

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK CABINET COMMITTEE

1ST AUGUST 2017

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

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &
PROTECTION**

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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:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee note progress made and support the submission of a Parks for People stage 1 application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park by the 31st August 2017.
- 2.2 That authorisation is given to the Service Director for Public Health and Protection to make changes to the application process in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure providing that the changes do not substantially change the nature of the scheme.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The development of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Project has progressed well since December 2016 and the proposals within the overall project have been well received in discussions with HLF Wales.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On December 20TH 2016 Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee supported a phased approach to the development of a Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People application and agreed that the proposed project would be submitted by the 31st August 2017 deadline.
- 4.2 Applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme are submitted in two stages. The stage 1 application is for project development, match funding has been identified for this stage through project support fund. The stage 2 application is for delivery and requires a minimum of 10% match funding for projects in excess of £1 million.
- 4.3 The Council will submit a stage 1 application to HLF in line with 31st August 2017 deadline.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 The application will also include revenue costs for the provision of an activity programme which includes the development of a volunteering programme and development of a Friends of group within the park as well as staffing costs.
- 4.6 The stage 1 application requests funding from HLF to develop the project in more detail. If successful at this stage The Council will be awarded funds to recruit a project manager and allocated up to 2 years to develop a Stage 2 application
- 4.7 Within the stage 1 application the Council are expected to include an indication of the total project cost. Based on recently commissioned work and having looked at other UK wide Parks for People initiatives the total project for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park will be £1.5 million. The 10% match funding will be made up of staff time in kind and a contribution from the Council..
- 4.8 The proposed timescales are as follows:
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|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Stage 1 submission | - | August 2017 |
| Development Phase (18mths) | - | January 2018 – August 2019 |
| Stage 2 submission | - | August 2019 |
| Delivery (18mths) | - | January 2020 – August 2021 |

5. PROGRESS TO DATE

5.1 The development of the application is being led by Leisure, Parks and Countryside with the support of the Regeneration and Planning service. The following progress has been made in relation to the development of the application: -

- The Environment Partnership (TEP) appointed via NPS Wales Construction Consultancy Services Framework. Restoration plans, including costs, developed up to RIBA Stage 1 for all key elements identified.
- Conservation Management Plan updated by TEP
- Consultation has taken place to support project development
- Regular meetings held with HLF development team
- Full tree survey carried out in the park by Cardiff Treescapes
- Developed links with environmental groups in relation to the biodiversity element of the project
- Stakeholder liaison carried out with local primary and secondary schools, voluntary groups, local interest groups and internal departments
- Stage 1 supporting documents compiled including Activity Plan, Development Phase Tender Briefs and Business Plan
- Marketing and promotion of the park is being reviewed to bring it in line with Lido Ponty

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has been carried out to support the application with a total of 525 respondents.

7.2 Online questionnaire live between 22nd May and 3rd July 2017 on the Cwm Taf HUB

7.3 Consultation events took place in Pontypridd town centre (31st May 2017) and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (1st June and 10th June 2017).

7.4 Overall feedback supports what is proposed and more in depth consultation will be undertaken during the development phase if successful with the stage 1 application.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The Council has identified the required match funding required for the stage 1 application, for the Development Phase, via existing project support.
- 8.2 If successful with the stage 2 HLF application the Council will be required to provide 10% match funding for the duration of the Delivery Phase, planned for financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21. This will be funded from a review and reprioritisation of existing resources going forward.

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 the Pontypridd town and the adjoining district.

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 unique opportunity for the Parks Department to develop and deliver a comprehensive training package developing green skills among staff, apprentices and also park users. The training programme will also be offered regionally to surrounding local authorities.

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 a HLF Parks for People stage 1 application, in August 2017, presents the Council with the opportunity to enhance the visitor experience within the wider park further developing Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a regional tourism attraction.

11.2 The phased development and improvement of the Park's infrastructure, management and maintenance 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf overall.