

Appendix J.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF039/T2

Supply and installation of 4.no benches at Swn-Y-Nant, Gwynfi Street, Western Square and Gelli Terrace, in the Ward of Gwynfi.

The funding will be used to procure four recycled plastic benches along with the necessary fixtures and fittings. The benches will be installed by the NPTCBC 'Street Care' team onto existing concrete plinths, thus negating the need for expensive ground works. The new benches will be equipped with armrests to enable easy transition from a seated to a standing position or vice-versa.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of the local Ward Member. Strategically placed benches which both residents and visiting cyclists can use to relax, socialise and enjoy the scenery of the Afan Valley have been identified as a local priority. This project will enhance the public realm and provide a much needed respite for those local residents who tend to traverse the village on foot, particularly on the uphill climb from Abergwynfi to Blaengwynfi.

The community benefits associated with this project include enhancing the street scene in Gwynfi, resulting in greater and more prolonged use of the local 'Sustrans' cycleways, and improved public enjoyment.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services' and has the full support of NPTCBC's 'Street Care' Services. The benches will be of robust construction, comprised of 100% recycled plastic and cast iron so they will not rot, splinter or crack. They are very durable and can stand up to any attempts made to vandalise or destroy them. Minimal maintenance is required to keep them in good condition.

Recommendations

The total request for grant aid from the Members Community Fund is £3,060.20, which is the full cost of procuring and installing the benches. The applicant, Councillor Jane Jones, would wish to fund the entire cost of the proposal out of her Members Fund allocation.

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