

Report of Funding Forum Committee
held 16th November 2015
in the Heritage Centre, Town Hall

Present; Councillor Mrs P Lancaster
Councillor M Mason
Councillor D Foster
Councillor E Hacker
Mrs Ruth Quinn – Town Clerk
Mrs Helen Blackmore – Creative Rural Communities

Apologies;
Councillor J Evans
Councillor E Williams

To discuss possible Grant for widening of footpath on Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk circulated members with photographs showing the footpath, damage to the footpath and areas where 'pinch points' are, as well as a brief write up regarding a possible grant called Rural Communities Development Fund.

Councillor Mrs Lancaster welcomed Helen Blackmore and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Helen Blackmore informed members that yes there was a grant available at the present time through the Welsh Government, which is being administered and awarded directly from them. Helen gave out a brief another fact sheet in relation to the Grant, showing the Total Grant Fund, dates for submissions and deadlines as well as a brief description of criteria's. These included;

- Showing effective community engagement, consultation
- A strategy - Local Development Scheme
- Access to services – how will it improve this
- Fuel poverty – save on travel using vehicles
- Poverty reduction
- Digital inclusion

The closing date for completing the expression of interest forms was 31st January 2016. This first allocation was for £6m with a total fund of €69.9m from 2015-2019. Councillors queried when the next stage of funding would be released after this, if the criteria's would change and what are the chances of them altering after the elections next year. Helen informed members that unfortunately she did not know the answers to any of these as the paperwork was very vague.

Helen believed that we could use the Grant for the project of widening the path, especially if the Town Council looked at incorporating a cycle path.

The Town Clerk informed members that she had heard that the Vale of Glamorgan Council were looking at the Recreation Ground to possibly install a cycle path, but the Town Council had not been approach with any

information or request, but had given permission back in 2008 via the Community Travel Plan, although a lot had changed since then.

Members discussed the possibility of completing all the relevant paperwork in time for the 31st January 2016 deadline. It was agreed that the Town Study Steering Group members could be approach to help with the consultation and support for the project, as well as contacting the schools. The Town Clerk added that there may have been mention of support for the widening of the path during the consultation for the new play equipment.

Councillors discussed how the project would benefit those living to the south of the Recreation Ground and it would make walking from Illtyd Avenue etc safer and more convenient. It would also allow for easier wheelchair access across the Recreation Ground as the path would be wider.

The Town Clerk expressed concern with regards how close to the play equipment the path may go, thus not allowing for clearance. This must be 1.5 metres from the equipment.

Councillor Hacker asked if it would be possible to extend the path down the side of the Recreation Ground and out of the bottom gate (South East gate)

Councillor Mrs Lancaster asked if members felt this Grant application suitable. Councillor Foster stated that he felt it was worth submitting if we were able to get everything together in time. The Town Clerk informed members that she felt it would be tight but if we were able to receive advice from the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding specification etc, and Councillors help with compiling paperwork it could be achieved.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk liaise with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and try to ascertain if there are any plans regarding a footpath/cycle path within the Recreation Ground, and any findings be brought back to the Full Town Council for further discussion alongside this report.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That any decision regarding moving forward with the grant be discussed by Full Town Council 26th November 2015.