



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

**POTENTIAL TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL EVENT SPACE AT  
YNYSSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY & DEVELOPMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet on progressing the potential redevelopment opportunity for an event space within Ynysangharad War Memorial Park which will support the delivery of major events and to submit a formal application for funding to the Visit Wales Brilliant Basics Programme.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider the concept design proposal presented in the report and to authorise officers to proceed with its further development and submit a formal application for funding to the Visit Wales Brilliant Basics Programme.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council can make the best possible use of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park for major events and provide local communities with useable green spaces and take advantage of the funding opportunity provided by the Brilliant Basics Programme.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 In order to consider ways to maximise the space available to host events at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, a feasibility report on the potential to introduce an Events Space at the large green area adjacent to the bridge access from the Llys Cadwyn development has been produced.

4.2 The area of the park under consideration, was previously the site of a pitch-n-putt golf course and was later used for footgolf. It has not been formally used for some time and currently offers little amenity value due to the undulating topography designed for golf.

4.3 The space has the potential to facilitate an events area and community gatherings that can be enjoyed by all whilst retaining as much useable green space as possible.



4.4 The option described in section 5 below was considered by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Sub-Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

4.5 Subsequently, Visit Wales have invited the Council to submit a formal application for financial support for the project to their Brilliant Basics Fund. The objectives of the fund are to:

- Invest in basic infrastructure that benefits both communities and visitors in strategically important tourism locations.
- Develop high quality infrastructure projects that support the wider tourism offer in destinations giving visitors a memorable experience throughout their stay.
- Improve access to facilities and project an inclusive view of Wales.
- Support basic facilities to remain open all year and cater for visitors well into the evening.
- Contribute to strategically important tourism products e.g. The Wales Coast Path.
- Encourage clean, green destinations for example through sustainable infrastructure improvements.

4.6 It is considered that the event space proposals outlined below meet all the objectives of the fund.

4.7 The update on the proposals were considered by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Sub-Committee at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## **5. EVENT SPACE PROPOSALS**

5.1 A feasibility report and a concept design has been developed for the event space. Establishing this space is essential to expand the existing facilities to host large events within the park and provide an additional option to avoid disrupting the regular users of the park when events take place.

5.2 The proposal is for the upper plateau of the former Pitch and Putt course to be flattened out with a soft landscaping solution to generally make a more useable green space and give the ability for the space to be used for events and other similar activities. It is also proposed that new, small but necessary footways and seating areas be introduced to improve accessibility and the amenity of the park.

5.3 The computer generated images below give an idea of how the space would look and it should be noted that every effort has been made to maintain the maximum amount of green space. Further work will be undertaken as part of the detailed design stage to ensure that the loss of any trees is also minimised. The current design thinking is that any trees lost (if any) would be those smaller trees that form part of the golf course and not any of the mature trees that flank the main footways. A thorough assessment of any tree affected will form part of the detailed design process and proposals for additional tree planting will also be developed as part of the design.





## **6. PROJECT TIMESCALES AND DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposed concept design outlined above has the potential to be completed by the summer season of 2024. However, the design and tendering process must be initiated by late summer 2023 to ensure a timely start on-site in the autumn of 2023. This will align with appropriate planting seasons, enabling optimal growing conditions before use.
- 6.2 In addition, as it is proposed that the upper plateau will be levelled and therefore re-seeded to allow it to be used as a temporary event space this will require a settling-in period before it can be used.
- 6.3 Once the detailed design is complete an assessment can be undertaken around what planning and related consents, if any, are necessary. It is also proposed to engage with the public and key stakeholders once detailed design proposals become available.

## **7. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- 7.1 To support the delivery of this project, the Visit Wales Brilliant Basics Fund is a potential funding source. The purpose of Brilliant Basics is to deliver basic small-scale tourism infrastructure improvements across all of Wales to ensure that visitors have a positive and memorable experience throughout all aspects of their stay.
- 7.2 It is currently estimated that proposed works will cost around £249k. The Brilliant Basics Fund is capital-only, and grants are available up to a maximum of £300,000 with a maximum intervention rate of 80%. The remaining 20% would be met from existing regeneration investment budgets. The 2023/24 round of funding is currently open with a deadline for the submission of formal applications being 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

## **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be considered as part of the project design and development should it proceed.

## **9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Welsh Language implications will be considered as part of the project design and delivery should it proceed.



## **10. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 10.1 There is no requirements for consultation in respect of this report. Should the project proceed to detailed design and development, it is proposed to engage with the public and key stakeholders on the basis of the detailed design proposals.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 A successful single application to the Visit Wales Brilliant Basics Fund would enable the design and delivery of the concept design, along with a match funding contribution from RCT CBC's own resources as set out in Paragraph 7 of the report.

## **12. LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 12.1 These will be considered in detail as part of the project design and development process should it proceed.

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

- 13.1 The regeneration project detailed in the report will collectively boost the local economy and provide job opportunities for local people.
- 13.2 The development will directly contribute to the goals of the Well Being of Future Generations Act. In particular, the economic and environmental well-being of Wales, supporting the delivery of a prosperous Wales, a more resilient Wales, and a Wales of cohesive communities.

## **14. CONCLUSION**

- 14.1 This report provides information seeking approval from Cabinet on whether to progress the concept design option for the potential redevelopment opportunity in Ynysangharad Park and seek funding from the Brilliant Basics Fund to support the project design and delivery.