

Investment / Sponsorship Opportunity Title	Amman Valley Trotting Club	Number	020
Originator's name	Katie Wren / Phil Burkhard	Validated	13 January 2013
Originator's organisation	Groundwork Wales	Date	27 November 2012
Email Id	Phil.burkhard@groundwork.org.uk	Tel. No.	01443 849 965

1. WHAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY (e.g. wildlife, plant life, site, attraction, facility or role etc. in the Valleys Regional Park)? Please also provide a jpeg quality photo if applicable / possible.

A community run harness racing track in the heart of the Amman Valley, that has been established since 1979 (see short video at: <http://bit.ly/RZBsmj>). This is a social enterprise, limited by guarantee, run by volunteers, that has just won a Community Green Flag Award.

The Club has open membership and reinvests all surpluses generated back into the site and surrounding community. Amman Valley Trotting Club was set up as a community enterprise originally to organise harness racing for local enthusiasts on a site built on levelled-out former coal spoil tip long-leased from the local authority, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Over the years the Club has responded to local demand both for community events and additional sporting activities at the site. So, although the volunteer club members and other event volunteers from surrounding communities continue to provide a full calendar of harness-racing events as the core activity, increasingly the Club have taken the lead in organising and providing for the local community and visitors alike.

2. WHERE IS THE LOCATION?

Morrison Place, Tairgwaith, SA18 1UT.

3. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT TYPE OF SUPPORT IS REQUIRED:

In-kind support required?	YES	
---------------------------	-----	--

If YES, please indicate what type of support is required and the benefits this will provide

- For the provision of a barn type agricultural building 30mtrs x 15mtrs divided. Part to accommodate a covered facility area and part to store the clubs maintenance equipment. (Approximately 40% of funding already secured)
- The provision of solar panels on the roof of the building to supply the very basic amount of electricity required by the club. The surplus to be sold to a feed in tariff. The income generated would be on a shared basis, as agreed.

Financial support required?	NO	
-----------------------------	----	--

4. HOW WILL THE INVESTOR / SPONSOR BENEFIT?



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Investment / Sponsorship Opportunity Title	Amman Valley Trotting Club	Number	020
Originator's name	Katie Wren / Phil Burkhard	Validated	13 January 2013
Originator's organisation	Groundwork Wales	Date	27 November 2012
Email Id	Phil.burkhard@groundwork.org.uk	Tel. No.	01443 849 965

- PR in local press, track programmes, track banners & billboards (minimum of 12 event s per season)
- A designated race meeting/meetings with all pre and post advertising branded company details
- TV coverage (e.g. 2011: 19 hours of coverage on S4C and consistent TV coverage in the last 19 years) In 2013 S4C has confirmed two 4 hour programmes filmed live under floodlights.
- Sky packages are available for 1 hour programmes repeated 16 times. They have already filmed the Shorttrack UK motorbike event from the venue on two occasions the fee charged was £2,200 per event
- Free corporate race nights
- Team-building opportunities
- Opportunities to develop business skills
- Networking opportunities

5. WHY SHOULD THIS INVESTMENT / SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY BE A HIGH PRIORITY?

This is a totally unique facility, with an excellent history of best practice. Unfortunately due to the ravages of deep and opencast mining for over 100 years, this community has been left as one of the most socially and economically deprived areas in the UK with little or no community benefits. The provision of this building will allow the club to become completely sustainable and no longer reliant on grant funding. Prior to the governments change in the feed in tariff allowance, the club had negotiated with a company to provide the building and solar panels free of charge, with a percentage share out on the return from the tariff. The club undertook the provision of a 3 phase electricity supply to the site, the required planning permission and the redistribution of the electricity supply throughout the site. When the change came the company withdrew their offer, which had a huge impact on the club, as most of their reserves had been used up. There has been a concerted effort made to try and raise funds to erect the building, but the vast majority of grants will not fund a new build. However to date some of the funding has been secured, tenders have been sought on 3 occasions as they depend on the price of steel and with the very slow turnaround of some grant funders they are outdated. This community facilities' building was going to provide a purpose built room for the youth of the community, in addition to being used by the residents in wider community, as well as offering superior facilities to the visitors that attend the events.

6. ANY OTHER COMMENTS?



Investment / Sponsorship Opportunity Title	Amman Valley Trotting Club	Number	020
Originator's name	Katie Wren / Phil Burkhard	Validated	13 January 2013
Originator's organisation	Groundwork Wales	Date	27 November 2012
Email Id	Phil.burkhard@groundwork.org.uk	Tel. No.	01443 849 965

Hopefully this could be an opportunity for the club to have the support of a prominent business to empower them to bring to fruition their overall vision as set out in their comprehensive business plan.

In addition to this there is a the long term 2016/18 there are plans to develop the adjacent 600 acres open cast mining site as the location of a 120 bed hotel, holiday lodges, 130 metre deep lake, as a water diving facility and military / naval / police training centre linked to a submerged aeroplane and ship! This will be of benefit to the club from additional visitors to the area and bring more publicity to the locality.

7. PLEASE PROVIDE A LOCAL NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR MORE INFORMATION

Trudy Launchbury

Tel: 07909 698 309

e-email: avtc@tairgwaith.co.uk

