



Community Development Report

Date: September 2020

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Well-being Act / Community Report

The report is now nearing completion with the only outstanding items being;

- **Infographics to accompany the financial and grants related content.**
- **Statements from requested Councillors.**
- **Information pertaining to other grants outside of CDO work.**
- **Final Design Layout work once the above is received.**

It was previously recommended at the last CDO meeting that the report should be emailed to all members once completed and that all members should respond to confirm adoption of the report.

ACTION: Do members agree to this method of adoption for this report?

Once the report is adopted it will be uploaded to the Council website and circulated via social media. It will also be sent to the PSB for consideration in November.

Mynydd y Betws

I submitted this application (see attached) and we are currently awaiting a response from the funder. As soon as further information is available, I will circulate updates to all members.

In readiness I am developing a working site plan which will include all aspects as outlined within the application and those previously agreed under the Green Infrastructure Project, Woodlands Trust Tree Grants and the Community Asset Feasibility Study. Regardless of the Mynydd y Betws Grant, this will then help to inform work going forward, in line with existing grant commitments, and support further applications for funding as they arise.

In regards to the sports and recreation facilities, I have been contacted by a Carmarthenshire County Council Sports Development Officer who would like to meet with me to discuss the delivery of a project in Cwmaman. The aims of this project, as I currently understand them, are to improve health and activity within communities. As such, this aligns well with the outcomes of the Green Infrastructure project and our commitments under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The project is scheduled to be delivered in 3 communities (Cwmaman, Tumble and Llandovery) and they would like the first to be Cwmaman.

I will provide an update on the above as soon as further details are made available to me.

Amman United Rugby Club

I have received a request for support from Amman United Rugby club; please see end of report. Following this request, I have met with members of the club committee and can report that this was a very positive experience. I have advised on certain grants that may be available to them, for smaller scale activities initially, and will continue to support going forward. There seems to be an increased interest in providing community benefits, outside of rugby, which will hopefully support the club in secure the non-sport focused grants that they are eligible for.

ACTION: Please can Councillors consider the request for support from Amman United Rugby club and provide, should Council decide to support them, the value and requirements of any support offered?

Sylfaen Project

The full training schedule is as follows:

- Tues 29 Sept - **Maximising Strengths:** For You and Your organisation (Strengths Mapping for you and your organisation) - 2 x 90mins
- Tues 13 Oct - **Basic finance and record keeping** - TBC
- Tues 20 Oct - **Virtual coffee morning** - 90 mins
- Tues 27 Oct - **Techniques for Getting Great Ideas and Diversification** (Ideas and Diversification) - 2 x 90mins
- Tues 10 Nov - **Top Tips for Great Funding and Tender Applications** (Fundraising) - 90 mins
- Tues 17 Nov - **Virtual coffee morning** - 90 mins

Any Councillor wishing to attend any of the above sessions, please email myself and Bethan (Cynnal Cymru) on: Bethan@cynnalcymru.com

Artisan Plastics Projects

All steel stock required has now been ordered and I am planning to cut all stock to size so it can be stored indoors to prevent rusting. I will schedule this when the Probation Service are available to assist. Until such a time as the Covid19 regulations stabilise it is proving difficult to arrange indoor sessions with members of the public. As soon as this changes I will commence work with community members as planned within the project. I am hesitant to complete the project without community member involvement as community development and engagement are key outcomes within the project.

Green Infrastructure Project / Environmental Projects

We have now received the continue at risk notice from Welsh Government. The project steering group (comprising of officers from each partner) will be meeting on the 24th of September. At this meeting the agreed start date for the project will be set. This may be as far back as February 2020 although, as the Cwmaman representative, I will be requesting a start date of October 2020.

ACTION: To progress GI and environmental projects within the community I would like to arrange site visits as follows with all relevant Councillors in attendance:

- **Golwg yr Aman** (Steve Glasson from the Probation Service, Paul Worsfold (Amman United), Dimitris Pletsas and representation from the woodland group),
- **Gelli Werdd** (County representative: Neil Thomas) and
- **Hen Fethel** (to include Rob Parry and Probation Service)

Please can all Councillors wishing to attend the above site visits contact me to confirm available dates/times?

On Thursday the 17th of September I met with a group of community volunteers (The Cwmaman Splinter Woodland group) to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam from one location on the Golwg yr Aman site. In total we removed 5 large LBS bags of plant material which will now be stored, dried and burnt to safely prevent it spreading.



THE SITE, NEAR THE FIRST POND, BEFORE CLEARING HAS BEGUN.



THE SITE FOLLOWING CLEARANCE OF THE BALSAM AND COLLECTION OF ALL BRASH. TIMBER BRASH WILL REMAIN ON SITE TO SUPPORT HABITAT DEVELOPMENT.

Following the complete clearance of the site, it has been suggested by community members that an outdoor workspace be created with seating and safely constructed firepit. This will then support the delivery of future Green Infrastructure project work, enhance the outdoor classroom aspect and provide an additional point of interest within the park and community.

THE FINAL SITE MAY LOOK SIMILAR TO WHAT IS SHOWN BELOW:





In addition to supporting the aspects above, the site will also provide a location for traditional crafts people to provide workshops and act as a first step towards the developments required to deliver against the “Eco-Festival” outcomes within the Green Infrastructure Project. When not in use as a workspace, there will be no dangerous or hazardous equipment or tools left onsite. Instead the site will feature simple seating, a small natural shelter and provide a space for park users young and old to enjoy. Native species planting is also seen as a key part of the site improvements with natural woodchip (sourced locally) to be used to reduce the return of the Balsam; although full removal, without chemicals, may take a number of years.

I am currently planning the next volunteer session at the park to continue works and community members have expressed interest in this being a weekly activity. In addition, I am meeting with the Probation Service Supervisor on Tuesday the 22nd to schedule work for them to undertake at the location; primarily continued removal of Balsam and brash at this stage.

Community Engagement and Consultation Methodology

Within the most recent Sylfaen project training session a particular model of engagement and consultation was shared by the trainer (please see attached presentation). Given that this methodology has been proven to succeed in similar communities to our own:

ACTION: Councillors to consider adopting the methodology to engagement and consultation as defined within the attached.

Dyfed Powy Police – Participatory Budgeting

Following discussion with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, I would like to suggest to Council that we offer 25% match funding to any successful projects based in or benefiting Cwmaman. The entire fund budget, at this stage, is £10,000 with a maximum grant per project of £2,000. As such, any applicable project would receive £500 additional funding to support their work.

Each of these projects will be voted on by members of the public via an online event scheduled for November. This presents a good opportunity for the Council to support activities seen as needed by the Community and is inkeeping with the model of engagement and delivery suggested above.

I have been informed that other Town and Community Councils in the area are waiting to see what we, as Cwmaman Town Council, do before taking action themselves. This, I feel, is a compliment towards the work we have been doing and the way in which we operate as a council.

ACTION: Councillors to consider provision of 25% match funding to support any applicable projects selected by the community.