



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF  
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE SUMMONS**

C Hanagan  
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale, CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Hannah Jones - Council Business Unit  
([ExecutiveandRegulatoryBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:ExecutiveandRegulatoryBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk))

**YOU ARE SUMMONED** to a virtual meeting of **YNYSSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET SUB COMMITTEE** to be held on **MONDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2023** at **1.00 PM**.

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by 5pm on Thursday, 23 November 2023 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

**AGENDA**

**Page  
No's**

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

## 2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

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## 3. YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK - PLANNED TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME: WINTER 2023/24

To receive the report of the Director of Highways, Streetcare and Transportations Services, which seeks Trustees comments and approval to undertake essential tree maintenance work within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park over the winter months 2023-24.

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## 4. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

### **Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

#### **Circulation:-**

The Chair and Vice-Chair:  
(County Borough Councillor M Webber and County Borough A Crimmings respectively)

County Borough Councillors:  
Councillor C Leyshon and Councillor S Powderhill

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL YNYNSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET SUB COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Sub Committee held on Thursday, 11 May 2023 at 12.30 pm.

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

### **County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present:**

Councillor M Webber (Chair)

Councillor A Crimmings    Councillor C Leyshon  
Councillor S Powderhill

### **Non Committee Member in attendance**

Councillor K Johnson

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development  
Mr P Mortimer, Funding And Implementation Manager

#### **4 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Non-Committee Member, County Borough Councillor K Johnson declared the following personal interest: 'I am the Event Director of the Pontypridd Park Run'.

#### **5 Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as an accurate reflection.

#### **6 Potential to create additional event space at Ynysangharad Park**

The Director of Prosperity and Development presented the report, which sought Trustees' comments and approval on progressing the potential redevelopment opportunity for an event space within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park which would support the delivery of major events prior to consideration by the Cabinet.

The Director drew Members attention to Section 5 of the report, where details of the proposal were outlined. The Director advised Members that should they agree to the recommendations contained within Section 2 of the report, the report would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for approval.

With the permission of the Chair, County Borough Councillor K Johnson addressed the Committee in respect of the proposal.

Trustees sought assurance and confirmation from the Director of Prosperity and Development that there was no intention to create additional car parking space or a vehicle turning area on the land as part of the proposal and it was acknowledged that the proposal was a soft land scaping solution that seeks to make better use of the green space.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure emphasised the importance of the Council's robust tree planting programme and noted that during the last tree planting season, over 400 trees, hedgerows and shrubs were planted in parks. The Trustees were assured that work would be undertaken to ensure the loss of any trees is minimised.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services spoke of the wide range of users and groups which utilise the park's green space and commented that establishing the space would further enhance what the park has to offer.

The Chair was in support of the proposals and emphasised that any decisions made by Cabinet would be in the best interest of the park, residents and wider County Borough.

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED:**

1. That following consideration of the concept design proposal, to support the proposal and submission of a formal application for funding; and
2. To provide feedback on the Committee's decision to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

**This meeting closed at 12.47 pm**

**Councillor M Webber  
Chair.**





## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET SUB COMMITTEE

27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

#### YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK – PLANNED TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME: WINTER 2023/24

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – HIGHWAYS, STREETCARE & TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**Author:** Alistair Critchlow, Temporary Head of Streetcare Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Trustees comments and approval to undertake essential tree maintenance work within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park over the winter months 2023-24.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Trustees:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report below and duly resolve to approve the recommended programme of tree maintenance work to be scheduled to take place between November 2023 and February 2024.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the effective management of the tree stock within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and to minimise the risk to the public from tree safety issues, whilst maintaining a healthy and sustainable tree stock to help retain the value of the amenity.
- 3.2 The Council's Tree and Allotments team know that the trees are an important feature in the park and so they do not carry out any work that is unnecessary, or that might be detrimental to a tree's health in the future. Therefore, trees are only removed if they are dangerous, diseased or already dead.

## 4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council has a proactive programme of tree inspections from which necessary remedial works are generated and carried out. In addition, requests are periodically made by residents for tree pruning which are managed by the Council's Tree & Allotments team, part of the Streetcare Cleansing Service.

### Tree Pruning

- 4.2 The Council applies strict criteria for when pruning is deemed necessary and will only prune trees for the following reasons:
- For the purposes of public safety: to ensure statutory clearance over the highway, footway, cycle lanes and public rights of way.
  - To abate an actionable nuisance: where trees come in to conflict with buildings and light structures.
  - Where remedial works are advantageous to the tree or tree stock and are in accordance with good arboricultural practice.

### Tree Removal

- 4.3 Trees will usually only be removed where there is a risk to public safety or damage to property or with the aim of stopping the spread of pests and diseases.
- 4.4 Publicly owned trees are a valuable resource in the context of Rhondda Cynon Taf's tree stock, therefore there is a determination to resist the removal of trees wherever possible.
- 4.5 However, there are some circumstances where the Council may deem it necessary to remove trees, namely: -
- To address public safety concerns.
  - To abate an actionable nuisance.
  - To reduce the risk of the spread of pests and disease in accordance with good arboricultural practice.
  - Where the highway and/or footway condition determine retention unsustainable.
  - Where an approved planning application or essential development works requires tree removal.
- 4.6 In addition, it is also important to note that the Service makes every effort to try to avoid anything other than essential tree work during bird nesting season with all trees undergoing wildlife checks, in consultation with the Council's Ecologist, throughout the year, but with utmost scrutiny during the bird-nesting season.
- 4.7 Decisions to prune and / or fell trees are carefully considered by the Council's Tree and Allotments team and it is important, especially with regard to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, that the public, Elected

Members, stakeholders and colleagues are provided sufficient notice and reasoning of the Council's intention to prune or remove trees, as part of its regular maintenance programme.

## **5. PROPOSED TREE MAINTENANCE WORKS – WINTER 2023-24**

5.1 A number of trees with disease have been identified near the Lido, which will need to be made safe over the next three months:

- Five trees affected by Phytophthora root rot, (a soil-based disease that can kill a wide range of plants).
- One already deceased Monterey Cypress tree on the river bank within falling distance of the public footpath. (Please see Appendix 1)

5.2 Further proposed works planned for the coming winter are as follows: -

- Following the completion of checks for Massaria disease, (a fungus that does damage to Plane trees such as London plane trees, the Oriental plane and the Occidental plane), over the summer, it is proposed to undertake winter checks for all plane trees in the Park during December. This work would utilise a Mobile Elevating Work Platform and will take approximately 4 days for each visit, with any deadwood to be removed at the same time.
- Two semi-mature Lime Tree are to be excavated and moved back from the edge of the paved surface to be in line with the Lime Tree avenue planted two years ago. (This is the avenue adjacent to the tennis courts). If not moved in winter the trees may fail, and further, the bordering footpath will likely suffer in future as well. Whilst not essential this winter, it is nevertheless recommended that the opportunity be taken this winter as it's prior to the Eisteddfod. (Please see Appendix 2).
- The overgrown beech hedge opposite the "M&S" bridge entrance to the Park requires reducing back down to a hedge height that is more manageable and in keeping with its original purpose, (i.e., screening the Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water pumping station). Moreover, if allowed to keep growing, then the hedge roots could damage the surrounding surfaces and underground tanks / pipes. (Please see Appendix 3).
- The Elm trees along the avenue opposite the Lido entrance leading up to the first-aid hut would benefit from having their crowns reduced to prolong their life and existence in their current location during the winter. Such works are generally completed on a 5-year cycle. (Please see Appendix 4).
- The Turkey Oaks situated along the main entrance to the Park are in need of dead-wooding before the end of winter to allow access and help ensure the safety of pedestrians using the route along the main

entrance avenue, (these were last dead-wooded three years ago).  
(Please see Appendix 5).

- 5.3 In addition to the above proposed maintenance works, it should also be noted that additional trees are planted throughout RCT annually, for the benefit of all and as part of the Council's climate change initiative to enhance, replenish and increase tree stocks as assets for carbon sequestration and sustainable development.
- 5.4 During the course of the last 2 years, the Council has secured a grant from the Welsh Government to plant trees in parks, cemeteries and open spaces in order to alleviate some of the tree felling which has to take place and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park has seen more than 20 new trees planted in this time.
- 5.5 Moreover, as a result of a tree being lost as part of the Eisteddfod plans, a new tree will be planted as part of the annual maintenance programme. Trustees will be consulted on its exact location within the park prior to the tree being planted. (The Service can use one of its already ordered trees for this purpose: delivery due imminently).

## **6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 6.1 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, Local Authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination.
  2. Advance equality of opportunity.
  3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.2 There are no equality, diversity or socio-economic duty implications associated with this report.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. However, although the recommendations with regards to tree maintenance proposals do not have any direct impact on the Welsh language, opportunities for the service to maintain, grow or upskill Welsh speaking staff will remain a priority.

## **8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no requirements for consultation in respect of this report.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 9.1 All proposed tree maintenance works detailed in this report are to be funded from the existing tree management and maintenance revenue budget.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 10.1 Ynysangharad War Memorial Park sits within a designated Conservation Area and thus warrants special attention to preserve its social, historic or architectural character, with consent required to carry out works to such an area, if the works affect the character of the area.
- 10.2 Section 69 of the Planning, (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas), Act 1990 gives local planning authorities the power to designate Conservation Areas, which are defined as “areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.
- 10.3 Additionally, within a Conservation Area, anyone proposing to cut down, top, or lop a tree in a conservation area, has to give notice to the Council.

## **11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 11.1 The Council has committed to getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces. This supports the priorities of the Council’s Corporate Plan ‘Making a Difference’ – 2020-24.
- 11.2 This report reflects the Sustainable Development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and its work contributes to all seven national goals.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 The issues surrounding our changing climate are of great importance to the Council and the Tree and Allotments team strive to strike the right balance between tree work, which has to be carried out for health and safety reasons, or as part of good arboricultural practice, and tree planting to counterbalance the effect.
- 12.2 The proposed tree maintenance works outlined above are part of the Service’s continuing efforts to effectively manage Ynysangharad War Memorial Park’s tree assets, minimising risks to park users and ensuring the Park retains a healthy and sustainable tree stock. (Please see Appendix 6 for an indicative map showing the locations of the proposed tree works with numbers correlating with Appendices 1 – 5).



**Appendix 1 (Monterey Cypress)**



**Appendix 2 (Lime Trees)**





**Appendix 3 (Beech Hedge)**





**Appendix 4 (Elm Trees)**

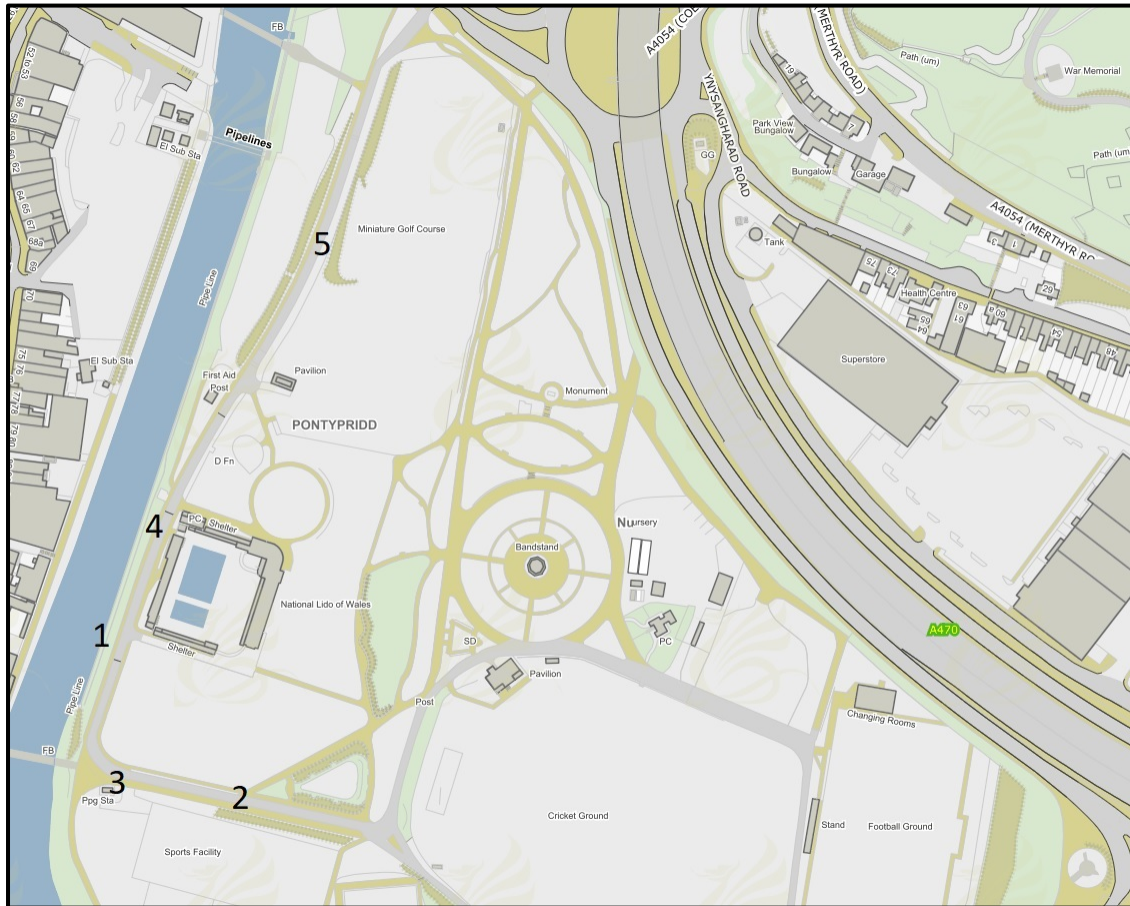


**Appendix 5 (Turkey Oaks)**





## Appendix 6 (Location map of proposed tree works)



**Other Information: -**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

*Overview and Scrutiny*

***Contact Officer – Alistair Critchlow, Temporary Head of Streetcare Services***