



## REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30TH OCTOBER 2012

**SUBJECT: EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise members of some external funding received and used for waste awareness and environmental improvement schemes.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Although external funding continues to be rationed the Authority has succeeded in obtaining small scale funding for a range of schemes that will help to promote the corporate cleaner, greener living principles.

The successful schemes will help to make a positive contribution to communities across the County Borough.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Consultation and Citizen Engagement - The Authority is committed to listening to local voices and shaping services to meet the needs of our residents. The proposed environmental schemes have been developed from feedback from local people and their elected representatives
- 3.2 Welsh Government's Waste Strategy "Towards Zero Waste" contains specific and challenging targets to recycle even more and further reduce inputs to landfill. Funding for a waste minimisation and prevention scheme will help us to be at the forefront of recycling in the community.
- 3.3 Biodiversity – Welsh Government has put biodiversity enhancement and protection as a key element of its Environment Strategy. A number of the planned projects will help to support and enrich native species and local wildlife habitats.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 A number of funding bids were submitted to the Welsh Government (Tidy Towns Scheme) for environmental improvement work on areas across the whole of the County Borough. The following schemes were successful.

#### 4.1.1 Highmead Grasslands Enhancement Scheme, Penllwyn

Highmead grasslands is an area of greenspace surrounded by residential properties and is used as a cut through and for informal play by local residents. The site is a renowned area for environmental crime particularly fly tipping and littering.

The scheme will involve a number of activities such as:

- regular site clean ups with the community;
- removal of dense scrub areas that act as litter traps;
- replacement of areas of former hard standing and rough grassland tarnished by fly tipping with a wild flower border;
- Grass over areas of bare ground;
- restore willow woodland to native habitat with tree and shrub planting;
- wildflower and woodland habitat restoration in co-operation with local community groups and schools.

This area is tarnished by fly tipping, littering and is unkempt in many areas. Clearance works, chemical treatment and native planting will help improve the visual appearance of this popular thoroughfare and will stimulate more pride in the local environment.

#### 4.1.2 Twyn School Environmental Enhancement Work

This education establishment has no green space and a hard stoned and tarmac landscape.

Our aim is to enhance the site by providing planters with low maintenance attractive and wild life friendly plants that will brighten up and help green the school grounds

The pupils would be involved in the planting scheme and help to enhance their awareness of cleaner greener principles and stimulate more interest and pride in the local environment.

#### 4.1.3 School Litter Bug Clubs

Last year St Cenydd Comprehensive became the first school to run a school litter bug club to enhance awareness of environmental issues and also stimulate pride in the school grounds and the quality of the environment surrounding the school.

Funding from the Welsh Government's Tidy Towns initiative in 2011 allowed the school to purchase new litter/recycling bins and to place them across the school area

This scheme was then replicated in many schools in the area. More funding from Tidy Towns this year has enabled more schools to get involved and help Caerphilly become a cleaner, greener and better place to live work and learn.

This year's beneficiaries will be:

Abercarn Primary; Abertysswg Primary; Coed-Y-Brain Primary; Cwm Glas Infants; Deri Primary; Fochriw Primary; Hendre Junior; Nant Y Parc Primary; St James' Primary; Tir-Y-Berth Primary; Ty Isaf Infants; Tyn-Y-Wern Primary; Upper Rhymney Primary; Cefn Fforest Primary; Blackwood Comprehensive; Ysgol Penalltau.

#### 4.1.4 Waste Education and Awareness Raising Initiative

The Waste/Recycling team has received financial support from the WLGA (Waste Awareness Wales) to provide two volunteer families with the opportunity to take part in a "Waste Free Challenge".

A local film company will record the families going about their normal lives and assess how they can “slim their bin” and sign up to the living better using “less” principles.

This project will form part of the Wider Waste Awareness Wales initiative to promote our area as a dynamic, forward thinking place to live and work.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no equality implications associated with the above initiatives.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with the above initiatives as they are all funded by external sources (WG in most cases and WLGA Waste Awareness Wales for 4.1.4 above).

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with the above initiatives

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 The above projects involve all sectors of the community and puts great emphasis on living in a cleaner and greener way. The number of young children involved in the schemes will help to create a legacy for future generations to have pride in their community and pride in the precious countryside that we have on our doorstep.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

9.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 Support for these schemes will help to continue to enhance the quality of the environment across the County Borough.

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Councillor D. Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services  
Mark S. Williams, Head of Community and Leisure Services  
Tony White, Waste Strategy and Operations Manager  
Hayley Evans, Principal Waste Management Officer  
Cath Cuss, Technical Assistant – Waste Management  
Nicole Kirke, Trainee Waste Management Officer  
John Poyner, Community Focused Schools Co-ordinator  
Aidan Neary, Trainee Ecologist