



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**YNYSSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2019**

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS - YNYSSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK**

**A REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.**

**Author:** Michelle Gibbs, Facility Development Manager, Leisure, Parks and Countryside

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to:

- 1.1 Provide an update to the Cabinet Committee on progress made to date regarding the National Lottery Heritage Fund (previously Heritage Lottery Fund) Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Progress made is noted and support given to the ongoing project work in respect of a Parks for People stage 2 application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park submission due 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Since December 2016, the National Lottery Heritage Funded project at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park has progressed significantly. Discussions with National Lottery Heritage Fund in the past and most recently 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 the broader community and stakeholders.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The stage 1 application was successful, resulting in the Council receiving a grant (£208,500) to support the preparation of a stage 2 application which is to be submitted in August 2019.
- 4.2 The core elements of the project include the development of a horticultural training facility, the restoration of the bandstand and sunken garden as well as improvements to the mock rock outcrop area. Furthermore, improvements will be made in terms of access and interpretation throughout the park.
- 4.3 The stage 2 application will also include revenue costs for the provision of an activity programme, which includes the development of a volunteering and training programme within the park, along with associated staffing costs.
- 4.4 The proposed timescales are as follows:

Development Phase	April 2018 – August 2019
Stage 2 submission	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2019
Delivery Phase	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022

#### **5. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 5.1 The Environment Partnership on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC submitted a planning application for the relevant elements of the project. The application, reference 19/0076/08, can be viewed on the online Planning Register:  
<https://planningonline.rctcbc.gov.uk/online-applications/?lang=EN>
- 5.2 The project team met with Bluesail regarding the draft Business Plan. Key discussions focused on the staffing requirement and the training centre budget. As a result of these discussions Bluesail is amending the draft plan.
- 5.3 The project team have met with The Environment Partnership in relation to the landscaping and planting element of the project. Subsequently a tender brief for this element has been developed in draft. This will be finalised and submitted with the stage 2 application.
- 5.4 The development of a draft Interpretation and Digital Output Plan that outlines key platforms that will be used to engage with the general public. This includes online, social media and interpretation boards sited throughout the park.

- 5.5 The development of a draft Activity Plan outlining how the project team will engage with individuals and communities to meet measurable outcomes throughout the delivery phase is ongoing.
- 5.6 The development of a draft Management and Maintenance Plan that acts as reference manual for current and future maintenance operations across the whole site is ongoing.
- 5.7 The development of a draft Communication and Stakeholder Strategy outlining how the project team will continually link with key organisations and the community throughout the delivery phase is ongoing.
- 5.6 The footfall counters show that visitor numbers to the park for 2018/19 totalled 747,032.
- 5.7 The project team met with the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project progress meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Key recommendations from the meeting include: -
- Ensure that Business Plan reflects the successful track record of enterprise start up regarding the Lido Ponty training centre further enhancing the business case for the centre.
  - Ensure that Interpretation Plan is at RIBA Stage 3 matching the architectural designs for the Horticultural Centre
  - Consider the role of the Friends of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park for the delivery phase.
  - Enhance the biodiversity elements within the Management and Maintenance Plan.

## **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 Consultation on the RIBA Stage 3 design proposals occurred over December 2018. As a result of this, consultation amendments were made to the proposed building and designs were updated.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 In July 2016 RCT Cabinet approved the development and submission of a stage 1 Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. Included as part of the approval was the need for the

Council to source match funding for both the stage 1 and stage 2 applications.

- 8.2 The updated designs have resulted in an increase to the overall costs originally set for the project. The Project Team are currently working to develop a financial package for submission in August as part of the final application.
- 8.3 This final package alongside the application will be presented to a future Cabinet Committee meeting.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 The Park 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 Pontypridd town and the adjoining district.

## **10 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 10.1 The offer of introducing learning and wellbeing opportunities will enhance individuals' health and prosperity, leading to more vibrant communities.
- 10.2 Economically, the developments will support the wider town centre regeneration; creating a more prosperous Rhondda Cynon Taf for future generations.
- 10.3 Defined horticulture areas will enhance education and promote the importance for a more resilient Wales.
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 Improvements to the overall space will encourage footfall, which will help to reduce anti-social behaviour and other crimes.

- 10.7 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.
- 10.8 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.

## **11 CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The National Lottery Heritage Fund 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.
- 11.2 The proposed enhancements to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park will offer the visitor a menu of opportunities that will support sustainability.
- 11.3 The development of a Friends Of Group will further provide an offer to local communities, bringing added value and diversity.
- 11.4 The Training Centre will promote the park locally and regionally, putting Ynysangharad War Memorial Park on the map.
- 11.5 The revised designs will be complimentary to the surroundings and have a positive reception from development control.