



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET COMMITTEE

4th DECEMBER 2018

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

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITIES**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to:

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 To gain approval on most recent design proposals in order to progress to planning.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the progress made and supports the ongoing project work in preparation of a submission of a Parks for People stage 2 application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park by August 2019.
- 2.2 Takes into account the programme timescales and takes note of the projected increase in costs, of the enhanced design proposals for the Horticultural Training Centre and supports progression through to the planning application stage.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Since December 2016, the Heritage Lottery Funded project at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park has progressed significantly.

Discussions with HLF Wales, in the past and most recently (23rd November), have been very well received.

- 3.2 Design proposals have been received and reviewed. Following informal discussions and extensive trials, including consultation, support has been positive from broader community and stakeholders.
- 3.3 Acknowledge that additional funding will need to be sourced to ensure that the enhanced designs are taken forward.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Stage 1 application was successful resulting in the Council receiving a grant (£208,500) to deliver a development phase that supports the preparation of a stage 2 application to be submitted by August 2019.
- 4.2 Mid way through the development phase and important milestones have been achieved:
 - All necessary reports and trials have been carried out resulting in amended designs being drawn up by The Environment Partnership (TEP) and AJA, sympathetic to the environment and tree line.
 - Bluesail have been commissioned to develop a business plan for the Horticultural Training Centre. Consultation with key stakeholders remains on-going.
 - The Volunteer Programme has enrolled over 50 participants and over 1650 hours of volunteering have been given to the park.
 - Establishment of Friends of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park group.
 - Engagement activities are on-going and lessons learnt will inform phase 2 activity programme.
 - Key relationships have been developed with stakeholders and will allow for well-being activities to be offered moving forward.
 - Discussions with Learning and Training providers have been positive and as a result, courses will commence in the current facilities as a pre-requisite.
 - The planning consultation period will commence 4th December for two weeks with a view to submitting to planning in January.
- 4.2 The stage 2 application is for delivery and requires a minimum of 10% match funding for projects in excess of £1 million. There is an allowance for this already built into the Parks & Countryside capital programme for future years.
- 4.3 Stage 2 core elements include:
 - Development of a Horticultural Training Facility

- Restorative works to the Sunken Garden and Bandstand
- Creation of woodland play space incorporated in to the mock rock outcrop area
- Delivery of an activity programme
- Delivery of a training programme
- Volunteer Programme
- Staffing costs

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

6 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Consultation was conducted in-house by the Consultation Team and the Leisure Parks and Countryside Service. The consultation period ran from the 2nd July 2018 until 31st August 2018.
- 6.2 Results of the consultation evidence community support for the proposals, over 90% of respondents.
- 6.3 Consultation on the RIBA Stage 3 design proposals will commence 4th December 2018 and will run for 2 weeks.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The updated designs have resulted in an increase to the overall costs originally set for the project, leaving a shortfall of approximately £190,000. Heritage Lottery have confirmed that there is no scope for increasing the original grant request that was submitted in stage 1 approval.
- 7.2 Alternative funding sources are actively being explored through other grants that may available, and it is envisaged that the shortfall could be reduced once these are worked through.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Park is held in trust by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the charity of 'the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park'.
- 8.2 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 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The offer of introducing learning and well-being opportunities will enhance individual's health and prosperity, leading to more vibrant communities.
- 9.2 Economically, the developments will support the wider town centre regeneration; creating a more prosperous Rhondda Cynon Taf for future generations.
- 9.3 Defined horticulture areas will enhance education and promote the importance for a more resilient Wales.
- 9.4 Development of a training centre to improve skills will support current staff and apprentices. The proposal will also be extended to other local authorities locally and regionally creating pathways to employment, unique to any other authority.
- 9.5 Improving and protecting the heritage of the local park space will enhance the visitors experience and promote Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a vibrant attraction.
- 9.6 Improvements to the overall space will encourage footfall which will help to reduce anti-social behaviour and other crimes.
- 9.7 The children and young people of Rhondda Cynon Taf will benefit from a diverse programme of activities that will support them in getting a great start in life.
- 9.8 Overall, Ynysangharad War Memorial Park will provide a diverse offer for users ranging from recreational activities through to training courses, development through play to cultural offers.

101 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People work presents the Council with the opportunity to enhance the visitors experience and further develop Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a regional tourist attraction.
- 10.2 The proposed enhancements to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park will offer the visitor a menu of opportunities that will support sustainability.

- 10.3 The development of a Friends Of Group will further provide an offer to local communities, bringing added value and diversity.
- 10.4 The Training Centre will promote the park locally and regionally, putting Ynysangharad War Memorial Park on the map.
- 10.5 The revised designs will be complimentary to the surroundings and had a positive reception from development control.

Other Information.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Public Service delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.