



CAERWENT OFF SITE RECREATION FUND - RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Purpose

- 1.0 The purpose of this report is to consult with members of the Lower Wye Area Committee and members of Caerwent Community Council on proposals for the allocation of the off site recreation funding made available by the County Council as a result of the development of new housing at Merton Green, Caerwent.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The County Council has agreed to provide a total of £326,988 to be used for off site recreation projects that benefit the community of Caerwent. The amount of funding received from the developers was £344,488 but £17,500 of this sum was used as a contribution to the new regional 3G pitch in Caldicot, leaving a sum of £326,988 to be allocated to projects of a local nature.
- 2.2 Three applications were received, requesting grants totalling £438,317 against the available sum.
- 2.3 As only three applications were received in this case, a detailed assessment process was not carried out but instead officers of the Council worked with the applicants and with the local Community Council in an attempt to ensure that all three projects can proceed.
- 2.4 The scheme submitted by the Old Gym Community Centre was originally priced at just over £205,000 but this cost has been reduced significantly because the Community Centre Committee has accessed grants from other agencies to pay for different elements of the original proposal – a reduction of some £78,000.
- 2.5 A decision on the allocation of grants from the funding available will be made by the County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 7th October 2015.
- 2.6 Attached at **APPENDIX A** is a table setting out the recommendations as to how the funding should be allocated. Members of the Area Committee and the Community Council are invited to express their views on these recommendations. These will then be reported to members of the Cabinet prior to them making a final decision on the allocation of the funding.

3.0 Reasons

- 3.1 It is part of the Process Note drawn up and agreed by the Section 106 Working Group that relevant Area Committees should be consulted on the allocation of Section 106 funding prior to Cabinet making its decision.

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising from these recommendations, as the funding from which the grants are recommended has already been received from the developers by the County Council.

5.0 Consultees

- 5.1 The Lower Wye Area Committee and the Caerwent Community Council have been consulted on the recommendations, as will other internal consultees within the County Council, including the Council's Strategic Leadership Team.

6.0 Author

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CAERWENT OFF SITE RECREATION FUNDING – GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 When the availability of funding was advertised, applications for funding were received from the following three groups:
- Crick Wildlife & Environmental Group - to develop a wildflower meadow on a piece of land in Crick leased from the County Council by the Community Council;
 - Old Gym Community Centre – to carry out building improvements to benefit existing and future users of the centre. These include a very active youth group that meets at the centre on a regular basis and a number of recreational groups, many of which use the gymnasium that forms part of the Community Centre building;
 - Caerwent Playing Fields Association – to carry out extensions and improvements (including improved sports changing rooms) at the village hall, which is located at Caerwent Playing Field, which is registered as a QE11 protected field with Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association).
- 1.2 The Wildlife & Environmental Group and the Playing Fields Association both have an element of match funding to contribute towards the project costs. The scheme submitted by the Old Gym Community Centre was originally priced at just over £205,000 but this cost has been reduced significantly because the Community Centre Committee has accessed grants from other agencies to pay for different elements of the original proposal – a reduction of some £78,000.
- 1.3 Below is a summary of how the S106 funding will be utilised if the recommendations are agreed:

Applicant	Scheme Cost	Match Funding	S106 Grant £	Grant Percentage of Scheme Cost	Shortfall £
3G Contribution	-	-	17,500	-	-
Crick Environmental Group	17,420	4,160	13,260	76%	-
Old Gym Community Centre	146,600	-	126,864	86%	19,756
Caerwent Playing Fields Association	215,897	10,000	186,864	86%	29,053
Totals	379,917	14,160	344,488	-	48,809

