



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET (POLICY AND RESOURCES) SUB COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER – HUW JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected – Cimla and Pelenna

Report Title – Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Pelenna Community Council

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Pelenna Community Council under the Council's Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme.

Background

2. Neath Port Talbot Council has approved a Community Council Minor Projects Grants Scheme in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects. Approved grants are required to be claimed within two years of approval.

The Council has received an application for grant aid under the above mentioned scheme from Pelenna Community Council.

This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works for redeveloping and improving the provision currently on offer at the play area on Johns Terrace, Tonmawr. Play equipment to be installed includes both Junior and Toddler Multi-Play Units, inclusive nest, pod and tango swings and a Play End Wall complete with anti-

slip textured rubber play surfacing and court markings for football and basketball. The funding will also cover the cost of infrastructure such as self-closing gates, benches, a picnic table, litter bin and bow top fencing.

“Our vision is to create an outdoor hub which offers the most generous arrangements for public enjoyment, regardless of age”

Annual inspection of the play equipment will be carried out by an Independent Service Engineer from RoSPA. The Community Council have committed to the cost of insuring, maintaining and inspecting the Park for the foreseeable future - this will guarantee future sustainability and that this asset remains viable for many years to come,

The new equipment will conform to the relevant safety standards. There are extended warranties on the equipment and safety surfacing, integrity of the installations, etc. As such, we expect very little in the way of maintenance in the immediate subsequent years.

The project aligns closely to two of the four NPTCBC Corporate Plan 2022-2027 outcomes:-

1. To ensure our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations:

There are currently no intergenerational, doorstep activities for the community of Pelenna outside of the playing of rugby. As a Community Council we feel it is our duty to provide facilities that are not just enjoyable for residents to use, but that guarantee longevity for future generations. The equipment to be installed and the play end wall will be of robust construction, it will serve the community for many years to come.

2. To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable:

The community of Pelenna has lost much in recent years including two Primary Schools and ‘Tonmawr 2000’, which was the only indoor sports facility. There are two Community Centres, two rugby clubs and two shops – there are currently no play amenities of the type intended in this project proposal. The new facility would provide opportunities for our residents to thrive;

enjoying a better quality of life, making the most of the outdoors, and making the area more attractive and vibrant.

The proposal will imbibe a greater sense of community pride and spirit. Residents have been involved in the design of the play area and we know, through consultation, that this project is very close to their hearts.

3. The estimated cost of the works overall is £110,000 plus recoverable VAT.

4. The balance of the project costs will be financed as follows:-

The £14,000 requested from the Community Minor Projects grant would be used as match funding towards an application to the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm 'Vision' Fund, valued at £91,570. The remaining £4,430 will be contributed from Pelenna Community Council reserves (agreed at the Full Council Meeting on 07.11.22).

Proposal and Financial Impact

5. The application from Pelenna Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 70% up to a maximum of £14,000 in accordance with the Minor Projects Grants Scheme and payment be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There are no impacts in respect of the obligations to the Council under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and support via this grant is a positive impact in respect of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Valleys Communities Impacts

7. Applications for grant are available to Community Councils across the county borough.

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts

9. Grants are provided in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Risk Management Impacts

10. All grant applications are considered on their own merit and in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Consultation

11. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Members approve a grant of 70% of actual costs up to a maximum of £14,000 to Pelenna Community Council.

Reason for Proposed Decision

13. The decision is in compliance with the approved policy and to enable community improvements.

Implementation of Decision

14. The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

List of Background Papers

15. Application from Pelenna Community Council.

Officer Contact

16. Mr. H. Jones. – Chief Finance Officer
Tel. 01639 763575
email: h.jones@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk