliver the project, and will involve children from Abbey Primary School when planting the trees and sowing the wildflower seeds as part of achieving their 'Eco-Schools' Award.

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 total cost of the project is £960, which Tai Tarian has arrived at by seeking competitive quotations for the trees from reputable suppliers. The materials (stakes, ties, mulch, etc.) and labour associated with planting the trees will be supplied, free of charge, by Tai Tarian. The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £925.73, which is the total amount remaining in Councillor Angharad Aubrey's portfolio. The £34.47 shortfall will be contributed by Tai Tarian.

The ongoing husbandry and care for the trees and wildflowers will be the responsibility of Tai Tarian.

### **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 and wildflowers will fall within the existing management regime of Tai Tarian, there will be no ongoing revenue burden 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 this project proposal to supply and plant semi - mature trees and enhance the grass verges at Parc Wern, Caewathan, is

approved and that Councillor Angharad Aubrey's allocation of £925.73 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 Coedffranc Central initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted jointly by Councillor Angharad Aubrey and Tai Tarian. The quotation for the trees 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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