

AGENDA ITEM

The Welfare Park in Glynneath is at the centre and the heart of the Town, it has featured at the top of the recent and extensive community consultations that have taken place, to determine the most important things to improve.

It is an asset of Glynneath Town Council and is a Hub facility used throughout the day/week by many people within the community, either for sports and recreation, exercising dogs, a thoroughfare to walk from one end of Glynneath to the Town Centre and schools and also by children and families using the play equipment.

This project sets out to transform the park, building on the existing facilities and improving them together with adding and modernising the facilities on offer, an improvement to the sports pitch drainage, addition of toilet and refreshment facilities and adding to the community usage as set out and identified within the various consultation documents that have been produced.

Grant investment from several key Funding partners, will set out to undertake various aspects of the Welfare Park

The Project will be split into several phases and constructed in isolation of each other whilst the overarching project plan will remain in place and with the full commitment from the Town Council to carry out all of the phases over the period of several years to achieve the milestones set out in each phase.

Alongside the four phases, it is planned to deal with several other aspects of the project to include making safe the existing running brook, demolition of the existing changing block / groundsman's hut (x2) and resurfacing the footpaths throughout the park together with creating new Gateway entrance locations (5Nr) and the installation of art to reflect the Miners Welfare Park. Some of the existing trees, bushes and shrubs will need to be removed and or taken away in their entirety and a detailed soft landscaping plan is to be drawn up and this will be the final items into order that they then compliment the park as a whole.

Notice of Motion:

To obtain FULL approval from members of Council to proceed to the next stage of the application process and submit the detailed documents required in line with Draft Project Description provided to members in advance.

This application will need complete agreement to proceed, there are financial implications that may impact on the Budget as a result and will also require a degree of officer involvement at GTC level, these will be realised as the project progresses.

The proposed scheme relies on an improved maintenance schedule being put in place and the involvement from Council staff to run the facility daily. This will be expanded on as the application documents are produced.

This scheme has been several years in the planning stage, formal Expressions of Interest documents have been submitted and approved by funding partners including Pen y Cymoedd.

Advice has been received from funding partners that the project should obtain FULL agreement from all members of council to proceed, the funding package is extensive and will result in a scheme of approximately £800K being used to transform this park, leaving a massive legacy for future generations of Glynneath. The Welfare Park has not seen any form of regeneration for decades and this fantastic space needs to see this project progress for the residents of Glynneath to enjoy.

Conclusion – to allow Simon Knoyle to continue as lead, working with officers – Paul Hinder and Eloise Stanton from the Grants Advisory Team of NPTCBC to produce the documents required and report back to GTC as work proceeds.