



**COYCHURCH PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION
CAPITAL ASSET TRANSFER**

**PROPOSAL
By
COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

OVERALL VISION

The playing field in Coychurch is currently an underused area available to people from Coychurch, Waterton, Brackla and beyond. Currently it is used by dog walkers and once a week by a children's football club. The Pavilion has been closed as unfit for purpose. The Coychurch Lower Community Council (CLCC) wish to enhance the area to provide a leisure and sport facility for all ages / abilities and renovate the Pavilion to bring it back into use. This will be in line with both Welsh Government and BCBC published priorities to support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of residents of all ages.

BACKGROUND

The community council set out on a 5-year plan to support the wellbeing of residents in 2019. At that time the Playing Field/Pavilion was not available for CAT. Initially, improvements to the physical environment were made by installing planters and planted beds, repairing and installing new benches. In the area of physical fitness, the council worked with Rambler's Cymru to establish the Coychurch Circular Walk to encourage people to walk the rights of way in the locality. This was a great asset during the restrictions imposed last year and this year but it also highlighted that there are many in the community who could not walk this route because of the stiles and uneven ground.

There is a need for a green area where people can walk/run or just sit and relax on level ground and now that the Playing Field is available for Capital Asset Transfer there is a space in the community that could be used for this purpose as well as for organised sport. The community council has revamped the Play Park in Coychurch with more stimulating/challenging play equipment for the younger children and the development of the Playing field as a space for older children and adult fitness will fit in well with the overall scheme.

APPROACH

The CLCC will take over the asset on a "like for like" basis and undertake to do the maintenance that is currently undertaken by BCBC. This will then allow the community council to take the time it needs to work on plans for developing the site in line with the results of the public consultation undertaken in April/May 2021.

The CLCC is uniquely placed to provide the development of the Playing Field whilst understanding the concerns of the neighbouring property owners and ensuring consensus for the projects. The setting up of a Steering Group to research options will help ensure residents involvement in improving the area for current and future use. All decisions will be made following community discussions.

FINANCE

The CLCC has committed to completing projects in the most efficient way for the council tax payer. Therefore larger capital projects will be funded through grants and fund raising. The Steering Group will be tasked with researching and providing fully costed proposals for each project and identifying possible funders.

Ongoing maintenance and other improvements will be funded from the revenue created by users of the field and the precept.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Coychurch Lower Community Council wish to proceed with the CAT for the Coychurch Playing Field and Pavilion following a public consultation which provided overwhelming support for the project. We set out below the plans to date:

Upon confirmation that CLCC will be awarded the Capital Asset Transfer

ACTIVITY	ACTION
Update the community	
Commence meetings of the Steering Group (Community Councillors and selected volunteers with skills required to commence project planning for the future of the playing field in line with community feedback priorities.)	These individuals have been identified and are keen to be involved.
Contact existing users of the playing field	Already commenced
Contact potential users of the playing field	Already commenced
Refine financials	Already commenced
Continue with dialogue with residents	
Playing field to become part of precept discussion and inclusion	
Develop partners (see below)	

Upon completion of Capital Asset Transfer

ACTIVITY	ACTION
Update community	
Take over maintenance on a like for like basis	Grass cutting has been organised
Use volunteers to carry out further clearing and tidying of site	People already contacted and in place
Following research from steering group. CLCC to commence grant applications for priority projects - pavilion refurbishment, drainage, pitch, sports equipment, eco projects	
Steering group to continue with project planning	Regular reports to CLCC
Financial review and update for future precept	

Upon receipt of grant funding and beyond:

ACTIVITY
Update community
Implementation of projects when finances in place
Steering group will continue project planning with recommendations considered by CLCC for implementation
Volunteers will provide additional support for specific projects and general tidiness
Financial review and update for future precept consideration
Feedback from residents and users on plans and completed projects
Steering group/CLCC to review feedback and learning points

PEOPLE/GROUPS INVOLVED

Core Steering Group

Roy Snoddy – Chair – Community Councillor

Penelope Gwilliam – Community Councillor

Jon Embling – resident – Treasurer Bridgend Athletics – instrumental in developing the clubhouse and facilities at Bridgend Athletics.

Philip Davies – resident

John Dickinson – resident – retired Welsh Water engineer. Contacts with surveyors and technical knowledge

Volunteers

Over 40 volunteers have come forward offering a range of services both for general maintenance, help with building projects and eco projects

We aim to continue to develop this

Partners

We have, so far, had discussions with the following groups about future involvement/use of the area:

GROUP	RESPONSE
Coychurch Primary School is an Eco platinum award school	Keen to develop new projects in the playing field for both children and adults
Coychurch Gardening Society	Will join the school to implement eco projects
Bridgend Athletics – see plan	Keen to engage with the community and develop the site with more facilities for the wider use.
Brackla Juniors	Already use pitch facilities
Bridgend Sunday League football	Keen to use the pitch when the changing room facilities are available

Brackla RFC	Wish to use the pitch and changing room facilities
Williams Memorial Hall	Want to expand services by using the playing field for additional activities
Age Cymru	Engaging with Age Cymru for their services that can be delivered at the playing field/pavilion facility

The steering group will continue to develop both local and national partners

FUTURE PROJECTS

These are the main projects identified as required at this stage and are not set out in any particular order of priority:

Refurbish and improve pavilion to provide a meeting space, changing rooms and toilets plus a storage area for maintenance equipment. Reduce/remove load on the Welsh Water sewerage system which causes problems for residents in Park View

Improve Access points

Singletons side - review with BCBC Highways department and enhance where possible for a safer entrance/parking.

Village side – consult with neighbouring properties, improve drainage and install hard surface entrance

Pitch area – develop to make this a multi use area for sports and village events. Improve drainage and pitch condition

Embankment area – eco projects, wildflower area, additional native tree planting, nature trails

Outer areas – picnic areas, athletic and outdoor gym facilities, increased number of bins and dog poo bags dispensers

Contacts:

For further information please contact either

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or

Councillor Helen Evans, by email helenjaneevans@outlook.com, or phone 07769 351959