

SUBJECT:	ABERGAVENNY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB FLOODLIGHTS
MEETING:	Individual Cabinet Member Decision
DATE:	8 September 2021
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	Abergavenny Wards

1. PURPOSE:

To create a capital budget in 2021/22 to facilitate the upgrade of the floodlights at the Penypound Stadium, Abergavenny.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That a capital budget of £32,866 be created in 2021/22 to fund the upgrading of the floodlights at the Penypound Stadium, Abergavenny and that this is funded by a grant of £27,800 from the Welsh Ground Improvements Fund and a contribution of £5,066 from the county council.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Until this current football season Abergavenny Town Women's Football Club played in the premier division of the Welsh Football League pyramid. This year, despite strong representations from this council, Abergavenny Town Council and the Welsh Government, the club was demoted to the second tier of the pyramid following a reorganisation of women's football by the Football Association of Wales (FAW).
- 3.2 The club has retained the majority of its players and is fully focused on competing and trying to win promotion back to the Women's Premier League.
- 3.3 For clubs to be able to compete at the different tiers of the football pyramid in Wales they need to satisfy a number of ground criteria laid down by the FAW.
- 3.4 The club needs to upgrade the existing floodlights at its home ground, the Penypound Stadium, to LED lighting - the cost of this work is £32,866 + VAT and the club has been successful in obtaining a grant of £27,800 towards this cost from the Welsh Ground Improvements Fund (WGIF). The work has to be carried out within a very tight timescale and the grant claimed by 28th November this year.
- 3.4 The proposal is to run this project through the council's capital budget and permission is sought via this report to include provision in the 2021/22 capital budget. This expenditure will be offset in full by the WGIF grant, plus a contribution from the county council.

3.5 Should the club be successful in its attempts this season to gain promotion back to the Premier League then its facilities should comply with the FAW grounds criteria. The Penypound Stadium is a county council asset – although the site is leased to the Thursdays Trust Limited, the principle user of the site is Abergavenny Town Football Club – men’s, women’s and junior teams.

3.5 By adopting this approach the council in recent years has, working in partnership with clubs, Sport Wales, National Lottery, the NGBs (National Governing Bodies of Sport) and the WGIF, assisted the following clubs/organisations with facility improvements:

1. Monmouth Skatepark – construction and commissioning
2. Abergavenny Town Men’s FC – new covered spectator seating
3. Goytre FC – new covered spectator seating
4. Undy Athletic FC – new covered spectator seating
5. Cornfield Project, Portskewett – field and track development
6. Chepstow Town FC – new covered spectator seating
7. Chepstow Boxing Club – complete refurbishment of premises
8. Chepstow Town FC – new covered spectator seating

3.6 Each of the above clubs/organisations, and many more elsewhere in the county, is run by a volunteer management group and by qualified coaches, all of whom spend many hours each week in delivering quality programmes and participation opportunities for children and young people in Monmouthshire.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

The EQIA is attached to this report at Appendix 1. This highlights the positive impacts that partnership working can have on children/young people, families and communities.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks
Don't approve the report recommendation	None, other than a relatively small saving in officer time.	The project is unlikely to go ahead within the specified grant claim period. The club is successful in gaining promotion back to the premier league but the FAW facility requirements are not in place.
Approve the report recommendation	The lighting upgrade can be undertaken within the specified timescale The FAW ground criteria can be met should the club qualify for promotion at the end of the current football season	The works cannot be carried out in the lifespan of the grant. The scheme has been tendered and the preferred contractor has already ordered the necessary light fitments, which have to be imported.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Progress will be monitored in October to ensure that the works are completed and the grant claimed by 28th November 2021.

7. REASON

This is a continuation of the council's established procedure of working in partnership with local groups to achieve significant community benefits, but there needs to be a budget provision made to enable the necessary orders to be placed.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications, other than the staff time to process the orders and reclaim the external grant for the project. The majority of the expenditure will be covered from external grant aid. A bid will be made via the Capital Asset Management Working Group for funding from the match funding pot. If this is not approved then the £5,066 will be met from existing MonLife budgets. Once the work on the floodlights has been completed, the WGIF grant will be claimed and the budget will be offset in full.

9. CONSULTEES

Cabinet

Senior Leadership Team

Chief Operating Officer MonLife

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Welsh Ground Improvements Fund Grant Offer Letter dated 28th May 2021.

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS:

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

Email: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07894 573834