

# Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Friends of Glenariffe Recreation & Community Facility

8<sup>th</sup> September 2015

For Decision

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Wendy McCullough – Head of Wellbeing & Sport
Cost: (If applicable)	Capital Investment

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to assess the Business Case for a Recreational & Community facility in Glenariffe against Council's own capital investment criteria.**

## Background

Friends of Glenariffe is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status set up in early 2010, with the following aim:

“To create a state of the art, accessible, inclusive recreation and community facility which will transform a currently disused space, bring communities together and encourage healthier lifestyles for all.”

The group was established to manage the design, build and running of a new Recreational and Community Centre in Glenariffe. A 25-year lease is in place from the start date of the project build signed by the trustees of Oisins CLG which includes permission to use their land for the project. Discussions are also at an advanced stage to formalise (upon securing of project funds) an associated agreement with the trustees which safeguards the role of the recreational and community building - namely to provide a facility and associated services which are available and accessible to the local community for the duration of the lease.

Key objectives of the organisation are as follows:

1. To build the capacity of the local community through the provision of an accessible and inclusive local space and place.
2. To promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for local children, young people, adults and the elderly living in or near Glenariffe.
3. To increase social inclusion by transforming a currently under-used space into a facility which will cater to the needs of the whole local community.
4. To support local economic regeneration through enhanced service delivery and opportunities generated by the new facility.
5. To promote and actively seek partnership working opportunities which facilitate links with community groups, support organisations and statutory agencies to help better connect local people and communities.

Friends of Glenariffe recognise the project as an opportunity to have a significant positive impact on the quality of life of the whole community, significantly increase access to services which support social and educational development, plus enhance the local environment.

With a fit for purpose facility in the community, Friends of Glenariffe plan to develop services which bring benefits to residents, whether around physical and mental well-being; social inclusion; education; personal develop or capacity building in areas of interest.

To date the group has generated circa £170,000 through fundraising events and membership fees. This money has been raised to both contribute towards the cost of building the new Glenariffe Recreation and Community Centre and also to help develop partnerships, connect communities and deliver the project's main objectives.

In March 2014, the organisation commissioned an extensive community survey to provide an update on community needs, the results of which have been published as a feasibility study. The community consultation process included a range of engagement opportunities: public meetings, drop-in sessions, door-to-door surveys and focus groups, and internet surveys to ensure that all sections of the community were consulted.

There has also been engagement with Moyle District Council and local councillors who have supported the project and recognised that Glenariffe has a lack of community space.

In order to achieve the projects aims, Friends of Glenariffe are planning to submit applications for support funding to a number of organisations, including the Big Lottery "Space & Place" programme (August 2015). They are also planning on applying to the Sport NI Strand Two fund in September / October 2015. The funders of both application processes will have an expectation that each project is supported by the council area within which it is based.

The group is submitting a request to Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council for consideration on two levels;

1. Council endorses the project as bringing benefit to the local area and compatible with its strategic priorities for the borough.
2. Council considers the project to be a significant return on investment opportunity which maximises any financial contribution Council might make to the overall cost of the project. Investment request - £250,000.

In order for Council to give due consideration to the above requests the project's business case should be subject to analysis against Council's capital investment criteria adopted in December 2014. In the absence of any Community Facility strategy it is recognised that these investment criteria provide the best form of scrutiny by which to judge external projects submitted to council for endorsement and/or funding. Such assessment should also take account of other opportunities for funding available to the project which may alleviate pressure on future capital investment by Council, Council's Community Development Strategy 2015-18 and Causeway Coast & Glens Council Strategy 2015-19.

#### **Recommendation:**

Council subjects the Business Case for a Recreational & Community Facility in Glenariffe to assessment using Council's own capital investment criteria, giving due consideration to the following;

- Other funding opportunities available to the project.
- Recommendations contained within the Community Development Strategy 2015-18.
- Strategic objectives of the Council 2015-19.

Officers to bring the results of the assessment back to Council for further consideration and decision.