

Welsh Church Fund 2021-2022
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Tel: 01269 590216
Balance Available: £65,741.06

Report Value: £5,000.00

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Application Reference – WCF-21-04

Project Title	Essential Equipment
Applicant	PONTYATES RFC
Project Description	<p>The Rugby Club is an essential asset for both the village of Pontyates and surrounding areas. Over recent years, there has been a significant increase in housing developments in the local area providing a diverse mix of socio-economic groups. However, incidences of social and economic disadvantage are still highly prevalent amongst the community.</p> <p>The Rugby Club has served the village of Pontyates for 52 years providing sporting and recreation opportunities for residents of all ages. As they slowly emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, they consider themselves to be a valuable community resource and this project will help the club to grow its activities and services to directly address the identified needs of people within Pontyates and beyond.</p> <p>The Club has applied to the Sport Wales Be Active Wales Fund for help in addressing the drainage issues that we are facing on our two pitches. The Club has appointed a specialist consultant to oversee the work and if successful with the application will use a sports turf contractor to complete the work.</p> <p>They have also held a series of meetings with the Welsh Rugby Union to put in place a development plan to start a mini and junior section (starting at the mixed age group of under 7's) by approaching each of the local Primary Schools (all of which are Welsh language and servicing low socio-economic areas).</p> <p>As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, their recruitment drive will now start again in earnest and they are extremely confident that by working in conjunction with the WRU, the establishment of the mini and junior section will be a great success. The proposed works to the pitch will enable the club to facilitate a gradual and sustainable return to training for both the seniors and the new mini section this summer that is in line with the WRU Pathway to Participation Framework.</p> <p>A 3-month maintenance period is to be built into the contract on completion of the drainage works. Following this it will be the club's responsibility to maintain the pitch. It is requested that the grant</p>

	<p>from the Welsh Church Fund is used to purchase a ride on mower to enable our volunteers to maintain the pitch in the longer term.</p> <p>The project will provide opportunities to participate in sustainable recreational activities. In turn this will increase the health and wellbeing of residents who are not able to take part in similar activities in the local area without travelling a significant distance.</p> <p>The purchase of the equipment will provide long term savings for the club by reducing the requirement to pay for external contractors to undertake the works on behalf of the club. The savings generated from this will be re-invested into pitch renovation works that will sustain the facilities in the longer term.</p>
Total Project Cost	£35,706.00
Eligible Capital	£35,706.00
Eligible Revenue	Nil
Ineligible Costs	Nil
Cllr and Officer Consultations Undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Tyssul Evans • Chris Munro – WRU – National Club Development Manager • Ceri Richards – Sport Wales • Hywel Thomas – Actif Communities Area Co-ordinator
Ownership/ Lease	Ownership
Funding Package	£35,706.00
Value of Community Investment	£35,706.00
Amount of grant requested	£3,000.00 – (Max award)
Value of Levered Funds	£32,706.00 Sport Wales – Applied
Economic Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 3 • Number of community groups/organisations assisted - 1 • Number of social enterprises created • Number of social enterprises supported • Number of jobs created • Number of jobs safeguarded • Public and private leverage funding - £32,706.00

Officer Comments	<p>Our club volunteers will be upskilled to maintain the pitches using the new equipment providing meaningful activities that directly impact upon the quality of provision serving the local area.</p> <p>We will be supported by the Welsh Rugby Union and the Local Authority Actif Sport and Leisure Department who have approached us to provide activities at the club.</p>
Officer Recommendation	Award - £3,000.00
Subject to	

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Application Reference – WCF-21-03

Project Title	Solar Panels
Applicant	Penybanc RFC
Project Description	<p>During the COVID lockdown it highlighted to the club that any facility can be vulnerable, and they have spent significant time looking at ways to strengthen their position within the community to have a sustainable facility that can remain cost effective to upkeep. They are seeking to improve on all aspects of the club, including utilities, creating own energy, improving lighting and heating system in delivering an energy efficient community building.</p> <p>They have been in consultation with the Welsh Rugby Union, who approached them with the opportunity to be part of their Innovation Fund, which is focused on 6 clubs. They partnered with Renew Wales and are being mentored by Huw Caswell and have received a Club Efficiency Report detailing all the club's areas for improvement and have a Club Action Plan report from Renew Wales.</p> <p>This project is to provide sustainability to the club and is part of a phased approach to completely look at reducing their carbon footprint, in having solar panels installed with battery storage, which will provide further opportunities in improving the lighting within the club, provide LED lighting.</p> <p>The emphasis is to provide a community venue that is sustainable, reducing the running costs of the club utilities, providing an improved facility, for wider use to the community.</p>

	<p>This project is to install solar panels with battery storage on site and the funding will assist to appoint an approved contractor to install the new system, which will store the electricity on site rather than sell back to the national grid and by storing the energy this will allow them to run the lights and energy systems within the club house and the flood lights. By having this system will vastly reduce the utility bills plus help to provide sustainability and energy efficiency at the club.</p> <p>The project will deliver an improved venue and facility for the local community to benefit from and having the new solar system is the first part in energy savings for the club and reductions in their utility bills, means savings made through the new system can then be transferred to future projects such as new LED lights in all rooms, dimmers also included for function room, PIR sensors in WC, along with boiler and heating system upgrade.</p> <p>All the above will create an improved, sustainable facility and act as the HUB for the community, changing the feeling that the club is just for rugby and open the facilities for all fellow clubs and groups to use as well as hold events and parties for club members and the community.</p>
Total Project Cost	£20,004.00
Eligible Capital	£20,004.00
Eligible Revenue	Nil
Ineligible Costs	Nil
Cllr and Officer Consultations Undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Karen Davies • Cllr Carl J Harris • Chris Munro – WRU – National Club Development Manager • Ceri Richards – Sport Wales • Hywel Thomas – Actif Communities Area Co-ordinator
Ownership/ Lease	Ownership
Funding Package	£20,004.00
Value of Community Investment	£20,004.00
Amount of grant requested	£2,000.00 @ 10%
Value of Levered Funds	£18,004.00 £10,000.00 – WRU applied £7,000.00 – Coalfield applied
Economic Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education • Number of individuals into volunteering - 1 • Number of community groups/organisations assisted - 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social enterprises created • Number of social enterprises supported • Number of jobs created - 1 • Number of jobs safeguarded - 2 • Public and private leverage funding - £18,004.00
Officer Comments	Moving forward the club has a clear path of what they want to achieve and partnering with Renew Wales and grant funders they aim to continue with their improvement projects for the community and long-term sustainability of the club.
Officer Recommendation	Award - £2,000.00
Subject to	