

Annex 2

**Mynydd y Betws Community Benefit Fund
2023-2024**

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Budget Available - £117,122.20

Full Report Value: £55,985.17

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Application reference: MYB-23-01

Project Title	Connecting People to Nature
Applicant	Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC)
Ward	GARNANT
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>This project will enable communities of the Amman Valley to get closer to the wildlife in the towns and gardens by helping to save some of the valley’s most endangered wildlife species. Specifically, the project will.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase visitor numbers, activities, and participation at the Community Wildlife Garden. • Install 100 specially designed nest boxes in the Amman Valley to help save the increasingly rare and endangered House Martin. • Build and install a minimum of 40 Hedgehog boxes to support the UK’s most iconic mammal species. <p>The wildlife garden is a community space where people can come to enjoy, take part, and learn about nature conservation in the area. The funding will employ a Community Wildlife Officer to ensure that the garden is open to the public on a regular basis, so that additional people can get involved. The new officer will run open days, activities and volunteer events for schools, groups, and the general public. The garden will become the base and hub for nature conservation activities such as the Hedgehog Box building and House Martin surveys and training.</p> <p>Over a 12-month period, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ a Community Wildlife Officer (part-time). • Recruit a minimum of 10 core new volunteers as well as opportunities to upskill unemployed members of community. The project will consult with Ammanford Job Centre and the Carmarthenshire Action for Volunteer Services (CAVS) to advertise volunteer roles.

- Engage with 80 volunteer / participants through open days, outreach, events, and activities. Engagement activities will be through direct outreach to the community as well as working in partnership with Carmarthen County Council (CCC), Cwmaman Town Council (CTC), Garnant Family Centre, Local Schools, and community groups.
- Deliver 22 open days at the wildlife garden for people to experience the garden and its wildlife. This will provide educational and recreational opportunities, as well as helping to combat isolation in the community whilst increasing mental health benefits and community cohesion.
- Deliver 8 community wildlife survey events to increase local communities' understanding and appreciation of the wildlife they share their environment with. Local volunteers will be involved in undertaking scientific species monitoring of wildlife linked with the gardens including House Martin and Hedgehog. Information gathered by the project will be shared with local community groups and authorities as well as conservation groups across Wales. This will ensure that local community action can have a national beneficial impact.
- Deliver 3 wildlife refuge/ nest box making events. Collaborating with existing partners in the community such as Amman Valley Maker Space (AVMS) and Men2Men, the project will train and upskill members of the community in carpentry and wildlife refuge making. These skills can then be shared with other groups and community volunteers.
- Deliver 4 guided wildlife walks from the community wildlife garden throughout the Amman Valley. The walks will be an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about the valley, its history and wildlife. The walks will vary in length and accessibility so that all members of the community can take part and be inspired by the wildlife we share our valley with.
- Deliver 3 training sessions to those core volunteers who want to take their nature conservation skills to the next level. Training volunteers in topics such as wildlife gardening and wildlife surveys will enable the project to reach more communities in the Amman Valley and provide the volunteers with transferable skills for employment.

The Wildlife Garden has been open since April 2022. However, without a resolute staff member, the garden has not been able to

	realise its full potential or address the needs of the local community. Funding to employ a resolute Community Wildlife Officer will ensure that INCC can deliver more for local people and wildlife and build a strong and sustainable support base for the wildlife garden in future.
Total Project Cost	£14,798.21 – Gross
Eligible Capital	£5,478.21 100 House martin nest boxes - £2,711.01 Timber & fixings hedgehog boxes - £1,560.00 Recycled plastic sheets for roofs - £756.00 Wildflower plant plugs - £300.00 Compost - £91.20
Eligible Revenue	£9,320.00 P/T Community Wildlife Officer - £6,200.00 Contractor costs for box installation - £3,120.00
Ineligible Costs	Nil
Amount and % of grant requested	£11,838.57 @ 80%
Match funding	£2,959.64 Own funds secured
Evidence of Need / Community Engagement	<p>INCC first attended a community engagement event in run at the Cwmaman Town Council, Community Centre in September 2022. At the engagement event, staff and volunteers asked members of the community three questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think is special about the Amman Valley? • What more would you like to see being delivered in the area for nature? And • What ideas do you have for getting people involved in nature conservation. <p>Feedback from participants showed that the environment, nature, and sense of place were principal factors of the Amman Valley and that more people wanted to see more wildlife and do their bit for nature conservation.</p> <p>From that early consultation, INCC, have been collaborating with local volunteers started to develop the Connecting People to Nature project.</p> <p>Additional consultation days with local groups, community open days, drop-in sessions and volunteer events undertaken in early 2023 helped refine the project and further reinforced the desire by the community to want to be closer to nature.</p>

<p>Contributing to the themes of the Fund</p>	<p>Recreation - Community members will be able to use the garden as an outdoor recreational space where they can meet and socialise whilst enjoying wildlife or taking part in gardening activities and making wildlife refuges.</p> <p>Environment - The wildlife garden will create and manage a host of important natural habitats including woodland, scrub, meadow, bog, and pond. In addition, native wildflowers will be grown at the garden's polytunnel so help support local wildlife gardening within the community and wider habitat restoration projects. Research from Welsh Government and conservation bodies shows that wildlife in Wales is in serious decline. The project will support the needs of two species in Wales that desperately need our help, the Hedgehog, and the House Martin. By providing habitat boxes throughout the valley, we will be directly helping to improve our environment for these species and local people.</p> <p>Education - They will be developing partnerships with the local primary schools and Garnant Family Centre, to involve children and parents in this project, who will have educational opportunities to gain experience about House Martin and Hedgehog habitats, how to encourage and support their numbers in the valley. The wildlife garden will be a place where people can learn about their environment, the species, and habitats they share it with and what steps they can take to help. Guided informal walks and training days will be delivered alongside more informal information sharing so that people with different interests and commitments can learn and enjoy wildlife at their own pace.</p> <p>Health - The project will help reduce isolation, improve mental health, and offer activities that are suitable for a wide variety of abilities within the community. Research shows that connecting people with wildlife can be beneficial for people's health and mental wellbeing. Experiencing wildlife and wildlife habitats such as meadows has been shown to reduce ailments such as stress, anxiety, and depression. It also reduces the risk of illness, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer (Welsh Government 2022). As well as collaborating directly with the community, the project will also work with local mental health support groups including Shadows and Men2Men. As well as mental health and wellbeing, the project will also be running activity days, volunteer practical sessions and guided walks, increasing physical activity through participation.</p>
<p>Ownership/ Lease</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language Policy • Equal Opportunities Policy • Health & Safety Policy • Environmental Policy • Procurement Policy

<p>Environmental Sustainability</p>	<p>They have an organisational procurement statement for purchasing goods, which promotes using local suppliers where possible. There is an environmental policy in place which is always adhered to.</p>
<p>Roles and responsibilities within organisation</p>	<p>Board of Trustees (INCC) – to ensure good governance of the charity at all times.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer (INCC) – to ensure that all grant conditions for the project are adhered including financial controls and project monitoring and reporting. Line management of Community Wildlife Officer and some support with running events and activities. Ensured long-term sustainability for the project.</p> <p>Species Officer (INCC) – Supporting the project through ecological expertise regarding flagship species and their habitat refuges. Additional support during community volunteering, wildlife survey and training events.</p> <p>Community Wildlife Officer (INCC) – Responsible for collaborating with community and volunteer groups to organise and run wildlife activities and events including walks and open days as well as training and wildlife refuge making. Promoted the project locally and through social media. Also supporting CEO in ensuring long-term financial sustainability for the project.</p> <p>Wildlife Garden Volunteer Group – The group will consist of existing INCC volunteers from the local community along with additional volunteers be supported through the project. Volunteers will support the Community Wildlife Officer with open days and events as well as wildlife gardening tasks such as watering, pruning, potting on, cutting, planting, and pruning.</p>
<p>Mapping of service/ facility within the area</p>	<p>There is currently no other community space like the wildlife garden in Garnant or Glanamau due to its size and habitats, such as meadow, pond, woodland, and bog. The garden also has a large polytunnel for growing wildflowers and making wildlife refuges. A community consultation process conducted by Cwmaman Town Council (CTC) showed that local people wanted to see more environmental and wildlife projects being delivered in the area.</p>
<p>Future Sustainability</p>	<p>The Community Wildlife Garden is owned and managed by INCC in partnership with CTC. INCC will be the responsible organisation for the project and for the wildlife garden in the future. INCC is a charitable incorporated organisation with a strong board of trustees who oversee the financial, policy and governance of the charity.</p> <p>As well as employing a part-time Community Wildlife Officer, INCC will also be supporting the project through additional staff time from the Chief Executive Officer and Species Officer. In addition to staff, INCC has a core volunteer support group in the Amman Valley who will not only help deliver the Connecting with</p>

	<p>Environmental impact Monitoring of House Martin and Hedgehog residency in refuges will play a major part in evaluating the project. Volunteer and participant survey forms will also show how more engaged local people are with wildlife and nature conservation issues.</p> <p>Community action for wildlife The project will monitor several educational outputs from the project to ascertain the participant's understanding of local wildlife and conservation issues before and after the project / event. Survey forms will be given to participants and volunteers to capture changes in understanding and to evaluate what is the most effective, formal training, learned experience volunteering or taking part. Evidence from the monitoring will be used to help develop future community wildlife engagement initiatives.</p>
<p>Business Plan/Officer Comments</p>	<p>The project is supported by community members as well as Cwmaman Town Council, Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership, Garnant Family Centre, Ysgol y Bedol School, Ysgol Gymraeg Gwuan Cae Gurwen, Shadows, Amman Valley Maker Space, and the British Trust of Ornithology (BTO).</p> <p>The project aims to address the needs of the community by ensuring that local people are at the heart of nature conservation action. This will be achieved by ensuring that people have regular access to the wildlife garden and that they can take part in volunteer events including guided walks, wildlife surveys, wildlife gardening tutorials, planting and sowing of wildflowers and making wildlife refuges including Hedgehog Boxes and House Martin Nest Boxes.</p>
<p>Economic Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 10 • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted - 1 • Number of social enterprises created - • Number of social enterprises supported - • Number of full-time jobs created – 0.5 • Number of jobs safeguarded - • Public and private leverage funding - £2,959.64
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Award - £11,838.57</p>

Application reference: MYB-23-02

Project Title	Development of Pavilion in Penygroes
Applicant	Penygroes Rugby and Community Sports Association
Ward	PENYGROES
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>The aim is to develop the pavilion, which is in a state of disrepair, so that it can be used by a variety of local teams. These include Men's Rugby, Women's Rugby, Men's cricket, Women's cricket, Men's, and women's football.</p> <p>This grant is to enable them with start-up costs to obtain architects drawings, secure planning, so they can apply for future grants, from other sources, to conduct the renovation of the pavilion. In addition the pavilion will be used by Ysgol Penygroes. There will be an internet café and a communal area for young people.</p> <p>They are in a unique position in having three pitches on one area. The increased use of these pitches, with a decent pavilion, will encourage participation and community cohesion.</p> <p>There are currently men's Rugby teams, men's and women's cricket and a charity football side, with the aim to develop youth teams to increase community participation and inclusion, working closely with CCC Sports Actif team.</p> <p>The pavilion at present is owned by Penygroes RFC and not having a useable pavilion has had a significant effect on the club. Often there are four different sports for male and female games using the pitches and there are only two changing rooms. Enhanced opportunities to use the facilities will increase footfall and generate income.</p> <p>Not having a decent pavilion has had a significant impact on the rugby club, with players not training locally, not playing evening games, which results in them not using the club.</p> <p>They have missed hosting major games, which all bring financial backing to the rugby club and community.</p>
Total Project Cost	£12,500.00 – Net
Eligible Capital	Nil
Eligible Revenue	£12,500.00
Ineligible Costs	Design/ Planning & engineering input - £11,000.00 Protected species survey - £1,500.00
	Nil

Amount and % of grant requested	£10,000.00 @ 80%
Match funding	£2,500.00 Own funds secured
Evidence of Need / Community Engagement	They have consulted widely with the community through an online survey and of 37 responses, 34 gave their postcode and all were local. 36 agreed that improvements to the pavilion were an innovative idea and 34 were interested in volunteering to help with sports.
Contributing to the themes of the Fund	Recreation - the development of improved sports facilities will obviously benefit Recreation, It is their aim, with improved facilities, to develop youth teams in Rugby, Cricket, and Football. Increased participation with better facilities will benefit Health . Education and Culture will benefit participants in learning new skills, also to improve the insulation of the building and this will contribute to energy efficiency , also installing Solar PV and hot water heating. The pavilion will be heated by an air source heat pump.
Ownership/ Lease	Ownership
Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language • Equal Opportunities • Environmental Policy • Health & Safety Policy
Environmental Sustainability	As part of the redevelopment of the pavilion Solar panels, both for PV and water heating will be installed. There will also be an air source heat pump as well as rainwater harvesting.
Roles and responsibilities within organisation	Chair. Neil Armstrong. Experienced businessperson, responsible for overall management of the project. Fixtures secretary. Dai Rees. Responsible for Health and Safety compliance. Tony Powell (Trustee) Responsible for financial management
Mapping of service/ facility within the area	The facility will provide greater flexibility for the community will not duplicate any other provision within the area, will complement the Pavilion Centre within the park, currently in ownership with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli.
Future Sustainability	Improving the pavilion, will provide enhanced opportunities for community members or anyone else to use the facilities, increasing footfall, generating additional income for long term sustainability.
Outputs to be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New volunteers - 30

<p>Monitoring and Evaluation of outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs created – 1 • New services – 1 • Physical improvements – 1 • Community assets – 1 • Environmental improvements - 1 <p>Data of revenue, income, takings, attendance will all be recorded and shared annually at our AGM. This will also see the re-introduction of information shared on various social media sites online.</p> <p>All proceeds raised will be poured back into further enhancing our facilities and creating more alternative options for the community to attend and participate.</p>
<p>Business Plan/Officer Comments</p>	<p>The development of the Pavilion within Penygroes is a much-needed facility for the community, with planning and design in place, great opportunities to obtain capital funds, already working on funding opportunities.</p> <p>The development will increase footfall, allow the clubs to participate in hosting major games, providing long term sustainability.</p> <p>Fully supported by Carmarthenshire Actif team, who are working with the club towards this development.</p>
<p>Economic Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 30 • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted - 1 • Number of social enterprises created - • Number of social enterprises supported - • Number of full-time jobs created - 1 • Number of jobs safeguarded - • Public and private leverage funding - £2,500.00
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Award - £10,000.00</p>

Application reference: MYB-23-03

Project Title	Canolfan Gymunedol Ystradowen Community Centre CGYCC
Applicant	Ystradowen community support for services
Ward	Cwarter Bach
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>The project idea has been identified by the needs and demand of the community to help fill the gap in provision, which due to the success has led them in needing additional help and to meet new and current demand, they require another member of staff to help with the community food services in their kitchen facility.</p> <p>The key services at the centre include Luncheon Club (3 days a week), Food Delivery Service (5 days a week), Community Cafe (6 days a week) and catering for functions such as parties, meetings, workshops, classes, community groups, community events, wakes and many more. All of which are important to the sustainability and income of the centre but to also reach their aims and objectives as an organisation.</p> <p>The key element of employing another member of staff in the kitchen would be, to help them continue to expand, improve on current services but also reduce pressures on the councils, organisations, care services, hospitals etc who highly depend on the services daily to weekly basis. Demand is increasing due to government cutbacks in local organisations and services, this kind of support would help them to further develop and reach current and future demands.</p> <p>The expansion of current services would include Increasing the Luncheon Club days from 3 to 4/5 days a week but to also double the member capacity from 40 to 80 individuals, also providing the community with a wider choice of menus from the Community Cafe and extend current hours to provide a flexible service delivery to the customers. These targets will be met with the additional member of staff in the kitchen.</p> <p>The grant will be used to fund the additional member of staff in the kitchen for 18 months, this is a fast moving and extremely busy environment where all departments need to be covered. Their job will be to assist our current kitchen staff and to develop and assist in the expansion of our services, which is not achievable without this additional member of staff.</p> <p>Continuing to offer home delivery of nutritious two course meals for clients who are too unwell to attend the luncheon club or are recovering from hospital stays is essential within the community and they will also continue to support ex clients who are now not able to attend the centre. Expanding the services to other communities who are outside the current 6-mile radius, will enable them to reach more clients who are housebound through disability</p>

	and illness.
Total Project Cost	£16,302.00 – Gross
Eligible Capital	Nil
Eligible Revenue	£16,302.00
Ineligible Costs	20 hrs per week @ £10.45– Kitchen Support Worker
Amount and % of grant requested	Nil £13,041.60 @ 80%
Match funding	£3,260.40 Own funds secured
Evidence of Need / Community Engagement	<p>Feedback sheets/Meeting minutes/Evidence of need -</p> <p>Our feedback sheets include a variety of individuals in the locality and surrounding areas who use the centre and have emphasised how beneficial the centre is to the community and how groups such as the Luncheon Club are very much needed along with other services that benefit the community, all stemming from the kitchen facility.</p> <p>The transport is important and links with the food services in particular for the Luncheon Club and Food Delivery service, every project and service ties together for the benefit of the community, which is also evidenced through feedback forms.</p> <p>Support letters have been received from the following:</p> <p>Neath Port Talbot Social Services Department – Kirsty Richards. Dyfed Powys Police. Ystradgynlais Dementia Team- Christine French. Cwmtwrch Rugby Football Club – Gary Davidson. Cwarter Bach Community Council – Julia Bell. Headteacher of Cwmllynfell Primary School. - Lynne Brier. Ystradowen Gardening Club – Nicola John. Abacare Branch Manager – Thomas Addey. Tawe Titans.</p>
Contributing to the themes of the Fund	<p>Recreation – Many of the services provided are essential for an individual’s health and wellbeing which includes the social aspect, as many of the clients are elderly, vulnerable, disabled and suffer with various stages of dementia, so brain stimulating activities are key to helping their symptoms. Gardening Club, Book Club, Parent and Toddler group are also key groups to the centre as they provide a place for the community to enjoy, meet new people and learn new things.</p> <p>Environment / Energy Efficiency– recycle as much waste as possible, support the local wildlife, by using the waste to support the soil in which the plants and wildflowers grow around the</p>

	<p>premises. with the aim to welcome as much wildlife as possible and support the environment and reduce our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Education – As the centre is already a wonderful place to build on skills, experience, and personal development, increase these opportunities for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. They have been essential placements for Syrian and Ukrainian refugees for the Red Cross service in Ystradgynlais, proven to be successful helping them move on with confidence and belonging to find jobs and meet people in the community.</p> <p>Sustainability – This new employee would be vital to the sustainability of the centre, to build on and expand our current services but also give us the opportunity to build on services and groups. This will help us meet new demand which would then increase footfall and income to sustain the organisation and positions in years to come, which is the need and aim of the organisation.</p> <p>Health – Services such as the Luncheon Club, Food delivery in particular is needed for the health and wellbeing of the community. With many not having a hot meal throughout the week, this is their only chance to have a nutritious home cooked meal and catered to their needs. For many of our clients who have dementia, they might also forget to eat, and the Luncheon Club and food delivery service helps with these issues and gives family and carers a piece of mind that they have received food that day. The social aspect is just as important as many are isolated and vulnerable.</p> <p>Culture – As a bilingual community with both Welsh and English language spoken, the centre is important to continue traditions for the community to be involved with and take part in attending the events or helping organise events.</p>
<p>Ownership/ Lease</p>	<p>Ownership</p>
<p>Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language • Equal Opportunities • Environmental Policy • Safeguarding Policy <p>As a centre have always focused on recycling, we have always bought products from Ystradgynlais Recycling Centre and adhere to support local and reduce their carbon footprint. They adhere to their Environmental policy at all times.</p>
<p>Roles and responsibilities within organisation</p>	<p>The Chairman and Trustees oversee the entire organisation from maintenance, staffing, finances, services, groups, and activities. They are responsible for all project liabilities and outcomes.</p> <p>The Community Support Supervisor is key to the project as they will be the one organising, overseeing the day-to-day workings, and making sure targets and demand are met following the outcomes of the project.</p>

	<p>Kitchen Supervisor (oversees the standards and will be responsible following Food Standards Agency regulations to support the inexperienced staff member to lead the way to help with the expansion and introduction of new services.</p>
Mapping of service/facility within the area	<p>A community led project providing a variety of services to a rural community, which is disadvantaged by its very location and in spite of this disadvantage the centre is a focal point and has many loyal supporters.</p>
Future Sustainability	<p>Trustees and volunteers currently run the Centre. Liabilities, as with all issues for the Centre will lie within the board of Trustees, however the day-to-day management of the centre in relation to maintenance management will fall to the Centre Support Supervisor.</p> <p>One of the key focuses for the building is to ensure that the building is well used, generating more income, and more importantly make the centre sustainable long term, continued support from other partnership organisations and increased key services to continue and expand for the future.</p>
<p>Outputs to be achieved</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New volunteers - 30 • Jobs created – 1 • Jobs safeguarded - 5 • New services – 3 <p>The trustees, staff and volunteers have regular meetings to ensure everything is running effectively, manage the finances to keep all project costs in line, monitor the outcomes and day to day running of the projects.</p> <p>They monitor the increase of Luncheon Club members, food Delivery members, Community Cafe orders and also catering bookings which would show how the demand meets all aspects of issues faced by the community which has also been highlighted in individual consultations.</p>
Business Plan/Officer Comments	<p>As a charity they endeavour to fill the gap in provision and continue to meet the community's needs which is essential and very much needed to support the locality and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Continuation of a much-needed community hub covering a variety of groups, services and activities is essential and by expanding services and supporting more, they can provide additional respite for family members, support local hospitals, care homes, families through regular referrals made to them by partnership working.</p>
Economic Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 30 • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted - 1 • Number of social enterprises created • Number of social enterprises supported - • Number of full-time jobs created - 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of jobs safeguarded - 5• Public and private leverage funding - £3,260.40
Recommendation	Award - £13,041.60

Application reference: MYB-23-04

Project Title	Cwm Fferws Park Community Herb Garden
Applicant	Friends Of Tycroes Parks
Ward	TYCROES
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>There are 3 exceptionally large, raised beds in Cwmfferws Park, 2 of which were prepared (weeded/cleared) by FOTP 2 years ago for the planting of herbs, they then involved Tycroes Brownies to help plant herbs into the prepared beds and since then, the herbs have flourished.</p> <p>Attempts have been made to weed the 3rd bed but were unable to do so as a membrane had been put a 1/3 of the way down in the bed and below the membrane are crocosmia bulbs. They have dug out numerous bulbs over the last year but cannot get to the bulbs below the membrane, the crocosmia continue to multiply and flourish! There are also large clumps of shrub roots below the membrane which they were unable to remove.</p> <p>They would like to complete the community herb garden and clear this bed, but it will require the hiring of a digger + replacing half of the depth with topsoil + purchasing herbs to plant in the bed.</p> <p>The herb garden is for the benefit of the community - sprigs of herbs can be taken and used in cooking etc. However, most people are unaware of the names/types of herbs growing in the beds and are not helping themselves.</p> <p>By having a herb identification notice board, with herb images and names will help and result in more people taking cuttings. The board will have the herb names in both Welsh and English and they have received a quotation from a company who specialise in designing/making custom made wooden signs using sustainable timbers, they were unable to locate a company in Carmarthenshire who make large environmentally friendly custom signs.</p> <p>They will involve the community by asking for ideas of using herbs e.g. simple herb recipes, herbal teas and contributions would be put on FOTP's face-book page. A QR code would also be placed on the notice board with a link to their page where the ideas can be seen, also providing information about the health benefits of herbs.</p> <p>The Local Brownie group will be involved in planting the herbs and the Youth club will support in helping to weed the other beds and anything else (within their capabilities) we would like done.</p> <p>Other members of the community will benefit from being able to pick/use the herbs and have more of an interest in the herbs.</p> <p>The completed herb garden will improve the physical appearance of the area and of all of the Park.</p>

	<p>By asking for herb recipes this will be the 1st stage in getting to know the multi-cultural residents who have recently moved into the village. Future ideas could be to offer invitations to talk about their country of birth - traditions/ foods/music etc which would enlighten many and provide an opportunity for everybody to get to know each other.</p> <p>The herbs will be purchased from a local gardening centre.</p>
<p>Total Project Cost</p> <p>Eligible Capital</p> <p>Eligible Revenue</p> <p>Ineligible Costs</p> <p>Amount and % of grant requested</p> <p>Match funding</p>	<p>£2,360.80 - Gross</p> <p>£2,360.80</p> <p>Herb board - £946.80 Topsoil - £624.00 Herb plants - £250.00 Digger & driver - £360.00 2 Bee barns - £50.00 Contractor on site cost - £130.00</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>£2,124.80 @ 90%</p> <p>£236.00 Own funds secured</p>
<p>Evidence of Need / Community Engagement</p>	<p>Comments from residents established the need of having a method to identify the herbs e.g. I take a weekly walking group and we always walk through Cwmfferws Park via the 2 existing herb beds. I have been told regularly that signs should be in place as most people are unable to identify the herbs.</p> <p>FOTP volunteers are also unsure of the names. Initially, we had wooden stakes and printed stones by the herbs, but these have disappeared - a more permanent structure would be far better.</p> <p>Although the 2 existing beds contain a range of herbs, there are still many other varieties available which we would plant in the 3rd bed.</p> <p>FOTP work in conjunction with Llanedi Community Council, and we have consulted with the contractor who is employed by LCC. He has advised that the crocosmia bulbs need to be removed from the 3rd bed, the quantity of topsoil and herbs required for the bed and that the removed soil can be used to form a bank on an area in the park rather than being transported and disposed of.</p>
<p>Contributing to the themes of the Fund</p>	<p>Environment - it will allow us to complete the herb garden and encourage more people to use the herbs as they will be aware of what is planted and give ideas on how they can be used. Suitable herbs will be planted to attract different pollinators and bee barns</p>

	<p>placed on some of the trees will provide a safe home for solitary bees.</p> <p>Education - Initially, it will be about recognising and learning the names of the different herbs, and this could be taken further in the future e.g. holding herbal workshops where people will learn more about their uses and benefits, also involving the local Brownie group in the planting of the herbs + have another activity related to herbs so that they can experience planting and learn about herbs. Also, pupils from the local school would be able to visit the completed herb garden to reinforce learning that is taking place in school.</p> <p>Culture - we would encourage multi-culture residents to submit recipes/ideas from their cultures.</p>
Ownership/ Lease	Llanedi Community Council landowner permissions
<p>Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal Opportunities Policy • Welsh Language Policy • Environmental Policy <p>As pollinator numbers are in decline, the planting of more herbs will support pollinators, having researched which herbs should be planted and planting suitable herbs to attract bees, butterflies and other insects also herbs that pollinator larvae feed off. 2 Bee barns will also be fixed to trees (close to the herb garden) to provide a home for solitary bees.</p> <p>The herb identification board will be made from sustainable wood (no plastic whatsoever) and the bee barns produced from sustainability managed wood.</p>
Roles and responsibilities within organisation	The members such as Secretary and Treasurer of the group will manage and deliver the project, supported by volunteers from the community, also the Brownies and Youth Club will support with delivering and maintaining the project, once grant funding support has been delivered and claimed.
Mapping of service/ facility within the area	A different unique type of project within the area and by involving the community will benefit them from being able to pick/use the herbs and hopefully develop an interest in the diverse types of herbs, involving the multi cultural residents, will provide the community with different recipes and ideas.
Future Sustainability	<p>Future maintenance will involve weeding of the raised beds, and this will be done by the volunteers of FOTP, with no expenses.</p> <p>FOTP hold events for the community throughout the year to raise funds e.g. monthly coffee mornings, a Xmas craft fayre, and a Halloween event in the woodland therefore they would have sufficient funds to cover costs.</p>

<p>Outputs to be achieved</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Improvements – 1 • Environmental Improvement scheme – 1 • Volunteers – 30 <p>Physical and Environmental elements of the project will be monitored through the completion of the project, herbs planted and members of the community accessing the service and using the herbs.</p> <p>Number of volunteers will be evidenced through records being maintained of those supporting the project delivery and ongoing volunteering to maintain the site.</p>
<p>Business Plan/Officer Comments</p>	<p>FOTP are a voluntary group and work in conjunction with Llanedi Community Council, helping to maintain areas, improve and develop the 2 parks woodland, they also have weekly gardening group, organise community events to raise money, and apply for funding which is used to improve the areas.</p> <p>They have identified many things which will enhance the 3 areas and encourage the community to spend more time outdoors to enjoy nature., supporting projects which will benefit their wellbeing and give more of an awareness of plants and wildlife.</p> <p>Last year, work which was identified by them to improve the woodland resulted in a civil engineering company agreeing to create new paths in the woodland, improve drainage and build a new board walk - with no charge to them or Llanedi Community Council. This has resulted in more people now using and appreciating the woodlands.</p>
<p>Economic Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering – 30+ • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted - 1 • Number of social enterprises created • Number of social enterprises supported • Number of full-time jobs created • Number of jobs safeguarded • Public and private leverage funding - £236.00
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Award - £2,124.80</p>

Application reference: MYB-23-05

Project Title	Ammanford Park Lighting Project
Applicant	Ammanford Town Council
Ward	AMMANFORD
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>Ammanford Town Park is in the process of undergoing major refurbishment thanks to a huge amount of support from the community for the project, who have been campaigning for years to see this change and improvement. As this regeneration takes place the use of the park by the community will increase significantly to what we see today. It is anticipated that we will not only see more children using the new playground on a regular basis (the consultation, planning and funding of which is all underway) but also even more people using it for recreational and fitness purposes.</p> <p>Unfortunately at this time, particularly in the Winter months, the park is unusable due to lack of adequate lighting. Not only does this lead to the park being underutilised it also has led to considerable damage occurring within the park due to antisocial and destructive behaviour which is difficult to monitor and address in the dark. They are aware that currently members of the public avoid walking through the park and often choose to take a significantly longer route around the park using the roads which have streetlights as they are fearful of their safety walking through the park after dark.</p> <p>The lighting issue began to be addressed when funding was secured to install lighting columns at the Iscennen Road gate entrance of Ammanford Park, this new project forms the next step in ensuring the park is well lit, useable, and safe for the community of Ammanford.</p> <p>Ammanford Town Council are seeking £15,000 (with £3829.83 match funding – Total Project cost £18829.83) to install 14 new solar powered lighting columns to the main area of the park, these are to be installed at regular intervals around the existing pathways. In addition to the column lights the council is seeking to add adequate solar powered spot lighting to the newly refurbished Bandstand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will allow the Bandstand to be used by Schools/Community Groups and others for evening performances. 2. It will encourage the community to engage in projects promoting the arts, culture, and heritage. 3. It will increase the opportunity for all members of the Community to engage in physical exercise in a safe environment all year round. 4. It will encourage children and adults to use the park as a safe route to School/Work even in the winter months. 5. It will allow Ammanford Town Council to continue its redevelopment of Ammanford Park as has been requested by the residents of Ammanford.

	<p>6. It will actively discourage and function as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour and thereby create a safer environment.</p> <p>7. It will provide an environmentally and energy efficient solution to the lighting issue that may not be possible without this funding.</p> <p>It will directly reduce costs of Community events annually as lighting will no longer need to be hired for events that run on into the evening.</p>
<p>Total Project Cost</p> <p>Eligible Capital</p> <p>Eligible Revenue</p> <p>Ineligible Costs</p> <p>Amount and % of grant requested</p> <p>Match funding</p>	<p>£18,829.83 – Net</p> <p>£18,829.83 Solar LED lamp post lights with columns x 14 Solar LED spotlight system, lamp kits, 12 spotlights</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>£15,000.00 @ 79.7 %</p> <p>£3,829.83 Own funds secured</p>
<p>Evidence of Need / Community Engagement</p>	<p>Consultation relating to the upgrading and improvement of Ammanford Park has been happening continually for many years with the most recent round taking place in February 2023.</p> <p>The specific lighting issue in Ammanford Park has been ongoing for a number of years and this is the latest project to address the need that has been identified by the community.</p> <p>The public have expressed a clear interest in the development of more community events, fitness, health, and other recreational activities which if they were to run year-round would require this lighting to be in place.</p> <p>This is a significant gap in the current offering of the park facilities which actually renders the park unusable for large parts of the day in the winter months.</p> <p>The need to deter antisocial and destructive behaviour is evident from the number incidents of this nature that have been reported to the local policing teams, as well as from the feedback we have received from those using the park for recreational or commuting purposes. The Police have made it noticeably clear to the Council that illuminating the park will go a long way to deterring this kind of behaviour in the future.</p>

	<p>Providing safe routes to school/work is a national endeavour and as a Town Council we feel obligated to our residents to ensure we are offering this basic necessity.</p> <p>This project feeds directly into several others that the town council are working on with the newly created Ammanford regeneration group who are a community organisation formed of representatives from local schools, businesses, and members of the community for the betterment and regeneration of Ammanford.</p> <p>Some of the project ideas for the future of the park include the potential development of a community café, changing area for the splash pads, growing garden and the creation of a volunteer led park friends' group that would assist in activities such as flower planting, litter picking and more...</p> <p>Lighting is a fundamental need in Ammanford park and assistance would allow us to comprehensively cover the remaining unlit areas and provide a year-round facility able to be used by the Ammanford community.</p>
<p>Contributing to the themes of the Fund</p>	<p>Recreation/Education/Heritage/Culture/Health</p> <p>Lighting of the Bandstand and of the park will allow both to be used more, it will open up significant community engagement opportunities, in particular addressing recreation, education, culture and heritage objectives. The council has been approached many times to allow and support music events and concerts to take place in the park using the newly renovated Bandstand.</p> <p>It will allow community music groups such as the Ammanford Silver Band, Cor Meibion Dyffryn Amman and others to have an outside performance space and also allow the local schools to use the bandstand particularly in the evenings for concerts and shows.</p> <p>In addition to the recreational and culture opportunities this project presents, there will be the opportunity for those who use the park for health and fitness reasons to continue to do so as early mornings become darker and nights draw in. A significant number of the community use the park for running as it keeps them away from busy roads, others use the park for dog walking in the morning and the evenings and many older people use the park for an evening stroll to take some gentle exercise each day using it as a meeting place for some social interaction in an otherwise lonely day. These are the people that will most benefit from lighting the park in the evening as it will allow them to continue their routines even throughout the winter months.</p> <p>Particular attention has been given to the project to ensure it is as environmentally friendly and energy efficient as it can be. Specialist solar lighting has been sourced that allows for timers and sensors to be set and determine when the lights come on and amount of time the lights are operational for.</p>

Ownership/ Lease	Ownership
Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language • Equal Opportunities • Environmental Policy • Health & Safety Policy <p>Ammanford Town Council is dedicated to providing environmentally sustainable projects. The council has an ongoing plan to deliver Carbon neutrality as soon as possible and all current and future projects are merited on their environmental and energy efficient outputs.</p>
Roles and responsibilities within organisation	<p>Ammanford Town Council employ a Technical Officer who will be responsible for the project management, procurement, installation, and ongoing maintenance of the lighting once installed.</p> <p>In addition the new Ammanford Regeneration community group will work with Ammanford Town Council on a registration system for the new Friends volunteer group so that accurate tracking of the number of new volunteers can take place.</p>
Mapping of service/ facility within the area	The community will benefit from this project, especially being able to access the park in the evenings for recreational purposes, within a safe lighted environment, which is well overdue.
Future Sustainability	Ammanford Town Council will take full and complete responsible for the installation of the lighting and for the repair and maintenance costs ongoing and will build this cost into the annual precept budget review.
Outputs to be achieved. Monitoring and Evaluation of outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New volunteers – 20 • New services available – 1 • Physical Improvements – 1 • Environmental improvements schemes – 1 • New community assets - 26 <p>Continual monitoring of the Project delivery will take place through the usual council channels with the Town Clerk overseeing the delivery of the project from the project manager (Technical Officer).</p> <p>Upon delivery and installation completion of the new lighting system the Council will consult with the local Policing team to identify if there is a decline in the number of reports of destructive and anti-social behaviour in the park.</p> <p>Ammanford Town Council will endeavour to collate park usage information from members of the public by opening an online feedback form where data can be collected, collated, and reported back on any increase in park usage particularly in the winter months.</p> <p>The council will also consult with the school and other community groups as mentioned above for feedback on any additional use of</p>

	<p>the park facility including the Bandstand and feed this into their annual report.</p> <p>The council will monitor cost savings when delivering any community events that in the past have involved the need to procure lighting for a fee.</p>
Business Plan/Officer Comments	<p>Ammanford Town Council currently has a full playground redevelopment scheme in progress and an application pending with the National Lottery for funding to support this scheme to the value of £100,000.</p> <p>In addition, Ammanford Town Council has set by reserves for the development of this playground should the funding application not be successful with the Lottery to ensure the redevelopment takes place for the community.</p>
Economic Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted -1 • Number of social enterprises created. • Number of social enterprises supported. • Number of full-time jobs created. • Number of jobs safeguarded - 2 • Public and private leverage funding - £9,820.00
Recommendation	Award - £15,000.00

Application reference: MYB-23-06

Project Title	Foodbank & Help Centre
Applicant	Ammanford Foodbank
Ward	AMMANFORD
Project Description/ Community Benefit	<p>Ammanford Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust network, which commenced in 2013 with the primary aim of supporting people in financial crisis, their referral partners include Schools, GP Surgeries, Local Authorities, Hafal, Citizens Advice, Midwives, Health Visitors, Youth Services, also Drug & Alcohol support services.</p> <p>Th aim is to help with the root causes of people’s crisis and with this in mind last August they opened a help Centre, taking time to actively listen and help clients, referring and sign posting to numerous organisations who offer support with physical and mental wellbeing, debt, benefits advice and much more.</p> <p>The majority of clients make use of the centre to look at available options for maximising their incomes and minimising their expenditure, the guidance provided covers all areas of wellbeing and is open to all and have now become a trusted hub within the community.</p> <p>In order to maintain Data Protection, when opened they purchased AdvicePro software to log the guidance offered to clients, which also allows them time and set tasks more efficiently.</p> <p>This funding is to support a 2nd year of support to the community, which will include annual subscription fee of software, Wifi, SIM phone contracts, also the purchase of 2 Apple iPhones, which are used because of the security and note’s function enabling all employees to collaborate, the funding of staffing and core costs has already been secured for the next two years.</p> <p>As a trusted hub within the community where partner organisations and clients come, providing a 2nd year, they would expect to see positive outcomes in the lives of their clients, volunteers and within the foodbank as an organisation.</p>
Total Project Cost	£42,685.15 - Gross
Eligible Capital	£1,298.00 Purchase of 2 iPhones
Eligible Revenue	£3,124.44 £2,250.00 – Annual software subscription £334.44 - Annual Wifi £540.00 – 3 SIM only phone contracts

<p>Ineligible Costs</p> <p>Amount and % of grant requested</p> <p>Match funding</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£38,262.71 Staffing, core costs, continuing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£3,980.20 @ 90%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£38,704.95 Secured grant funds from Trussel Trust until July 2025, also Colafields and Community Foundation Wales</p>
<p>Evidence of Need / Community Engagement</p>	<p>Evidence of need is provided by the number of referrals made from Partnership organisations.</p> <p>The health centre opened 1st August 2022, and since then has seen almost 400 clients making financial gains in excess of £137,000, due to the correct signposting, also supported 760 referrals.</p> <p>The forecast with the cost-of-living crisis, the current state of poverty and deprivation will only get worse, hence the need for this service within the community.</p>
<p>Contributing to the themes of the Fund</p>	<p>Health – Valuing physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing, drawing people together and supporting each other, taking time to actively listen to people, alleviating current circumstances and giving hope for the future, supporting their ongoing health & wellbeing.</p> <p>Environment – As an organisation they are a member of Neighbourly and receive surplus stock from Lidl and Farm foods, Lidl also box up damaged, older fruit and veg to avoid waste, and they buy these boxes to give out to clients with their food parcels, also recycle furniture for distribution, through referral agencies.</p>
<p>Ownership/ Lease</p>	<p>Rented premises</p>
<p>Cross Cutting Themes Welsh Language ICT Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language Policy • Equal Opportunities Statement • Environmental Policy • Data Protection Policy <p>Committed to reducing environmental impact and continually improving on their environmental performance as an integral part of the business strategy and operating methods.</p>
<p>Roles and responsibilities within organisation</p>	<p>Administration & Support Manager – responsible for governance and the support given to clients.</p> <p>Development & Support Manger – responsible for development of the foodbank and the support given to clients.</p> <p>Lead Assistant – responsible for supervising, training, and signposting volunteers.</p>

	<p>Signposting Volunteers – listening to clients, identifying root causes of their crisis, and taking appropriate action and logging guidance on AdvicePro software.</p>
<p>Mapping of service/facility within the area</p>	<p>Working in partnership with organisations within the area, directing clients to the correct appropriate help, a trusted community hub supporting the needs of the community.</p>
<p>Future Sustainability</p>	<p>Ammanford foodbank is funded by the generosity of the community and external grant funding.</p> <p>Staff costs are currently funded until July 2025 by the Trussell Trust Financial Inclusion grant, they will continue to apply for grant funding when needed.</p> <p>Core costs, rental of premises currently supported by Coalfields Community funding.</p>
<p>Outputs to be achieved.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New volunteers – 10 <p>A lot of data is recorded, the Trussell Trust has a data collection system, which is collected across the UK to inform policy and thinking going forward.</p> <p>Data is monitored to track the work, which monitors referrals made to them and the signposting of those referrals, linked to the type of referrals made.</p>
<p>Business Plan/Officer Comments</p>	<p>A much-needed service which is evidenced through the number of referrals made from Partnership Organisations and continually increasing due to the current cost of living crisis.</p> <p>They are continually training and planning to ensure if the need arises, they could function with volunteers alone, to ensure if no grant funding were available in the future for employees, they are sustainable from a workforce point of view to continue.</p> <p>There are numerous grant funders who will continue with the ongoing annual subscription charges for this software and Wifi, the essential services provided will continue beyond this funding.</p>
<p>Economic Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 10 • Number of individuals into employment • No of community groups/organisations assisted -1 • Number of social enterprises created. • Number of social enterprises supported. • Number of full-time jobs created. • Number of jobs safeguarded. • Public and private leverage funding - £38,704.95
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Award - £3,980.20</p>