

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET COMMITTEE

20TH DECEMBER 2016

**YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK – HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
(HLF) PARKS FOR PEOPLE PROGRAMME**

REPORT OF THE HLF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Cabinet Committee on the progress made to date in the development of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee:

- 2.1 Support a phased approach to the development of a Parks for People application for Ynysangharad Park. The phase 1 application will be requesting approximately £1 million from HLF.
- 2.2 Agree that the application be submitted to HLF in line with the September 2017 submission deadline.
- 2.3 Agree that officers commence a planned process of consultation over the forthcoming months.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The advice received from the Head of HLF Wales and the HLF project development team is that a phased approach to the development of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park is adopted. The first phase will request circa £1million from HLF.

This recommendation is made on the basis that there is only £4million available within the programme per annum and this covers two deadline dates and is open to applications from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and is therefore extremely competitive.

- 3.2 The development work undertaken to date has highlighted several opportunities to increase efficient and effective management of the park, thus ensuring that the delivery and sustainability of the project outlined is achieved to the optimum level.
- 3.3 Therefore a September 2017 submission will provide the necessary timeframe to accommodate the embedding of improved management measures along with allowing sufficient time for consultation efforts.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On 19th July 2016 a report was submitted to cabinet and agreement met for an application to be developed and submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. The value of the application would be circa £3million (with a £300,000 match funding requirement) and £75,000 ring-fenced from the project support fund 2016-17 for project development costs. The cabinet report stated that the application would be prepared in line with the February 2017 submission deadline.

5. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 5.1 The development of the application is being undertaken jointly between the Leisure, Parks and Countryside and Regeneration and Planning departments with Parks and Countryside taking the lead role in developing the project and Regeneration supporting the application process.

The following progress has been made in relation to the development of the application: -

- Project Development group set up.
- Project plan developed
- Consultation Action Plan developed
- A project enquiry form was submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund
- Meeting held with Richard Belamy, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund Wales
- Workshop held to identify and agree key components of the bid
- Meeting held with HLF development team onsite
- Key assets identified included the Sunken Garden, Bandstand, 1930's toilet block and surrounding area.
- Biodiversity within the park, both flora and fauna will need to feature within the bid.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 An initial meeting has taken place with Corporate Consultation in order to discuss initial plans.

7.2 Initial consultation has occurred with staff members within Parks and Countryside Department to develop initial plans.

7.3 A Consultation Action Plan has been developed.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 The Council has identified the required 10% match funding (circa £100,000) via a 2017/18 earmarked reserve.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The Parks is held in trust by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the charity of 'the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park'.

9.2 The Conveyance contains a restrictive covenant restricting the use of land for the purposes of a public parks and recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Pontypridd town and the adjoining district.

9.3 There is also a restrictive covenant preventing the erection of any buildings such as may be suitable for public open space.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

10.1 The proposed developments will assist in the economic regeneration of Pontypridd town centre and wider county borough developing a prosperous Rhondda Cynon Taf for future generations. It will provide park users with an additional offer creating a park and town centre that people are proud to live and work in and also visit.

- 10.2 The development of the park will provide a safer place for people to visit reducing the levels of anti-social behaviour and other crime, protecting people from repeat offenders.
- 10.3 The upgraded facilities present the opportunity to develop a healthier Rhondda Cynon Taf enhancing the wellbeing of future generations.
- 10.4 The upgraded facilities will provide a base for the development of green skills among staff, apprentices and also park users. It could also provide a unique business opportunity for service users within other council departments such as Education and Social Services.
- 10.5 Ynysangharad War Memorial Park will provide a vibrant visitor offer focusing on culture as well as active recreation.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The submission of one large scale HLF Parks for People programme application, in September 2017, presents the Council with the opportunity to enhance the visitor experience throughout Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.
- 11.2 The phased development and improvement of the Park's infrastructure and management will ensure future sustainability.
- 11.3 An enhanced Ynysangharad War Memorial Park presents an opportunity to impact on the economic regeneration of Pontypridd town centre and the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.