

REPORT

SUBJECT: Caldicot Town Team Funding - Enhancement of Pedestrian Area, Newport Road, Caldicot.

MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member decision (Cllr Sara Jones, Cabinet Member for Communities and Social Justice)

DATE: 26th July 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Caldicot Town

1. PURPOSE

To seek approval to release £30,000 of s.106 funding received from Asda to Caldicot Town Team for the purposes of an infrastructure improvement scheme; the scheme will be undertaken by Caldicot Town Team on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council and in consultation with Caldicot Town Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That £30,000 is allocated to Caldicot Town Team from the 'Town Centre Partnership' s.106 fund to enable the implementation of works in the pedestrian area of Newport Road, Caldicot as illustrated in appendices 1, 2 and 3.
- 2.2 That the works be commissioned by Caldicot Town Team but all works to be undertaken under the supervision of MCC and to standards set by MCC.
- 2.3 That the Town Team undertake the management and maintenance of the newly installed seating and planters and that this arrangement be reviewed by MCC annually thereafter.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Caldicot Town Team is promoting a scheme to improve the pedestrian area of Newport Road, Caldicot. This space is owned by MCC and in part by London and Cambridge developers however the whole space is designated as public open space and lies within the control of MCC.
- 3.2 Appendices 1, 2 and 3 hold more detail of the improvements proposed but in summary the scheme includes the removal of existing raised planters (4); the area is to be reinstated with new paviers to create a circular design upon which new seating and planters are to be fixed. Electrical supplies currently situated within the planters are to be retained but housed in suitable boxes installed flush with the paving.

- 3.3 Existing street furniture that is retained in the new scheme is to be decorated as part of the scheme overall.
- 3.4 Advertising signs are to be situated in the planters with the administration and management being provided by the Town Team but all advertising to be subject to existing MCC advertising policies and any new policies that might be introduced at some point in the future.
- 3.5 The proposed scheme is in keeping with the recently completed town centre linkage works. The design is specifically intended to be compatible with any future physical regeneration works within the town centre and, in particular, is in keeping with the visioning document produced by Roberts Limbrick architects in 2015.
- 3.6 The Town Team is seeking to provide the ongoing management and maintenance of the planters and other initiatives within the town centre (hanging baskets). In particular this will include all planting and maintenance of the beds thereafter to ensure a high level of maintenance to enhance the town centre appearance.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 The project is being promoted as a means of improving the public areas in Caldicot Town Centre and the design will complement improvement works recently implemented within the linkage scheme. The existing planters are managed and maintained inconsistently so this proposal will bring uniformity and improvement to the overall appearance of the public areas.
- 4.2 The specification and commissioning of the works by the Town Team offers their members and directors the opportunity to gain experience in providing a modest scheme but all specifications and work will be supervised by MCC staff. The work is being undertaken within public open space that remains the responsibility of MCC so assurance that work is carried out correctly using suitable materials is important for MCC as liability lies ultimately with MCC.
- 4.3 Advertising opportunities on MCC assets is normally managed by MCC. However in this case it is recommended that the Town Team takes on this role and retains the money as an income for ongoing maintenance of the public space although MCC will require access to the Town Team accounts and supporting documentation as and when.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The Town Team has received quotes to undertake many aspects of the work. Based upon this information a budget of £30,000 to undertake the works is proposed. This is made up of:
- Removal of existing planters (4), paving of space to create a circular paving feature, installation of flush electrical supply boxes - £12,000

- Supply and installation of 4 combined bench/planters (as design shown in appendix 2) - £4,000 per unit – overall cost £16,000.
- Decoration to existing street furniture and ancillary works - £2,000.

5.2 S106 contributions to a value of £225,000.00 have been received towards 'Town Centre Partnership Promotion & Improvement' from the Caldicot Asda development. The amount requested is significantly within the remaining balance of £129,546 available.

6. FUTURE GENERATIONS and EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

The proposal, if implemented, will have a positive impact in terms of promoting local prosperity and sustainability by physically enhancing the town centre and enabling the volunteer Town Team to develop their own skill sets in managing an asset on behalf of the community.

SAFEGUARDING ASSESSMENT:

There are no safeguarding implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

7. CONSULTEES:

County Councillors representing Caldicot town area
Head of Operations
Head of Economy and Innovation
Whole Place Manager

Further consultation to include Caldicot Town Council

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Newport Road, Caldicot – existing planter locations to be removed
Appendix 2: Newport Road, Caldicot – proposed new seating / planter locations
Appendix 3: Proposed new seating / planter design

9. AUTHOR

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