

# **Bridgend Town Council Advisory and Working Group for The Newbridge Fields Future Strategy**

## **Draft Terms of Reference for Discussion**

### **Background**

#### **Developing Major Parks for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)**

Public parks, playing fields, open spaces are critical for community cohesion, health and well-being. However, with the ongoing and growing pressures on public finances, the level of Council subsidy required to continue to maintain these important community amenities has become increasingly unsustainable. As well as this, the poor condition of many public pitches and pavilions is deteriorating as a result of diminishing maintenance regimes - the threat of closure is real.

The support for community management models (CATs) continues to be pursued, but for larger sites, where the levels of usage, numbers of groups involved, and scale of investment and improvement needed is significant, the Council has accepted that alternative options should be considered in addition to the 'standard community asset transfer'.

Three locations have been identified for this work:

1. Newbridge Fields;
2. Maesteg Welfare Park;
3. Aberfields, Nantymoel - 'The Planka'.

Just Solutions Consultants have been engaged by BCBC to review and appraise the alternative options for the management of three parks leading to the development of preferred models and future plans.

They will wish to work closely with Bridgend Town Council to carry out this work.

**With this in mind, the Town Council is invited to consider appointing a small working and advisory group to support the consultants in this important work. Alternatively, it could assign the remit to an existing policy sub group if appropriate.**

#### **Proposed Working and Advisory Group Terms of Reference**

##### **Role**

1. To support the work of the consultants in developing a future strategy for consultation
2. To provide an informed and objective source of local knowledge, information, contacts and advice
3. To sense-check information gathered and analysed by the consultants and advise of any gaps and wrong interpretations
4. To keep local colleagues and others informed of progress and support the presentation of findings

##### **Membership criteria**

1. A short-term task and finish group, initially for the duration of the consultation period - expected to last until May subject to progress.
2. A small group of maybe 4-5 local members including:

- a. a mix of members from different areas as well as those with a direct interest
- b. a mix of males and females
- c. a mix of interests
- d. people with good knowledge of the park and sports clubs – contacts and information
- e. open minded, without any conflict of local interest
- f. people who can help shape the ideas and share communicate with others

### **Practicalities**

1. The work of the group may evolve to take on a longer-term role. If such a need emerges from the initial stage, this will demand revised terms and approval from BTC
2. Meetings – may be no more than 2-3 meetings with contributions outside meetings by providing information and responding to queries etc:
  - a. Step 1 to respond to the information gathering template
  - b. Step 2 meeting one will be convened to share/discuss the picture provided. This will also involve a facilitated and open-minded future thinking 'ideas storm' to explore what could be possible
  - c. Step 3 a few weeks later a discussion document will be issued re future thinking will be shared for review and discussion/shaping
  - d. Step 4 meeting two - if possible, an 'open air' site visit/walk and talk, if restrictions start to relax
  - e. Step 5 a report will be prepared for wider discussion/consultation etc.i.e. presentation back to TC
3. Meetings will be coordinated by the consultants