

Appendix C.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF012/T2

Install an energy efficient LED floodlighting system at Bryncoch Sports Club.

This bid has been developed to 'Assist Voluntary Sector Providers.'

The Bryncoch Sports Club has become a thriving centre or village hub for community sport. In recent years the Rugby Club has diversified to grow its membership and now hosts many different sporting fraternities including women and girls. On the field of play the Sports Club now runs Senior and junior rugby, junior football, senior and junior cricket and archery. The Social element of the Club provides League Darts and Pool.

The proposal that has been presented to the Members Fund is to modernise the existing floodlighting on the main pitch by updating the current sodium light fittings to a new, energy efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) system. LED uses 90% less electricity than sodium and very little heat is produced, making them a much 'greener', environmentally friendly, option.

The Club has previously benefitted from a grant from Sport Wales, which was used to upgrade the floodlighting on the adjacent training pitch. An investigation by 'Phillip's Lighting' has confirmed that the existing stanchions and electrical cabling can be re-used.

The need for the proposal has been brought to the attention of the Ward Members for Bryncoch North and Bryncoch South. The existing floodlights are some 20 years old, inefficient, and many no longer work due to the inability to procure spare parts. The costs incurred by the Club in merely keeping them operational in recent years has been substantial. In short, the poor quality of the current system is preventing the Club from achieving its full potential.

If this project were to be realised, the Rugby Club would see an increase in the number of training sessions and fixtures taking place during the winter months. The current lux levels have dropped to the point that these activities are unsafe, thus denying any use of the main pitch during the autumn and winter evenings.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include increased participation in sport by all age groups, and greater flexibility in usage of the pitch. The savings gained by the Club through decreased utility bills will offset other costs such as maintenance and insurance, enabling them to invest in other areas including developing new teams and making further improvements to their existing facilities.

The ongoing maintenance, repair, insurance and future of this investment beyond the life of the Grant will be the responsibility of the Bryncoch Sports Club Management Committee and assurances have been given in that regard.

This scheme has no financial implications for NPTCBC.

Recommendations

The request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £15,000 which is 87% of the total project cost (project valued at £17,210 net of VAT which is recoverable). The Club will contribute the £2,210 shortfall from their own reserves. The request is made by the three Bryncoch North/Bryncoch South Ward Councillors contributing £5,000 each from their individual Members Fund allocations.

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