

Appendix A.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF010/T2

Installation of a memorial to commemorate the musician and composer, Afan Thomas (1881-1928), at Cwmavon Library.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services.'

Born in Cwmavon, Afan Thomas created many outstanding musical compositions throughout his short life, although he is best remembered as an exceptional organist and violinist during his time as a member of the National Orchestra of Wales.

The funding will be used to erect a plinth base, comprising softwood timber clad with birch and hardwood edging. On the base will be mounted an engraved memorial plaque, which was originally located at the nearby Bethania Chapel until its demolition to make way for housing in 2018.

The need for the project has come to the attention of Councillor Rhidian Mizen. Representations were made by members of the Bois Afan Choir and Officers of the NPTCBC Library Service, after the memorial was recovered from a skip. Cllr Mizen and others have recognised the importance of publicly celebrating the life of Afan Thomas, and increasing awareness of his musical legacy.

The memorial will be accompanied by a small exhibition displaying information boards, musical manuscripts and other preserved artefacts relating to Afan Thomas. This will better inform local residents of his musical achievements, and help to inspire current and future generations.

The memorial will be supervised by NPTCBC Library Service personnel. The plinth will be of robust construction and will be fixed into position using stainless steel brackets. There is no requirement for ongoing maintenance other than general day-to-day housekeeping.

Recommendations

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,025 from Councillor Rhidian Mizen's allocation for Bryn and Cwmavon, which is the total cost of the proposal.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.