



Community Development and Special Projects Report

Date: November 2020

Produced by: Robert Venus

Well-being Act / Community Report

The full report has been submitted to the PSB contact at Carmarthenshire County Council and the PSB meeting, where the report will be considered, has been scheduled for the **15th of December at 0930** online. I will provide further update to the Council following this meeting which will include any feedback from the PSB.

Amman United Rugby Club

I have now received the final letter stating their business case for the previously requested support (*see end of report – redacted for public record*). Please can Council now consider the request for support and provide an outline of their decision? I will then communicate this to the club and support them going forward.

Sylfaen Project

The full training schedule is as follows:

- 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 Project

Work has begun on producing the steel components for the machine framework; I would like to express thanks to Mick Barrow (Caretaker) for his assistance with this. ON the 18th of November I met with the Probation Service who are now commencing work with greater numbers following Covid restrictions. I have scheduled a working meeting with them on Tuesday the 25th of November where we will discuss and focus on work related to this project.

Green Infrastructure Project / Environmental Projects

Unfortunately, due to further Covid restrictions in Wales, the planned site visits were unable to go ahead. As such I would like to propose that these now take place on the following days. It is necessary to hold these during daylight hours due to potential risks on each site.

- **Hen Fethel** – Tuesday 1st of December at 1000 – 1130 (meet at Chapel)
- **Golwg yr Aman** – Wednesday 2nd of December at 1000 – 1130 (meet at Bowls Pavilion carpark)

Please can councillors confirm if they are able to attend these meetings?

Grant Status:

The final partnership Delivery Profile has now been submitted to Welsh Government. The whole project and Cwmaman specific profiles can be found at the end of this report. I would like to bring Councillors attention to 2 key points:

- **Delivery of Outcomes on Schedule:** the targets set for the outcomes are now set and will be required to be achieved to schedule as the entire partnership will be working towards combined targets. i.e. delays with any partner may harm the claim and progress status of all other partners.
- **Protection of Cashflow as Cwmaman:** Our claims will be made to the lead applicant (Neath Port Talbot). As such we will be able to make claims more regularly, at different times, to those identified within the Delivery Profile. This will allow us to make claims as we require and protect us from cashflow issues.

Heritage Lottery Fund – New Grant Applications

Two new grant application enquiries have been submitted to HLF for the following projects:

- #NATUR Enhanced Grassland
- #NATUR Cwmaman Community Conservation

Full details on the aims, objectives, outcomes and financial aspects of these projects can be found within the specific project overviews at the end of this report.

Town and Community Councils tree planting project for 2020/21

This project, funded by NRW through grants to each PSB in Wales, will involve a collaborative tree planting initiative across 7 Council areas in Carmarthenshire. I have worked with the NRW representative to compile the needs, site details and species types required within each Council area and I'm pleased to announce that recent despatches from Llanelli Town Council show confirmation that the project has been agreed for funding.

I continue to work with the NRW representative to address queries from the PSB and will provide further updates as they arise.

Wildflower Planting

Wildflower planting has been included within a number of other projects and will be a key aspect within the work undertaken over the next 12-24 months. This will include seeding of current low-grade grassland to encourage meadow growth along with planting at the traditional locations in beds and roadside verges.

Advice on the species and locations is being gathered from ecologists currently within the various project networks and through NRW advisors. One of the early outcomes of the **GI Project** is hoped to be a planting scheme/map of the community showing sites where planting will take place.

Along with this planting will come a change to the management of these locations which will require recorded management plans to support outcomes within the **GI** and **HLF** projects.

Golwg yr Aman

Following the report of required works at the site previously circulated to Council, please see the attached spreadsheet which explains under which existing, future and potential project these works can be completed or where specific tasks are needed to achieve these.

Covid Support within the Community (Volunteers)

With the number of cases increasing across Wales increasing, it's appropriate for us to consider the future support and assistance available within our community.

To this end I have emailed all those who registered to volunteer to offer volunteer support during the first lockdown period to assess their current availability.

Once feedback has been assessed I will schedule a series of social media posts to promote additional volunteer registration.

This will then be combined with countywide provision that has evolved since we moved forward with local delivery during the initial stages of the pandemic.

Yard Improvement Works

A site visit was held with the welding contractor in early November and all steel required has now been delivered following missed item delay by the supplier. Once the steel uprights and mounting brackets have been cut to length, the contractor will collect and commence works.

The Probation Service, following the aforementioned meeting, have also agreed to support with housekeeping and maintenance on the site going forward; combining internal work using the workshop and external work on the Yard and Artisan Plastics projects depending on weather conditions.

Feasibility Study Associated Projects

The following section refers to the feasibility study previously adopted by the Council and the specific projects within this.

This is included here following the request by members to revisit these projects to consider future delivery and prioritisation.

Please note that certain aspects of these projects are scheduled for delivery within existing projects such as the Bowls/Golwg yr Aman Improvement project, the Green Infrastructure Project and Artisan Plastics Project.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Adventure and “Alternative Sports” Provision

Definition: This proposal encompasses a change of approach in regards to the “play” provision available within the community. It suggests that a move towards a service which better represents the natural environment around Cwmaman, encourages physical activity and supports access to our natural spaces. Moreover, it seeks to provide a play, or physical activity, provision which includes elements not available elsewhere in areas surrounding Cwmaman.

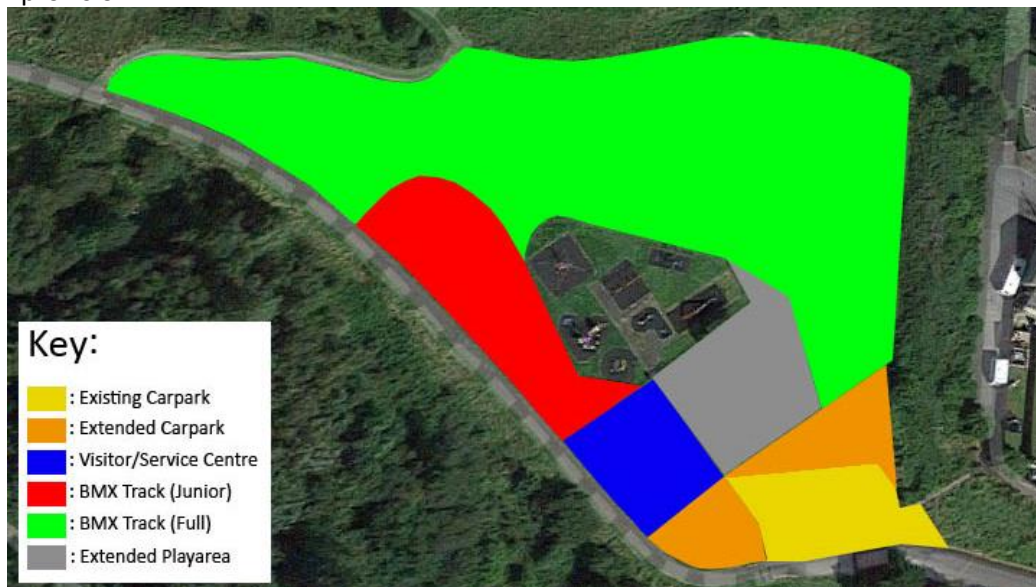
The consultation process has highlighted a particular interest in alternative sports provision (BMX tracks, skate parks, climbing walls) and adventure play including assault courses, high ropes, kayaking; to name but a few of the ideas put forward.

It is recognised that this, in its entirety, would represent a significant financial investment and would place, at this time, an untenable strain on council services. However, it is felt that a move towards this type of provision, which will meet local need whilst attracting visitors to the area, is both practical and appropriate. As such, it is proposed that the following actions represent a practical and attainable focus for the use of some of the outdoor space within the community:

Gelli Werdd BMX Track:

This aspect of the proposal would see the development of a BMX pump track to the West of the existing play area on Gelli Werdd. Given the existing recognition of the site as a space for play and recreation, combined with the carpark provision, proximity to the Community Centre and scope for further development, this is believed to be the most appropriate location within Cwmaman.

The site would feature a junior track, full track, extended carpark and playarea and, in order to service the site, a visitor centre. This centre could also help to support the Woodland Play Area and woodland recreation, management and education provision.



Gelli Werdd Woodland Play Area:

Given the potential for developing engagement with the natural environment presented by all assets within Cwmaman, combined with the public interest in play and nature, the following proposed aspect seeks to provide a unique play provision which can support greater access to the natural environment.

The concept would involve the development of an adventure playground produced using all natural materials sources from the site or neighbouring woodlands. The focus of the provision would be adventure, physical activity, “safe” risk taking, wildlife education and the importance of our natural environment.

In addition to the fixed elements (swings, high walks, climbers etc) the site will also feature flexible space which can be used for den/shelter building, education space, tree nursery and a wildlife corner. To support access to the site for families, the inclusion of picnic space, woodland “garden” and seating areas.

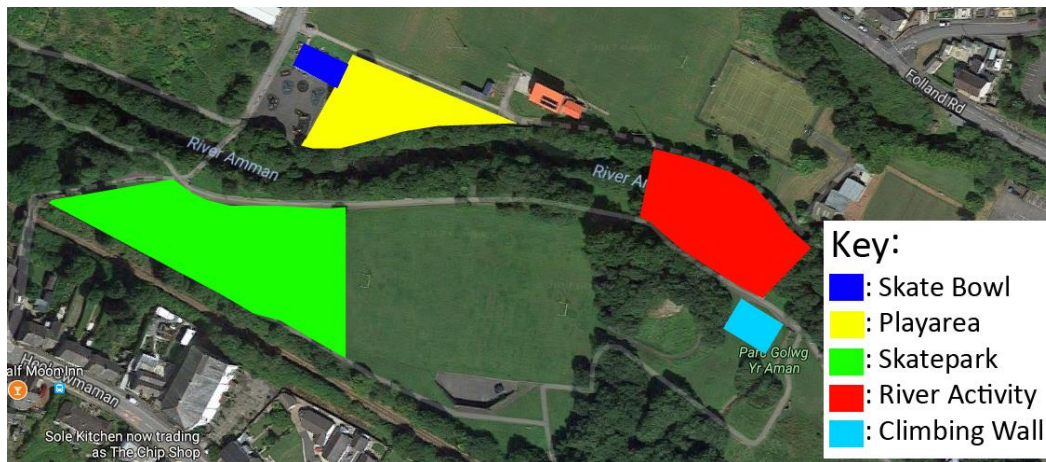


Garnant Extreme Play Zone:

There has been a particularly high interest, during consultation, for the development of the Cwmaman Park provision. This, along with the high interest in alternative sports and adventure play, has led to the development of the proposal below. The development would comprise of:

- Fully equipped Skatepark – with additional “skate friendly” provision across the park.
- Junior Skate Bowl.
- Extended playarea featuring elements of water play.
- Cast concrete/boulder climbing wall.
- River Activity zone.

Given the close proximity to the Bowls Pavilion and Multi-Use Games Area, this proposal would help to support other concepts presented in this study. Moreover, the site would be supported by the existing carparks to the East of the site and, following partnership development, help support a diverse delivery of curriculum for Ysgol y Bedol primary school.



Community Benefit: When considering this proposal, the health, recreation and play benefits for local residents is clear. However, the scheme would also be unique within the surrounding areas and would act as a means of attracting more visitors to the area; thereby increasing revenue generation for local traders and increasing employment opportunities. Moreover, the sectors targeted by much of the proposal (skateboarding, BMX riding and woodlands/ecology) comprise of very close and well organised national communities. As such, this provision could attract visitors from across the UK should events be developed and marketed appropriately. This would further enhance the local area as a tourist destination and help support the future sustainability of the area as a whole.

The consultation highlighted an issue locally with people feeling proud of their community. The development of unique provision, as described under this proposal and elsewhere within this study, would greatly support this and instil a sense of pride and satisfaction for people living in the community.

Interrelations: As explained previously, the primary interrelations within this proposal will be between Gelli Werdd activity and Cwmaman Community Centre and Garnant activity and the Bowls Pavilion. However, there would also be a significant opportunity to engage with Ysgol y Bedol school, Brecon Beacons National Park and local trades and service providers.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Woodland Management and Development

Definition: A vast majority of the “natural” space around Cwmaman is in fact the remains of what was once a thriving and essential production facility. Throughout its history, from early housing to mining, timber has been an important natural resource in the development of the community. However, in the last 50-70 years the use of timber within this context, combined with the influx of cheaper mass-produced timber, the once excellently managed woodlands have become overgrown, reduced in size and overpopulated with weak growth and saplings.

Over recent years there has been an increase in the interest in our woodlands; in part due to the work of organisations such as the Woodlands Trust but also as a result of survival programming and TV shows such as “Axe Men”. This has given rise to a greater interest in woodland management and the skills, equipment, crafts and training associated with it.

With both of these factors in mind, this proposal would see the development of:

- Increased tree planting within our existing woodlands and parks.
- The development of coppiced woodland; managed by learners and community members.
- The management of existing woodlands (both publicly and privately owned) by community members.
- The use of raw materials within crafts, furniture and other handmade products.
- The increase of attachment felt by local residents to their community and its natural assets.
- Development of a material source for local composting and/or biomass.

Community Benefit: Each of these aspects within this proposal will seek to address wider social issues through their delivery:

- Social cohesion and engagement.
- Physical and mental well-being.
- Transferable skills development.
- Community income and financial sustainability.
- Local employment and economic regeneration.
- Reduction of the carbon footprint of Cwmaman.
- Increased and improved access to green spaces.
- Reduction of negative and/or damaging behaviours.
- Retention of traditional skills.
- Aesthetic improvement of the community.
- Increase percentage of people satisfied with Cwmaman as a place to live.

Pre-requisites: Before the commencement of this project on the public level there must be a significant amount of internal and partnership work. In particular in relation to the access to, and permitted use of, the land to be used. This must, for legal and insurance purposes, be evidenced through the creation of contractual agreements and, where applicable, joint risk assessments.

Through this partnership working, it should then be possible to fulfil the other prerequisite need of developing a knowledge base from which to develop the direct public project delivery. Where there are gaps in this, on a local level, then it is recommended that engagement is sought with regional and national organisations who can support the development of the concept under their remit.

Interrelations: Given the breadth of opportunities presented by this proposal, there are significant opportunities for partnership working and integration with existing and planned projects.

Perhaps most significantly are the opportunities to work with national organisations such as Natural Resources Wales, the Wildlife Trust, the Woodlands Trust and Llais y Goedwig. Moreover, there are opportunities to work with local and regional bodies including the Cwmaman Gardening Group, Brecon Beacons National Park and Carmarthenshire County Council. In regards to current and planned projects, this proposal will develop upon the local tree planting scheme, support the development of the workshop space through provision of materials and enhance the provision under the work being delivered against the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

In regards to the delivery of woodland and management classes, this proposal will also support the use of the Bunkhouse when delivering residential courses.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Woodland Recreation and Learning

Definition: Access to green spaces and the natural environment, in a proactive and engaging manner, is well documented in regards to the mental and physical health benefits it has.¹ Given that both issues are identified as areas of concern within Cwmaman and the surrounding areas, the exploitation of the natural environment within community to help support well-being is a clear area for consideration.

How this can best be achieved is as diverse as there are people within the community. However, there are a number of approaches which have been utilised elsewhere which could be replicated within Cwmaman. These include:

Woodland “Schools” and Woodland Learning: Whilst woodland schools are primarily aimed towards children, the concept can prove equally engaging for parents and guardians as a result of attending sessions with their childrenⁱⁱ. The majority of woodland schools utilise the woodland “classroom” to teach a broad range of both specific and holistic skills to children and young people. These can range from team building to *safe-risk* taking, cooking to independence and problem solving to confidence building.

Through the undertaking of short, achievable tasks (such as shelter building, crafts or making simple tools) children develop each of these skills along with improving their levels of physical activity and their mental well-being. These improvements stay with the children once they return to their normal classroom and can often help them to improve in their attainment within traditional education.ⁱⁱⁱ

The learning opportunities are not only beneficial to children. There is a growing interest among adults in returning to a life where they engage more fully with nature, develop skills in woodland management, traditional crafts or simply to spend time being productive outside of their usual day-to-day lives.

Both of these aspects of the proposal could be developed in Cwmaman by making use of the land at the uppermost part of Gelli Werdd and even within the small wooded areas of Golwg yr Aman. Development can be as simple as organising community get together within the areas and undertaking challenges to build simple shelters or produce simple crafts. This level of development would require very little beyond staffing the activity with a suitably knowledgeable volunteer or paid sessional worker. It would also be the recommended initial phase of any larger undertaking in order to develop participation, garner interest and support a phased delivery of service.

Once established the activities can become more adventurous, be delivered with increased regularity and enhanced by opening up access to a greater and greater portion of the available land. Following a period of developed there may then be potential to create a dedicated, registered, Forrest School^{iv} and support the delivery of certificated training sessions for adults through an external partner.

Wildlife and Nature Groups: As with the previous concept, this provision requires very little at the outset beyond providing a knowledgeable and capable leader to deliver the activities. Examples of successful groups have involved parents with young children going on nature spotting walks, communities producing nest boxes (where older residents produce the boxes and younger residents place them), wildflower or tree planting and woodland clean-up events.

Pre-requisites: The primary concern in regards to the delivery of this concept is the current condition of the woodlands that could be used. Following a number of years of poor maintenance, there is evidence of dangerous littering (glass, metal etc) and potentially dangerous trees. Access to the woodlands is also prevented by uncontrolled bramble and sapling growth. Both of these issues would require rectification before organised activities can be delivered within the woodlands. Any activity of this type also presents an increased health and safety risk. However, this can be easily managed through effective risk assessment and site inspection processes and should not be considered as a barrier to progression.

Community Benefit: Given the diverse range of potential activities that can be delivered through the use of the community’s natural spaces as just “another space” to be used, the range of benefits is considerable and dependent upon the specific activity. However, there are certain benefits which all would cover to some degree;

- Improvement to mental well-being.
- Improvement to physical health.
- Increased community cohesion.
- Enhanced community ownership.
- Greater respect for the natural environment.
- Improved quality of the natural spaces.
- Social interaction and reduced isolation.
- Restorative familial experiences.
- A more attractive community.

Interrelations: Given the close proximity of Gelli Werdd to the Community Centre, any activities delivered on the grassland of woodland of the park could potentially utilise the centre as the staging point. Given the provision of the café space, restrooms and indoor classrooms the development of activities which benefit both spaces could be a simple option to develop.

In regards to project within the woodlands which require the fabrication of items (bird boxes, seating, sculptural interpretations/responses) then the potential connection to the Community Workshop space, along with its groups including Men’s Shed, will allow for a significant level of project enhancement.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Seasonal Café and Shop with Bike Hire

Definition: During consultation it was considered important to maintain the current use of this facility with contributors citing the historical importance, access for older residents and the ability, through sporting activities, for Cwmaman to engage with other communities. Given the bespoke nature of the site is considered a valid option; providing future costs and sustainability can be supported.

When discussing the various assets with local residents the topics of community cafes, cycling, access to sports equipment for children and affordable activities were commonly discussed. In response to these considerations the following concepts attempts to support the future of the Bowls Pavilion through the placement of café space which includes a small shop, bicycle hire and bookable equipment for use in Golwg yr Aman and the Multi-use Games Area.



Café: possibly run by volunteers from the bowls club, parents groups or family centre and serving low-cost, healthy food during the spring and summer months. Out of season the café could deliver refreshments for sports events and cater for parties booked into the Multi-use Games Area.

Shop: during consultation the ideas put forward for the shop included:

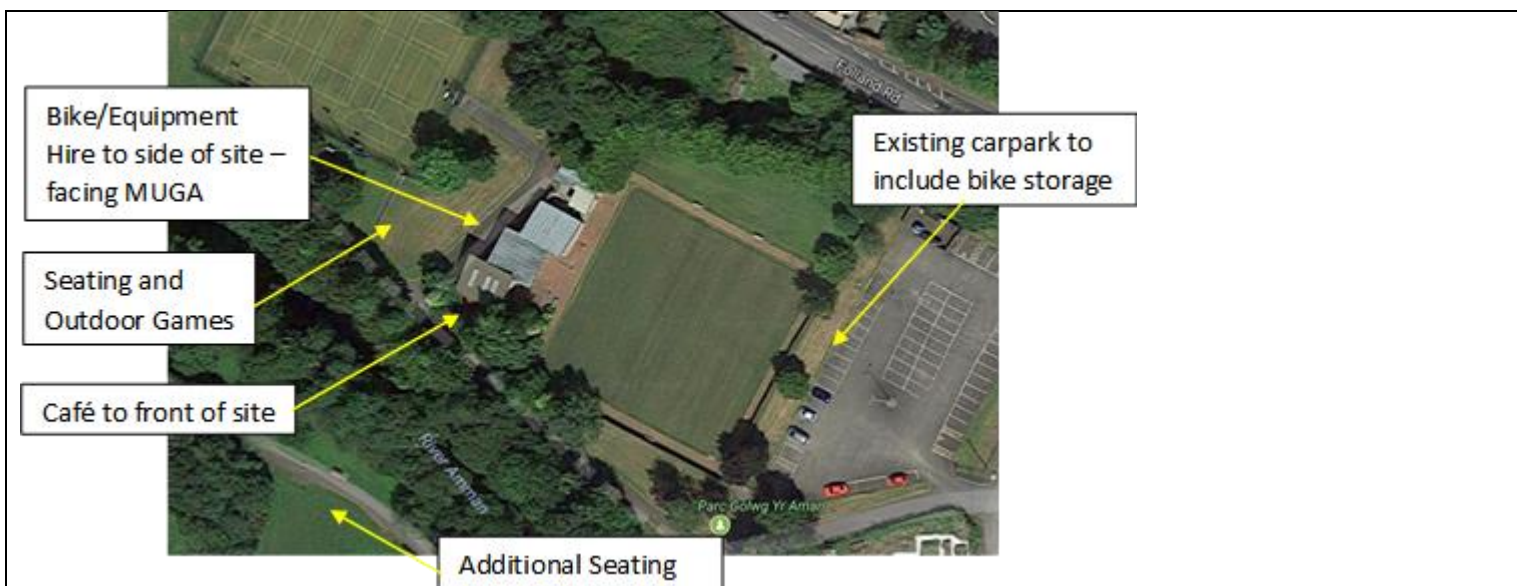
- Affordable outdoor toys or equipment e.g. kites, balls, fishing supplies.
- Sports snacks and equipment.
- Children's activities.
- Dog walker supplies.
- Cyclist supplies.

The shop was considered a viable option given the close proximity of the site to the local primary school, large parks, the Multi-use Games Area and the Amman River cycle path; regularly used by cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

Bike Hire: Current data indicates that health is a priority area in the local area. As such, the affordable access to bikes for use on the Amman River cycle path, combined with organised group bike rides, is considered as an appropriate option for the site. Hire of the equipment can be managed as part of the café service with the maintenance of the bikes being undertaken by another community project under consideration to establish a bike maintenance group. This would also allow for integration with the existing tourist information relating to the Twrch Trwyth trail.

Key Aspects: The following points were considered important during consultation:

- The provision should be affordable for local residents with the possible provision of a discount for those that live in Cwmaman.
- The café should provide healthy snacks.
- The facility to should be welcoming for cyclists, horse riders and dog walkers with specific measures taken to support each; e.g. hitching points, bike stands, dog bowls, relevant supplies etc.
- The facility should be run by local residents for the benefit of the community.
- Organised "fun days" should be delivered during school holidays; making use of the MUGA, bowls green, Parc Golwg yr Aman and the nearby play area.
- A range of bikes should be made available; including adult, child, trikes, courier/shopping bikes and carriage bikes for toddlers.
- Organised bike rides should be held on a regular basis which take local residents to destination along the riverside trail.



Pre-requisites: This site has recently undergone a refurbishment as part of the asset transfer process meaning there are no significant issues to be addressed. As such it is felt that the primary prerequisite for this proposal is to develop the audience and volunteer banks. This could be achieved through a series of taster days which demonstrate some aspects of the project going forward; interesting bikes, community BBQ, organised bike and/or horse rides, activity sessions using the multi-use games area or other such activities which attract families and potential users. The volunteering aspect could further be enhanced through the use of a community time banking or time credits scheme.

Community Benefit: The immediate and potential benefits of this project are quite varied. As such they have been discussed as distinct points below.

- A. **Health:** given that health among local residents has been identified as a key issue within recent data, it is felt that the opportunity to encourage active lives presented by this proposal are significant. The Cwmaman community is well serviced by traditional sports provision; both within the immediate community and in the neighbouring community of Ammanford. However, there is still a significant number of young people and adults who face challenges due to inactivity. It is felt that this proposal can provide alternative opportunities to be physically active than the competitive sports currently available. Through the combination of recreational and functional cycling, physical (non-sports) games and the potential introduction of alternative “sports”. One such example which has proven highly popular among children during consultation is “NERF Wars” which utilise the popular NERF toys within an enclosed arena.^v Moreover, the use of the community café to offer and promote healthy foods also has the potential to support people to live healthier lives. It has been suggested during consultation that community cafés should utilise locally produced whole foods whilst providing take-away recipes with every meal or snack sold. This presents the added benefit of allowing residents to prepare their own healthy meals and support the sale/use of local produce.
- B. **Social Cohesion:** one of the issues that has arisen during much of the consultation process is that residents remember a time when the community came together for activities much more often than they do at present. This was further supported by consultees stating that they don’t know many fellow residents or engage with their community a great deal. Through the development of a community focus point, for all residents, within Garnant there is the potential to organise and deliver a range of community events which are:
 - a. Accessible
 - b. Affordable
 - c. Enjoyable
 - d. Relaxed
 - e. Sustainable

This would also support greater community volunteering^{vi}, more opportunities to establish community groups and help those feeling socially isolated to develop social networks.

- C. **Site Sustainability:** through the utilisation of the Bowls Pavilion as the “hub” for this development, there is significant potential to maintain the long-term sustainability of the provision. Providing agreements can be reached between Cwmaman Bowls Club and the council, this undertaking could generate a revenue stream that both can benefit from for the broader benefit of the whole community.
- D. **Opportunities to Improve Equality:** when considering issues as diverse as health/economic disparity, community provision for specific groups, inter-group perception or age, gender and racial differences; equality within any

community is a fundamental foundation of effective development. Through the broad range of elements within this proposal, there are many opportunities to support more equal communities within Cwmaman.

E. Involvement and Collaborations: given the missed provision, and therefore skills and/or knowledge, required within the development and delivery of this project it would be essential to work with a range of people from across the community. This would not only provide opportunities for the council to involve and collaborate with their community, but would also present a need for community members to collaborate within their groups and involve those from other groups within Cwmaman. As with other proposed projects within this study, this concept will be largely dependent upon community engagement, at all levels, at all points of its development.

Interrelations: If the Bowls Club is to be considered as a distinct entity from the council, who will be overseeing the project, then they must be considered as the primary interrelation within the delivery. However, there are also significant links with existing horse riding, cycling, dog walking and sports groups within the community. As such, these organisations should be consulted with further regarding the ongoing development and management both this and similar future concepts. It must also be noted that the close proximity of the site to the local primary school (Ysgol y Bedol – a “community school”) provides a significant opportunity for partnership working and shared benefits in regards to performance indicators. This would also apply to the Garnant Family Centre and the youth provision in the area.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Community Workshop and Education Space

Definition: The building should undergo a complete uplift in regards to decoration and the issues in regards to the kitchen, WC and roof should be addressed. Following these works the space will be subdivided into dedicated spaces defined by the type of work to be carried out. This could be achieved as follows:

Large Room – Dedicated to woodworking machinery and used as the primary teaching space.

Medium Room – Utilised as either a metalworking space or used to house a CNC router and milling machine.

Small Entrance Room – Used to house a selection of hand tools, workbenches and small power tools. Possible inclusion of electrical / electronics workstations.

In addition to the physical changes made to the building and integration of new equipment, it is felt that a significant change of use and change to management of the space is required. It is recommended that the asset be used as a shared space across a number of user groups and should house a number of projects. These could, based upon the research conducted as part of this study, include the following:

User Groups	Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodturning Group • Children and Young People • Mental Health • Women’s Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic DIY/maintenance skills workshops. • Woodturning Classes • Woodworking Classes • Metal Working Classes • CNC Fabrication – curriculum integrated • Low-cost Workspace • Community re-use, recycle and reclaim project • Manufacture of affordable items using natural or reclaimed materials – revenue to support the space and other community activity • MakerSpace – particular focus on wood and metal fabrication • Delivery facility for external providers – education, mental health, youth work etc • Development of a Community Tool Library • Repair Café • Bike Maintenance

Pre-requisites: Although the space is currently operating as a workshop, there are some issues which require rectification, and tasks required, before progression to the next stage:

- **Risk assessment, user agreements and procedures** are all needed before works can begin.
- **Maintenance and decorating works** should be carried out to help provide a comfortable and stimulating environment.
- **Servicing of existing machinery and electrical system** is required to ensure that all items and the supply is sufficient and safe.

In addition, it is strongly recommended that investigations be conducted as the feasibility of securing access to the yard to the rear of the workshop. Although this is currently used for storage, casual projects and an overflow space; there is no firm agreement or long-term security over this space. Should access/ownership be secured then this would significantly enhance the potential of the workshop and allow for additional workspace, outdoor facilities (welding, forge, spray booth etc) and allow for larger scale projects. There is also significant potential for the development of user dedicated workspaces which would provide revenue whilst supporting start-up businesses.

Community Benefit: As with the proposal to utilise the Old Signal Box as an arts facility, the evidence of benefit presented by access to creative, practical and “making” services and facilities is well documented^{vii}. However, there are also significant benefits of this concept for Cwmaman and the surrounding areas.

Relationship to curriculum – there is currently no provision for young people and other students to compound their learning outside of the education establishment they attend. This reduces the impact of learning, reduces their capacity to “self-teach” and prevents the development of positive social interactions around a shared interest.

Work related skills – through consultation with local businesses and employers of local residents, it has been identified that there is a shortage of skills relevant to certain industries. This was particularly apparent when talking to representatives of the manufacturing, design, engineering and fabrication sectors.

Community sustainability – the opportunity to generate income through various aspects of this proposal will provide a much-needed boost to the funding of other community activities.

Localisation of service – when considering the development of community service placements, for the benefit of the community, the closest alternative provision of a similar nature is in Llanelli. This reduces the potential for offenders from the local area to engage in this positive and restorative activity whilst reducing the benefits brought to the community as a whole.

Social interactions – as with the current sole occupant, the social interaction benefits of shared community workshops is significant. Through the development of this proposal, these benefits can be made available to all demographic groups within the community.

Interrelations: There are a number of potential interrelations between this project and other community provision; both existing and proposed. The most obvious are with the developments put forward for the Community Centre; making, creativity and arts. However, there are clear links to education providers and 3rd sector providers working with vulnerable people; young offenders, school-phobics and adult loneliness for example. Given the potential for increased footfall, combined with residential possibilities, there are also connections to the Youth Resource Centre (also for education links) and local traders.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Youth Resource Centre – Education Centre with Residential Provision

Definition: When considered in conjunction with other proposals presented here, current work within the community, national education frameworks and the need, as exemplified by local education data, to improve skills; this asset could significantly contribute to these areas. Utilising the residential capacity, kitchen facility and learning space, the YRC could add another dimension to the provision of the Community Centre, Workshop and the work being undertaken within woodlands. This proposal would see the YRC become an education space during the day, weekends and holidays where young people can engage with an alternative curriculum which combines outdoor learning, technologies and creativity whilst supporting the development of core skills. This would allow for the current usage to continue and ensure that resources and capacity are still in place to support the provision of pastoral and social activities for the young people within the local community. In holiday periods the provision would also support the need for positive activities for young people through the delivery of a “Camp” type service.

Pre-requisites: Delivering service for and with young people requires a considerable amount of preparatory work in regards to appropriate safeguards, policies and procedures. That said, there are skills in place within the YRC and Cwmaman Town Council that will allow for much of this to be developed in partnership.

Community Benefit: The need for positive activities for young people within the community has been identified as a paramount concern. The provision of the Youth Club has been noted by many residents and is considered as a service which, although in need of improvement, should be maintained and further developed. However, it has also been stated by residents of all ages that the Youth Club is not a suitable setting for many local young people. The development of an education provision which could inspire specific clubs, groups and social circles was seen as being a possible solution to this issue. Moreover, the long-term sustainability of the centre, as a provider for local young people, has been queried. Through the development of a service which utilises the classroom and residential aspects of the YRC, combined with the

services/facilities available within the Community Centre and Workshops would be unique and a potential source of revenue.

Interrelations: Primarily with the Community Centre and Workshop space although potential for developing interrelations with external providers, 3rd sector organisations and Children’s Services.

Feasibility Study Proposed Project: Youth Resource Centre – Bunkhouse Provision (Local Tourism Support)

Definition: Given the need to improve local tourism in order to support economic development, the issue of affordable accommodation is one which requires attention. The Bunkhouse facility within the YRC is well placed to support this; especially when considered alongside other proposals made for other assets within the community. This concept would see the YRC bunkhouse being made available during weekends, school holidays and during special events for rental to visitors to the area.

Pre-requisites: At present the decoration and general housekeeping of the YRC is not at a level which would support private rentals. As such this would need to be improved and managed going forward. There would also need to be some work carried out to the exterior of the building and grounds to make sure it is an attractive and inviting option for visitors to the area.

Community Benefit: The ongoing sustainability of the YRC is of paramount importance. As such the primary benefit of this proposal is that it has the potential to generate revenue to support the centre and its services.

Interrelations: Given that the purpose would be to attract tourists to the community through the provision of affordable accommodation; the interrelations here would primarily relate to local service sector businesses, tourist attractions, activities within the Community Centre and local sports clubs.

Feasibility Study Projects – Indicative Costs

Education Centre – with residential provision

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Construction Works	£6,200	Capital	
2	Decoration	£2,980	Capital	
3	Equipment	£4,120	Capital	
4	Sessional Staff	~ Variable ~	Revenue	
Total Indicative Cost:			£13,300	

Seasonal Café and Shop with Bike Hire

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Café Conversion	£8,000	Capital	
2	Kitchen Equipment	£2,600	Capital	
3	Café Tables	£3,450	Capital	
4	Café Seating	£1,200	Capital	
5	Decoration	£1,200	Capital	
6	Serving Equipment	£1,900	Capital	
7	Display Equipment	£1,600	Capital	
8	Outdoor Seating	£1,800	Capital	
9	Bike Hire (Bikes)	£6,400	Capital	
10	Bike Hire (Storage)	£2,300	Capital	
11	Shop (Stock)	£4,000	Revenue	
12	Sports Equipment	£3,400	Capital	
13	Activity Equipment	£2,700	Capital	
14	Signage	£1,500	Capital	
Total Indicative Cost:			£40,050	

Community Workshop and Education Space

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Construction Works	£8,760	Capital	
2	Equipment	£9,700	Capital	Also applies in part to 6.2.3
3	Training	£4,450	Capital	
4	Consumables	£2,600	Revenue	
5	Technician	£22,000	Revenue	pa - also applies in part to 6.2.3
6	Decoration	£1,600	Capital	
		Total Indicative Cost:	£49,110	Based on workshop only.

Bunkhouse Provision – local tourism

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Construction Works	£8,600	Capital	
2	Decoration	£2,980	Capital	
3	Furnishings	£3,800	Capital	
4	Sessional Staff	~ Variable ~	Revenue	
		Total Indicative Cost:	£15,380	

Woodland Recreation and Learning

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Equipment	£10,100	Capital	
2	Woodland Clearance	£4,000	Capital	
3	Signage	£1,200	Capital	
4	Training	£1,500	Revenue	
5	Consumables	£3,000	Revenue	
6	Legal	£2,300	Revenue	
7	Interpretation	£6,400	Revenue	
8	Education Resources	£5,260	Revenue	
		Total Indicative Cost:	£33,760	

Adventure and “Alternative Sports” Provision

#	Item/Aspect	Indicative Cost	Capital/Revenue	Notes
1	Skatepark	£35,000	Capital	
2	Climbing Wall	£10,750	Capital	
3	Bespoke Skate Furniture	£5,600	Capital	
4	Graffiti Wall	£1,600	Capital	
5	Modified Play Area	£80,000	Capital	
6	Woodland Play	£12,700	Capital	
7	BMX Track (Junior)	£20,000	Capital	
8	BMX Track (Full)	£36,000	Capital	
9	Extended Carpark	£18,000	Capital	
9	Visitor/Service Centre	£64,000	Capital	
		Total Indicative Cost:	£283,650	

Claim Completed Projects Under Delivery:

Funded Projects: RCDF, Cwm Environmental (GrantScape)

The content below outlines the stipulations made within specific project/grant agreements and adopted by the Council. To allow further discussion and progress scrutiny/prioritisation, as requested by the CDO Sub-Committee and main Council, on the extent to which agreed outcomes are achieved, no longer required or outstanding, I would kindly ask Councillors to consider the agreed outcomes prior to the meeting.

NB: All information below has been previously circulated within reports and documents at Council and agreed prior to grant submission and project commencement.

Strategic Compliance – all projects

- retain skills within the community which currently leave to pursue their careers in cities and larger towns.
- address the low levels of qualifications evidenced within the Ward Data for Glanaman and Garnant.
- provide services at the point of need for those who struggle to access existing provision in other towns due to economic, health and geographic factors.
- attract future investment and inward migration of skills through the development of a vibrant hub for creativity, digital technologies and social activity within Cwmaman.
- to work with existing providers of education (FE, HE, Primary and Secondary) by providing a stepping stone for future users of their services, by breaking down perceived barriers to learning, by enriching their provision through clubs and groups, to allow pupils and students to apply their learning in helping others and to retain knowledge and skills in the locality.
- to take up the slack left by the cutbacks to adult education services across the areas previously provided.

Aspect: Increased Energy Efficiency

The community centre currently has a heating and lighting system that is very inefficient and presents a significant issue to the future sustainability of the centre due to running costs. This issue is exacerbated by the single glazed and failing windows currently installed which allow draughts in to the centre and offer very poor thermal efficiency.

Through the grant we intend to install LED lighting throughout, install a new heating control system to allow greater efficiency and install new UPVC double glazing throughout.

The modification won't only allow us to make significant cost savings which we can then pass on to the community through enhanced services... it will also provide the catalyst to the development of other projects around sustainable energy and the environment; ideas that we are currently working with Cynnal Cymru to develop.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 12, 13, 14, 15, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46.

Aspect: Community Cafe Development

“The model of cafe we are proposed, although open to the general public, would provide a dedicated space for 3rd sector organisations to work with their clients. This would include; mental health, adults and young people with learning difficulties, people facing social exclusion and those facing issues of loneliness. The Centre is unique in that it can provide a social space where these people can engage with others in the same situation, service providers and the general public whilst also offering them private space where they can meet with support staff and receive advice and therapeutic support. Moreover, the cafe would also provide work experience and volunteering opportunities for local residents, and those from surrounding areas, with required certification being provided through the Town Council and partners. These people would also be given the opportunity to engage with other services on offer within the Centre through engagement with the Time Credits scheme and similar initiatives.”

Narrative:

There is currently no venue within the community where members of the public can meet throughout the year; outside of pubs. There is also no means of providing healthy eating and cooking classes or classes on affordable meals. We intend to develop the café space as not only a means of serving centre users in general but also as an attractant and project delivery space in its own right. We will achieve this through the delivery of classes, in partnership with external providers (see Annex 6), the provision of a volunteer led community café to serve all community members and the use of the café for digital/online information points; available to all members of the public. We also intend to work with external agencies to use the café as space for delivering workshops, networking events and therapeutic support services. Particular focus will be paid within the classes to the issues of healthy eating and affordable eating; health and income and 2 of the priority areas identified with the local Ward data.

This development will allow us to provide accessible community services, provide a social space to help reduce loneliness, provide skills development through volunteering, enhance well-being through associated services and help improve the local resident satisfaction in the place they live.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 2, 3, 5, 16, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Aspect: ICT and Technology Hub

“The intended provision will be unique within the intended geographic area with the only comparable models existing in Swansea, Cardiff and Carmarthen; although none of these provide the breadth of supporting services intended within our model.

In regards to the Tech Library the nearest comparable model is in Bridgend yet the primary and secondary curriculums in Wales are taking an increased focus on this area and we have FE/HE courses running in Llanelli and Swansea to cater for later study; an accessible community provision can support both of these.

There are no models within the intended geographic area providing Tech Cafe services or with community accessible equipment to allow for the delivery of community education courses, clubs and classes.

There is no existing provider within the intended geographic area which can provide the required equipment and space to support adult and community courses to the same level that the Centre will be able to post-project.”

Narrative:

There are significant developments occurring within the education sector through the introduction of the Digital Literacy Framework. This increases the requirement of pupils and student to gain knowledge in computer programming and associated technologies.

Within our community there are significant barriers preventing many people from accessing and engaging with these skills; primarily economic and perception. It is our intention to purchase and locate a range of technology including capable PC and laptop workstations, 3D printers, Raspberry Pi and Arduino microcomputers along with other associated equipment. This equipment will be made available through the development of classes, groups and clubs by working in partnership with the outside organisations PiCymru, Digital Communities Wales, CoderDojo and Code Clubs. We intend to use this increased capacity to develop digital literacy, combat local issues around digital inclusion and support residents with all aspects of their learning from basic email and web browsing through to prototyping a new product concept or developing a new piece of software.

Effectively, this aspect of the project, in conjunction with the Arts/Maker aspect, will allow us to take a significant step towards developing a Maker Community that enhances skills, encourages an innovative community and provides a set of resources that only those in Cardiff and Swansea currently have access to.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 35.

Aspect: Community Arts and “Making” Space

“There are no publicly accessible spaces of this nature within the intended operational area outside of colleges and universities. The nearest comparable provider is Elysium Art Space in Swansea although they do not provide the range of community courses, we have the intention to deliver.

There is no existing community arts provider operating within the intended geographic area and with the additional capacity that this project will bring we will be able to develop this service in partnership with a group that has already expressed an interest; depending upon the outcome of this project.

As a previous Arts Development Officer and arts practitioner, the Community Development Officer in Cwmaman Town Council is in a position to fully support this development, secure future funding streams and provide advice and guidance to the service providers.

The Centre will also be able to provide access to arts and cultural events for local residents through the conversion of the Centre’s main hall into a temporary gallery space; provision which will be unique within the surrounding area with the only comparable providers being in Carmarthen, Swansea and Llanelli.”

Narrative:

There has been a significant interest in this provision, both locally and from across the sub-region, but we have now reached capacity in regards to the type of services we can deliver.

The communities we service also feed in to a number of further and higher education providers where art and design are very popular courses. As such there is a population of current students and recent graduates that struggle to access a space and equipment in order to continue with their careers; outside of these providers.

There is also a shortage of arts activities and opportunities for engagement, as participant or viewer, within the local area. Resulting in low attendance at arts and cultural activities among our local population.

It is our intention to dedicate a space in the community centre to the creation and production of artwork, crafts and more contemporary products. We will achieve this through the placement of a range of equipment that is otherwise unavailable to the general public in the local area and sub-region. This will include a ceramics kiln, vinyl cutter, 3D printers, vacuum former along with a range of general-purpose tools and equipment. This addition will complement the “Community Workshop” space already provided by Cwmaman Town Council; where local resident and providers can access woodworking tools and equipment. In conjunction these developments will provide a huge step forward in developing a true “Maker Community” that increases innovation, improves skills in new and traditional technologies, provides career and employment specific learning and allows for the community to come together and share skills, experiences and views.

Moreover, the provision of access to new technologies (3D printers, laser cutters and associated computers and software) will complement the current changes in education under the digital literacy framework and provide the opportunity to learn modern manufacturing and design processes. We will achieve this through the development of clubs and groups targeted at people of all ages. These will be provided during the evening, at weekends and during school holidays; to allow full access to school aged pupils, students and adults.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 35, 29, 26.

Aspect: Live Music and Theatrical Performance Space

“This project intends to develop a space that can be used for both the development and the delivery of live music and theatre performances; practice/rehearsal and performance space. This will be unique within the intended geographic area and will allow those persons faced with economic and transport barriers to access these services at the point of need. This provision will also allow for the further development of theatre, music and performance clubs, classes and groups which will serve the benefits of retaining skills locally, inspiring local residents to progress to FE and HE courses at Coleg Sir and University of Wales Trinity St Davids and allow for affordable and accessible cultural opportunities for local residents. Furthermore, the increased capacity provided by a dedicated lighting system, updated cafe space and updated furnishings will allow for the long-term sustainability of the Centre as a venue for functions, parties and regular community music events.

Adaptations to the stage area will also allow for wheelchair users to access the performance space and engage fully in performances; something which we are currently unable to offer.”

Narrative:

There is currently no space within the community for residents to participate in or attend performance arts events. We also have relatively low levels of art/culture attendance among certain parts of our community. We intend to refurbish the stage (through working with local volunteers and the Probation Service) and complete this with the installation of specialised lighting and sound equipment; as outlined within this application.

Not only will this modification allow us to provide performance art events; it will also allow us to provide a space suitable for staging community celebrations throughout the year. This, in turn, will help us to improve community cohesion and “sense of place” for local residents.

We have already received a letter of support from a local theatre group who would be interested in being resident at the centre should the outlined modifications be made. This, along with the intention to stage music, comedy and other performance events, will allow us to generate much needed income at the centre which we can re-invest into further development of services. It will also greatly support the long-term sustainability of the centre as a whole.

It is also our intention to hire the space to local residents at an affordable cost for the use as a private party venue. Again providing a means of income for the centre but also committing to the vision that this is a space owned by the local community; for use by all as a space of enjoyment and celebration.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 35, 29, 26.

Aspect: Private Space for External Agencies

“Through our consultation we have identified a need for local service providers (MIND, Calan DVS, Cancer Information Support Services, Hywel Dda Mental Health Services and others) to have a local space in Cwmaman where they can meet with their clients. The Centre is ideal for this as it is not seen as being a venue for such services by the general public and services users will be able to engage with their support staff in a safe, enriching and anonymous venue with little risk of their needs becoming public knowledge (cited from feedback by external agencies). The Town Council has agreed to provide this space at no cost to the providers.

In order for this aspect of the project to be a success, and provide a unique opportunity within the geographic area, the development of the other elements above is essential in order to maintain the long-term sustainability of the Centre.”

Aspect: Community Learning Hub

Narrative:

Cwmaman Community Centre was most recently used as a community education centre by Carmarthenshire County Council. Since this service was stopped, there has been a significant decline in the local adult and community education provision.

Through the development of the café and stage spaces, the addition of new equipment and technologies, we will open up the potential to work with external providers to provide a varied and unique range of classes and learning opportunities.

Through working with organisations such as WEA, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University and LearnDirect we will provide a significance increase in adult education services. We will also be working closely with Menter Bro Dinefwr to ensure that all possible classes and education services are provided through the medium of Welsh.

In addition, there is scope to fully support the secondary education schools locally by providing access, outside of school time, to equipment and learning that will complement the studies of local school aged young people. We have received expressions of interest from local, fully qualified, teachers in delivering classes, clubs and groups around computer programming, art and design, costume and prop design and broad range of other topics. All of which would be made possible through the successful delivery of this project.

Intentions:

- To work in partnership with external providers (WEA, LearnDirect, Coleg Sir Gar, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University) to provide a broad range of arts, humanities, ICT, technology and other associated courses.
- To work in partnership with Menter Bro Dinefwr to develop Welsh language education provision across as broad a range of topics as possible.
- To develop a range of classes, clubs and groups to support the secondary and primary school curriculum; particularly in the areas of arts, design and technology, ICT and Citizenship/Welsh Baccalaureate.
- To work to alleviate the current Ward statistics for Cwmaman which show, for 16-74 year olds, 29% (Glanaman) and 28.8% (Garnant) have “No Qualifications”.
- To help the development of local skills, in employment related topics, in order to enhance local innovation and reduce the level of low-income and unemployment rates.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 35.

Aspect: Community Volunteering Hub

Narrative:

Cwmaman Town Council see community volunteering as a mutually beneficial experience. On the part of the volunteer it allows for increased socialising opportunities, skills development, employability and sense of well-being and achievement. Whilst also helping to increase and release individual capacity.

When combined with the distinct lack of 3rd sector presence within our community, and the variety of issues where volunteers can make a real difference (environment, older people, children, disability groups etc), we hope to utilise volunteer action as a key component of our services going forward.

It is our intention to provide volunteering opportunities in each of the services above and allow those with skills in our community to realise this and develop themselves whilst supporting the development and enhancement of their community. In recognition of this we intend to support each volunteer through a package of training whilst ensuring we provide this in the best way possible through working towards the Investor in Volunteers Awards.

We also intend to utilise the Community Information Hub service to advertise and promote other volunteering opportunities provided by other organisations; both locally and elsewhere across our region.

Well-being and Future Generations Act National Indicators: 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35.

Notes:

ⁱ Green space, mental wellbeing and sustainable communities -

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/09/green-space-mental-wellbeing-and-sustainable-communities/>

Green Space and Health (Research Overview) - <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0538/POST-PN-0538.pdf>

Trees and woods for well-being and quality of life - <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/healthandwellbeing>

ⁱⁱ How forest school benefits families - <http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/things-to-do/support-us/how-forest-school-benefits-families/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Trees can benefit your children too! - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100097683/trees-can-benefit-children.pdf>

^{iv} Forrest Schools - <http://www.forestschoolltraining.co.uk/forest-school/the-benefits/>

^v The Benefits of NERF Wars – a blog article: <http://blog.toysparadise.com.au/nerf-war/>

^{vi} 5 Surprising Benefits of Volunteering - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2015/03/19/5-surprising-benefits-of-volunteering/#7720a8b127bf>

^{vii} Why Make? An Exploration of User-Perceived Benefits of Makerspaces - <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2016/11/why-make-an-exploration-of-user-perceived-benefits-of-makerspaces/>

Benefits of MakerSpaces in Small Communities - <http://blog.mangolanguages.com/benefits-of-makerspaces-in-small-communities>

What Is a Tool-Lending Library – Benefits & How to Start Your Own - <http://www.moneycrashers.com/tool-lending-library/>