**Roots to Shoots - Project Progress Report**

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| **Name of project** | **A1 Blackie and the Reddie**  |
| **Vision statement** | The Blackie and the Reddie are two spaces situated between the two communities of Tanyfron and Vron and are well-used recreational spaces for walking and viewing the industrial origins of the villages. When the Blackie site was originally reclaimed there were wide ranging views which encouraged use of the space. However the views are now blocked by scrub trees, which need management.There is also a small stone marking the location of the colliery which has become overgrown with grass and vegetation. There is currently no marker or interpretation to indicate the stones importance and heritage. The project would see:* Initial clearing of parts of the site and a community group formed specifically to manage the space
* Additional seating to allow visitors to enjoy far reaching views across the valley
* Improved signage to make and interpret the colliery stone and history of the space.
* Training for volunteers in coppicing and biodiversity management.
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| **Date of report** | 25th May 2018 |
| **Staff & volunteers participating this quarter** | *1 staff lead member**Tanyfron Residents Association- (Lead).**Tanyfron/ Vron Residents**Tanyfron Local Councillors / Brymbo Community Council**Brymbo County Councillor* *WCBC Assets Department*  |

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| **Activity plan** |
| **Year 1**  | **Years 2-4** | **Years 5-7** |
| Securing permissionsBuilding the groupDeveloping the scheme of worksMaking sure work practices are safe  | Maintaining the groupDeveloping / delivering the scheme of worksMaintenance Coppicing and replantingTrainingEventsInterpretation  | Building the groupDeveloping/ delivering the scheme of worksMaintenance Coppicing and replantingTrainingEventsInterpretation  |

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| **Date** | **01/06/18** | **01/09/18** | **01/12/18** | **01/03/19** | **Total** |
| **Capital Budget** |  Nil | Nil | £500.00 | £2500.00 | £2500.00 |
| **Actual** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Revenue budget** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Actual** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Activities this year against plan (from previous report if applicable)** |
| * January evening meeting: Introduction to the Project meeting attracted 30 people.
* March daytime meeting: Walkabout midweek with Elton Watson – four people/ four staff. WCBC Tree Officer agreed to help write a woodland management plan which the residents can work towards. (Note: Further permissions from WCBC still required).
* Conversation with a WCBC Officer in the Assets Team who looks after the contracts / manages the space. Project description sent to her as she wasn’t aware of what was proposed. Invited to May meeting. (Whilst the Blackie is an open access site the Reddie is believed to be a closed site).
* May 14th meeting: Meetup with residents, County and local Cllrs and the WCBC Officer responsible for the two spaces. The meeting will consider viewpoints from all sides regarding the opportunity to form a small residents group to work on the spaces (which are owned by Wrexham County Council). Permissions, status of group, H & S, plus the opportunities as well as the challenges of the two sites.
* The Constitution of the Group: Discussions surrounding the format of the groups:
* An independent group with their own constitution, H & S & Insurance etc
* A group which sits with Brymbo Heritage Group – H & S, volunteer practices.
* A Friends of Group – under the wing of WCBC – unlikely.

 The second scenario is the most likely at this moment in time.* Discussions regarding Interpretation, sign post, removal of larger trees and I Beacons to begin once group formed. (Also links to Project: Tanyfron Gateway)

**Capital spend scheduled from year 1 – now moved to years 2-4.** **Capital spend for years 2-4: £1620 plus £4,118 = £5, 738** |

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| **Key highlights and achievements this year** |
| * Good turnout at the Introductory Meeting in January.
* Enthusiasm for forming a group
* Helpfulness and positivity of WCBC Woodland Officer regarding the creation of a Management Plan for the spaces
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| **Lessons learned/changes needed** |
| * The spaces are owned by Wrexham Borough County Council, therefore gaining permission to carry out work requires multiple input from various departments in WCBC
* The Reddie may be a closed site
* Gaining support and input from local and County Councillors
* Depending on the wishes of the residents as to the structure of the group, Brymbo Heritage Trust will need develop the necessary volunteer management procedures and insurance to cover what could be a dependant or semi- independent group working-on a third party owned site.
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| **Activities for next year** |
| * To secure permissions from WCBC for a group to work on the site.
* To work with local and County Councillors and WCBC Assets Officer
* To work with residents to form a working party -group
* Depending on structure of group – make sure Brymbo Heritage Trust, as possibly the responsible body has the necessary insurance, H&S and volunteer or Friends requirements in place
* Practicalities: days to meet, access to tools, communication, leadership
* Work with the WCBC Woodland Management Officer to write a plan of work identifying appropriate coppicing and planting that helps to advice and guide community group activity
* Contact the Enfys Ecology Officer to arrange for a site Management Plan to be completed
* Co-ordinate and organise any identified
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