

Date/Dyddiad: 17 May 2018

Ask for/Gofynwch am: Miss Charlotte Pugh

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Your Ref/Eich Cyf:

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Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Strong Communities Grant Fund

I write to you to make you aware of the Strong Communities Grant Fund, which offers grants to Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector, Town and Community Councils and Social Enterprises, towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan which help to support the Council's vision of "*strong communities with a bright future*".

The fund aims to:

- Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future.
- Provide seed corn funding towards initiatives that can demonstrate long term sustainability.
- Undertake consultation, feasibility, design and other specialist work to develop proposals for future activity and funding bids.
- Meet the capital costs of schemes by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment or other assets.
- Undertake work that would enable services to be provided, for example, through increased income generation potential.
- Support small scale and innovative projects.

The core Fund started with a total £672,000 over three years from 2017 until March 2020. There is no minimum or maximum grant limit for the Fund, however, value for money is a key assessment factor and we expect demand to be high.

Dinas Powys to benefit from Section 106

In addition to the core fund, the Council has recently allocated an additional £15,000 to the fund, for groups specifically in Dinas Powys to apply for.

The Council received this money from the developers constructing the development at the former Bryneithin Care Home, St. Andrews Road, Dinas Powys, via a Section 106 Agreement. The money is specifically to provide/enhance areas of open space. The monies are often referred to as "Section 106 monies".

There are terms and conditions associated with the Section 106 monies. The Section 106 Agreement defines that the contribution can be used "*to provide or enhance public open space facilities within the vicinity of the site*".

Public Open Space is defined within the agreement as: *“land laid out as public garden, or used for the purpose of public recreation, or open space of public value including land or areas of water which offer opportunities for sport, recreation and tourism and children’s playgrounds.”*

Please note, the Council will be upgrading the play area at the Murch, Dinas Powys, once in the receipt of further Section 106 monies, and therefore applications should not be submitted for this particular play area.

The Council therefore welcomes groups in the Dinas Powys ward to come forward and apply for Section 106 monies through the Strong Communities Grant Fund. The closing dates for the next two rounds are:

- 3rd August 2018
- 2nd November 2018

To get advice or check your eligibility for this grant programme, please contact me on the telephone number above. Anyone considering making an application must contact the Council’s Economic Development Team and Section 106 Officer, Charlotte Pugh, so that eligibility can be assessed at an early stage. If eligible, applicants will be provided with a Strong Communities Grant application form to complete and submit.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Charlotte Pugh
for Operational Manager Development Management