

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>THE KNOLL ABERGAVENNY S106 FUNDING</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE TO BE CONSIDERED:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018</b>
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL ABERGAVENNY WARDS</b>

### 1. PURPOSE

To seek member approval to utilise Section 106 off-site balances from the development at The Knoll, Abergavenny and to include this funding in the capital budget for 2018/19.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 that a capital budget of £26,082 be created in 2018/19 to part fund the following projects and that this is funded from a corresponding contribution from the Section 106 balances held by the County Council in respect of the development at The Knoll, Abergavenny (Finance Code N583).
- 2.2 that grants in the amounts shown be allocated to the following projects:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>£</b>
1. Friends of Bailey Park	3,300
2. Friends of Linda Vista Gardens	1,590
3. Abergavenny Community Trust	2,140
4. Synergy Choir	3,300
5. Off Road Cycling Feasibility Study	5,000
6. Castle Meadows and Linda Vista Improvements (balance)	<u>10,752</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,082</b>

### 3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council has received an off-site recreation contribution from the developer of the residential properties at the Knoll site in Abergavenny. The Section 106 Agreement specifies that the funding should be used towards adult recreation within a five mile radius of the site. The funding is to be used towards new schemes of a recreational nature or towards capital improvement works towards to an existing recreational asset.
- 3.2 The scheme was advertised for organisations to submit grant requests for projects in the local area and, by the closing date, six applications for funding were received. These are set out at **Appendix A** to this report. Two of the applications do not meet the grant criteria of adult recreation – one request was for roof repairs/replacement at a church and the other was for a theatre redecoration/refurbishment project.
- 3.3 At the same time, members will be aware that the Council has been looking at the possibility of establishing an off road cycling facility/velo park in the Abergavenny area to enhance the reputation of the town as one of the main cycling centres in Wales. This is covered in more detail in para 3.7 below.

- 3.4 Friends of Bailey Park – the friends group works closely with the Council to improve facilities and amenities in the park, which is an important recreational space for the local community. The group has identified the need to provide new picnic tables and benches in the park to encourage park visitors to “linger for longer”, especially those with mobility problems. Currently there are no picnic facilities in the park which means that visitors and families use the boundary walls when they bring food into the park.
- 3.4 Friends of Linda Vista Gardens – this is another voluntary friends group that works closely with Council officers and members to carry out improvements and to promote awareness and wider use of this unique recreational space. There are many improvements that have been identified for the gardens, including the provision of picnic tables and benches. They feel that this will encourage more use of the site by families and older people.
- 3.5 Abergavenny Community Trust – the trust currently has a lease of the former primary school site in Park Street which is used as a local community facility by many groups in and around Abergavenny. The site and the building are located at different levels, particularly the large garden area to the rear of the main building, next to the car park which is accessed off Merthyr Road. An external access ramp links the two levels outside of the building and there is an internal ramp connecting the main hall to the lower level where the old classrooms spaces are located. The grant proposed will allow the trust to carry out further access improvements at the site, which will be used for the first time this summer as one of two venues for the open access playschemes promoted in partnership with the Town Council and the Torfaen Play Service.
- 3.6 Synergy Choir – Synergy is an acapella singing group whose aim is to preserve the style of and to promote the style of close harmony singing. This is a self-funding, voluntary group with a membership drawn from the local community. The choir performs regularly at local community functions, ranging from local schools and churches to charity and fund raising events. As the choir performs at many different venues, both indoor and outdoor, it is seeking assistance towards the cost of purchasing a modern, lightweight and robust portable staging system.
- 3.7 Cycling Feasibility Study - The national governing body, Welsh Cycling, has worked closely with the Council and local cycling clubs in recent years to promote extremely popular and successful national and local cycling events in the town. In its national facilities strategy (February 2017), Welsh Cycling has identified the lack of suitable regional facilities for off-road cycling as one of the main barriers to the development of the sport in Wales. Some of the cycling events have been held at the King Henry School site and this site is also used on a regular basis by the local cycling clubs in the town. The aim of this proposal is to commission a study to look at the feasibility and cost of providing a bespoke off road facility that will help to develop and maintain the sport of cycling not only in the Abergavenny but in Monmouthshire as a whole. This is not a new concept – the Council previously investigated the possibility of developing a similar facility at the Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre site but this initiative was not taken forward following discussions with the Brecon Beacons National Park, which is the local planning authority for that area. This study would include the identification and assessment of possible sites in Abergavenny and the surrounding area, but not within the National Park.

#### **4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

An options appraisal has not been carried out in respect of this funding, as the Council invited applications from local community groups and therefore the applications received have been given due consideration.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Please see evaluation criteria set out in **Appendix B**

#### **6. REASONS**

- 6.1 To ensure that the funding received from the development can be spent in the current financial year;
- 6.2 To enable grants to be made to the successful projects when contractual commitments have been entered into in each case.

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The off-site recreation funding from this development has a “spend by” date of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019;
- 7.2 The grant applications were made in 2016 and there has been a significant delay in reporting this matter to Cabinet. The level of the grants proposed in para 2.2 includes an uplift of 10% to compensate for the increased cost of supplies and materials incurred as a result of that delay;
- 7.3 The amount of the grants recommended for approval in para 2.2 is less than the Section 106 funding available from this development so it is proposed that the difference (£10,712) is used to carry out improvements to Castle Meadows and Linda Vista Gardens – in particular the footpaths into the meadows and into Linda Vista from the Byefield Lane car park and within Linda Vista Gardens themselves - which are two important recreation sites within the area of benefit specified in the Section 106 Agreement.

#### **8. WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING & CORPORATE PARENTING)**

See attached at **Appendix C**

#### **9. CONSULTEES**

Cabinet Members	Local Members
Section 106 Working Group	Leadership Team
Assistant Head of Finance/Deputy S151 Officer	

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Section 106 Agreement dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 between the Council, Blue Cedar Homes and two private individuals

#### **11. AUTHOR**

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## APPENDIX A

Report to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – The Knoll Section 106 Funding

### Applications Received

No	Applicant	Project	Scheme Cost	Grant Request	Uplift 10%	Grant Offer
			£	£	£	£
1	Abergavenny Community Trust	Access Improvements	1,944	1,944	195	2,140
2	Friends of Linda Vista	Benches/Picnic Tables	1,600	1,440	144	1,590
3	Christchurch	Roof repair/replacement	4,800	3,800	0	0
4	Friends of Bailey Park	Benches/Picnic Tables	3,880	3,000	300	3,300
5	Melville Theatre	Redecoration and Refurbishment	7,020	3,020	0	0
6	Synergy Acapella Choir	Portable Staging	5,000	3,000	300	3,300
7	MCC	Velo Park Feasibility Study	5,000	5,000	N/A	5,000
	<b>Total</b>					<b>15,330</b>

Grants are not recommended for approval for projects 3 and 5 as these do not relate to adult outdoor recreation and therefore they are not eligible for funding from this source.