

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Report to: | Charity Trustee Committee |
| Date of meeting: | 29th June 2023 |
| Title: | Former Tregaron County School – sub-group |
| Purpose of the report: | To receive recommendations from the sub-group and decide on next steps |
| For: | Decision |

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Members will recall that on the 26th September 2022 Committee resolved in this matter:

- *to appoint Councillors Rhodri Evans, Gwyn Wigley Evans and Wyn Evans as Members of the Charity Trustee Committee to the sub-group due to the locality of their Wards, and to invite Councillor Endaf Edwards as Chairman of the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee;*
- *to invite the Headteacher of Ysgol Henry Richard, a representative from Cylch Meithrin Tregaron, Councillor Ifan Davies (Local Member), the Chairman of Tregaron Town Council, an Officer from Legal Services and an Officer from the LEA to join the sub-group;*
- *For Officers, on the Trustee's behalf, to undertake an online public consultation as referred to in paragraph 3.5 of the report.*

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

2.1 An online public consultation was launched on the Council's website on 16/03/2023 and ran for 8 weeks until 10/05/2023 asking the public for suggestions as to how the trust money should be spent to advance the education of pre-school and school-age children in Tregaron. An easy-read version was also produced.

2.2 The Council's Press Office supported the consultation with a press release and also social media posts at various stages of the consultation to raise awareness. Specific consultees in Tregaron were also notified of the launch of the consultation being:

- Mudiad Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi;
- Tregaron Town Council;
- Tregaron Football Club;
- Tregaron Family Centre;
- PSB partners;

- Local Member;
- Ysgol Henry Richard (Headteacher and Governing Body).

2.3 25 responses were received to the consultation and the full responses (in the language received) are set out at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 gives a summary of the main themes raised in the responses and you will note that the themes mentioned most often relate to sporting facilities.

3. SUB-GROUP

3.1 All invited members of the sub-group met on the 23rd May 2023, save for the Local Member and representative of the Schools and Culture Service who sent apologies.

3.2 The Sub-group considered the consultation responses and discussed options for the money held on trust in light of the purpose of the trust being to advance the education of pre-school and school-age children in Tregaron. Points noted by the Sub-group were:

- a) Their disappointment that the number of responses were low considering the considerable local interest;
- b) That the majority of the responses related to sporting facilities including 3G and 4G pitches, Astro-turf and a running track.
- c) That Tregaron Place Plans over the past 5 – 6 years have focused on the need for greater sporting facilities;
- d) A need to ensure that the money is not spent on things the Council (in its corporate capacity) are generally obliged to fund, but rather on facilities over and above these;
- e) Whether the money could be used as match-funding towards a wider project, such as the £300,000 grant funding available from Sports Wales;
- f) That Ysgol Henry Richard has previously looked into Astro-turf and 3G / 4G facilities and that the costs amounted to circa £500,000;
- g) That further consideration would need to be given to the type of facilities provided, considering that match-funding could be sought for 3G and 4G from the Football Association Wales which is suitable for football, and rugby with the installation of a shock-pad. It could be used for hockey training however but Astro-turf would be required for competitive hockey games;
- h) That there is no formal running track in Ceredigion, and that this could attract revenue to maintain facilities if hired out to other areas;
- i) That the location of any sporting facilities would need to be accessible to the school and the community in order to encourage sporting participation by children, and a healthier lifestyle by all;

- j) Whether land currently part of Ysgol Henry Richard could be utilised to install outdoor sporting facilities;
- k) That Ysgol Henry Richard may need to consider a re-configuration of their current sporting facilities in order to accommodate any additional sporting facilities which could have funding implications;
- l) That consideration would need to be given as to who would seek grant funding, and who would manage and maintain the facilities;
- m) A need to consider any potential impact upon the Sports Centre and the importance of involving the Sports Centre in any discussion regarding potential development and future involvement;
- n) That a project team would need to be established to consider these matters further, to include expertise from Ceredigion County Council on matters relating to match-funding, and sporting facilities together with involvement from the Tregaron sub-group to explore additional funding that may be available such as the Ponrthydygroes Windmills grant;
- o) That discussion takes place with local businesses, with regards to development work, such as the groundworks;
- p) Whether the money could be used for capital or revenue costs or a mixture of the two;
- q) The Cylch Meithrin noted a new building and resources have been provided recently and that their main focus would be on running costs;
- r) That consideration could be given to a Plan B, if Plan A fails which could include supporting several smaller projects;
- s) A need to ensure that the funding is not eroded by feasibility studies, and that further grant funding is sought if required.

3.3 After discussion, the Sub-group recommendation to Committee was to consider utilising the money towards developing sporting facilities in Tregaron with delegation to officers to discuss options with officers in Leisure and Education Services who have an awareness of the available grant funding options, together with representatives from the Sub-group.

- Recommendation(s):**
- 1. To note the responses to the public consultation and recommendation from the Sub-group;**
 - 2. That officers, on the Trustees behalf, identify appropriate officers in Education and Leisure Services to discuss sporting facilities grant funding options;**

3. That the Sub-group, consisting of the officers identified in recommendation 2 above and current sub-group members, meet to further discuss those funding options and provide recommendations back to Committee.

Reasons for decision: To further the object of the charitable trust

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Full responses to the public consultation (in the language received).

Appendix 2 – Summary of the main themes raised in the consultation responses.

Head of Service: Elin Prysor - CLO Legal & Governance Services

Reporting Officer: Louise Harries – Solicitor

Date: 31/05/2023