

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC23/040

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	18 th October 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Applications
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To submit applications from the 2023 round of the voluntary and community sector grants programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to determine the applications received in accordance with the grants policy

3. Information

- 3.1. The Council has agreed a voluntary and community sector grants allocation of £20000 for this financial year and a policy for distribution of the money through an application process.
- 3.2. The application stage for the most recent round was launched in August, with a deadline for applications by the 25th September. 24 applications were received, with a combined ask of almost £76,000.
- 3.3. The applications are set out in the table below. Page numbers refer to Appendix Two.

	Applicant	Organisational purpose	£ sought	Project funding requested for	Relevant priorities	Other aspects
1	Home Start Page 1	Family support	£5000	Core running costs – funding 250 staff hours	Mental health and wellbeing Cost of living Increasing voluntary sector capacity	The total cost of service is £78500; £46,000 of which is met from other grants received. The grant requested amounts to 15% of costs.
2	Youth Works Page 5	Providing young people from Kettering and Corby with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional wellbeing/ counselling • Family Support • Education for those struggling in mainstream education • Youth Activities 	£5000	Regeneration of the Youth Works garden as part of a horticulture course, providing wider benefits to the local community, working with Johnny's Happy Place and providing educational and bio-diversity benefits	Mental health and wellbeing Environment and climate change Voluntary sector capacity Cost of living	Mainly buys equipment and materials to build garden.
3	Kettering and District Samaritans Page 10	Listening to people in their darkest moments and trying to save life.	£5000	Meet shortfall in operating costs and improve accessibility and functionality of premises.	Mental health and wellbeing Capacity and reach of the voluntary sector	Grant would support continued operation of the service. Other grant applications submitted.
4	Lewis Foundation Page 15	Provide free gift packs to adult cancer patients in hospital and community. For many 5people our volunteers are	£4284	To fund a variety of free gift packs to patients at Kettering General Hospital, in Centenary and Lilford Wards (more details in application form) .	Cost of living Mental health and wellbeing Supporting volunteering	12 months worth of gift parcels at £3.60 average cost/gift (£3456) Storage boxes for

		their only regular visitors.				transport (£828)
5	Northants Wildlife Trust Page 26	local charity aiming to protect and restore the natural environment; managing sites, provide advice and education and events and volunteering.	£4900	Southfield Farm Marsh Nature Reserve is managed by the Trust and open to the public. The site needs to be cleared of excessive willow growth which impacts adversely on other habitats	environment and climate change.	Largely on infrastructure
6	Natural Ise Page 30	To increase the biodiversity along the River Ise in Kettering. and improve access.	£2190	Provide benches, plant trees in the Ise valley (land adjoining Valley Walk) as part of the plan for the	Environment and climate change Mental health and wellbeing Voluntary sector capacity	Already secured £2000 from other sources
7	Kettering Nature Group Page 34	To promote an affinity with nature within Kettering, improve biodiversity, educate and engage the community	£900	<u>Bee barn Project</u> install educational 'Bee Barns' at sites around Kettering (schools, allotments etc) to support bee populations, improve understanding, and aid recording and tracking of bee populations	Environment and climate change. Mental health and wellbeing	Some match funding Pays for materials and promotional material
8	William St Community Garden Page 39	Help educate local people to grow their own food, on composting and wildlife diversity	£2379	Creation of a reflection/serenity garden, open to local agencies working with people in need	Mental health and well being Voluntary sector capacity	£1068 provided by Wm St Community Group
9	Grow Wild Page 44	Empowering people facing challenges to participate in	£4700	Grow Re-Wild will focus on habitat restoration working alongside	Environment and climate change	£

		activities that promote both personal and environmental growth, offer exercise and improving the local environment.		the ideas and focus of Rewild Britain to eventually aid in the reintroduction of certain species within Kettering	Mental health and wellbeing Reach and capacity of the voluntary sector	
10	Kettering Food Bank Page 50	Providing food parcels to individuals, couples and families, with financial and budgeting advice, and signposting.	£5000	Core running costs – rent, power and fuel. Purchasing food, buying items often not donated eg nappies and pet food	Cost of living Mental health Some environmental benefit (reducing food waste)	Would cover 3 months of running costs (details in application)
11	Highfield Barnes Food Bank Page 54	Food bank serving families and single people on the Highfields estate; operating 3 times/week	£1000	Purchase of more supplies and ingredients to make more meals.	Cost of living Mental health and wellbeing	Would cover several months of costs
12	Groundwork Trust Page 58	Championing the local environment, encouraging sustainable lifestyles, supporting young people prioritising wellbeing and supporting with cost of living.	£4426	Conduct 2 local neighbourhood blitz campaigns, - Highfield area of Kettering and Avondale-Grange Working with the community, identify a small number of streets, reach out to local residents, undertake litter picking, tidying and weeding, look at new planting ideas to create a cared for feel and celebrate their local area. Promote Food Bank and Green Dr projects.	Environment Mental health (improving engagement and feel of an area) Cost of living (via promoting Groundwork services) Promoting volunteering opportunities	£1000 contribution in kind by Groundwork

13	Grange Resource Centre (NET association) Page 63	Multi-functional centre providing meals, food bank, clothing activities, training and crafts	£3060	Establish three new activity/community groups for a 12 week pilot - Adult chat - "Sport with" - Mums	Mental health and wellbeing Voluntary sector capacity	£760 for adult chat £1700 for "sport with" £560 for Mum's sessions
14	Highfield Barnes Community Association Page 68	To provide community support and focus in the Highfields area of town	£1000	To run more activities, trips out and sessions at the community centre, aimed at those on low incomes	Cost of living Wellbeing and mental health	Intended to run for the coming 12 months
15	Highfield Barnes Craft Group Page 71	Part of the community association, supporting older people for social interaction	£500	Purchase equipment for the craft group.	Wellbeing and mental health	
16	Highfield Barnes Youth Group (Harvesters) Page 74	Youth Group serving 4-14yr old local children	£1000	To provide more activities and trips out for local children in the autumn.	Mental health and wellbeing	Intended to be spent by Christmas 23
17	Crescents Community Association Page 77	Community centre	£800	Improve football facilities - Repairs to sit on mower - Redecorate changing rooms	Mental health and wellbeing	
18	Athena Activities (Corby Sports Dimensions) Page 81	Childrens Holiday Camps and After-School Clubs. Providing meals, support and respite to working parents, children from left behind	£5000	Provide subsidised bookable places during February half term when govt support can't apply. Venue is Tresham College	Cost of living Mental health and wellbeing Capacity of voluntary sector	£550 from applicant's own resources

		areas and those classed as "Pupil Premium"				
19	St Andrews Trust Page 86	Support/enable St Andrew's church by maintaining facilities open to community esp. those who live close to the church or are from low economic backgrounds.	£2580 (£1075 plus VAT each item)	2 Smart Boards to improve meeting facilities for local voluntary groups, language learning and educational uses. A smart board would allow groups to show films, video clips, connect to the internet or give presentations.	Capacity and reach of the voluntary sector.	£300 set up costs to be met by the applicant
20	Shire Sounds Page 90	Not for profit organisation	£3000	A) Upgrades to training and production studio to improve training for new presenters and academy students. B) marketing of support provided for local businesses and young person's academy training programme. C) cover essential operational expenses - rent, broadband	Mental health and wellbeing Voluntary sector capacity	
21	Shine Arts Page 94	Supporting people with Additional Needs e.g. Neurodivergent and people with Learning Difficulties; specialize in Arts & Crafts and other activities	£5000	Magazine for service users for three years	Mental health and wellbeing Capacity of the voluntary sector	£1400 from organisation's own resources

22	Becci Hurrell Voice Academy - BHVA Axis Hub Page 99	Establishing a gig venue and community hub (Gala Bingo site) providing individuals with skills, support and sanctuary, make creative workspaces, collaboration between education and workforce sectors.	£2820	In order to bid into the community ownership fund, they need to provide an independent market valuation of the building	(Ultimately:-) Capacity and reach of the voluntary sector Mental health and wellbeing Environment and culture change	£5000 already committed from own resources
23	Kettering Civic Society Page 106	Promote civic pride, preserve local heritage and educate and inform about local history, geography and architecture	£1300	Painting three Openreach telecoms boxes in All Saints, Headlands and Brambleside areas with creative images	(Street scene improvement largely)	£100 match funding from Civic Society
24	Kettering Civic Society Page 110	Promote civic pride, preserve local heritage and educate and inform about local history, geography and architecture	£5000	Street performance to recreate beginnings of nonconformist movement and founding of the Baptist Missionary Society in Kettering.	None identifiable	£500 match funding from Civic Society

4. Assessment

4.1. The policy applies some further tests to the applications:-

- Does the project target resources to meet identified needs?
- Does it maximise leverage and match funding?
- Does it maximise sustainability – social economic and environmental?
- Does the application offer greater accountability and open-ness?
- Is the funding to be provided sustainable?

This analysis is set out in Appendix Three, which also details the other Town Council funding provided to these groups in the past two financial years. The table has been colour coded to reflect a good match (green), moderate match (amber) or a poor match (red) with these tests.

- 4.2. A copy of the grants policy is attached as Appendix 1 and the completed applications forms are attached as Appendix 2
- 4.3. Clearly with so many applications, almost all of which have some merit, it will be necessary to find some alternative strategies when considering applications, including
- Offering less than that requested from applicants, which would require them to scale down their ask, for some that might render the project unviable
 - Finding other funding streams for projects deemed worth funding but not from this pot.
- 4.4. Some of these applications would fit into the criteria for the current round of Lottery funding (health and wellbeing) or a future round of *Love Wildlife* funding. Equally funds could be drawn from the community resilience budget, If members feel they are worth funding in principle but not from this budget, then they could either be allocated funding from those other budgets, or just referred into those other grant pots alongside other applications. (The Kettering Food Bank (application no 10) has also applied to the current Lottery Funding round for core funding).

Some suggested alternative funding routes for some of the applicants above are-

	Current applicant for voluntary and community sector grant	Amount sought	Community Resilience Fund (£7500)	Lottery Funding round – health and wellbeing (£2000)	Love Wildlife (£2-3k)
1	Home Start	5000	Yes	Yes but too much	
2	Youth Works	5000	Yes		
3	Samaritans	5000			
4	The Lewis Foundation	4284		Yes	
5	Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants	4900			Yes but too much
6	Natural Ise	2190			Yes but too much
7	Kettering Nature group	900			Yes

8	William St Community Garden	2379		Yes but too much	Yes, but too much
9	Grow Wild	4700			Yes but too much
10	Kettering Food Bank	5000	Yes	Yes but too much	
11	Highfield Barnes Food Bank	1000	Yes	Yes	
12	Groundwork Trust	4426	Yes		
13	Grange Resource Centre (NET association)	3060	Yes	Yes	
14	Highfield Barnes Community Association	1000	Yes		
15	Highfield Barnes Craft Group	500	Yes		
16	Highfield Barnes Youth Group (Harvesters)	1000	Yes		
17	Crescents Community Centre	800			
18	Athena Activities /Corby Sports Dimensions	5000	Yes		
19	St Andrews Trust	2850			
20	Shire Sounds	3000			
21	Shine Arts	5000			
22	BHVA	2820	Yes		
24	Civic Society	1300			
25	Civic Society	5000			

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1. The policy was the subject of consultation before it was adopted.

5.2. The availability of grants was advertised through the website and social media accounts and to about 30 organisations directly and to a further 100 or so through the offices of the Voluntary Sector Network, which also offered to support those completing an application form.

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

- 6.1. There is £20,000 in the budget. There is also some ability to draw down money from the community resilience budget, which contains £7500.
- 6.2. A second round of funding could be carried out in January 2024, depending on the amount of money unspent within the ward initiatives fund
- 6.3. The range of grants on offer is between £500 and £5000
- 6.4. Applicants seeking money for core costs are not guaranteed ongoing funding under the policy.

7. Climate Change Implications

A number of the applications aim to improve bio-diversity, access to nature and enhance habitats and open space, with an explicit objective of addressing the measure (below) on environment and climate change. Some of the other applications, with a primary focus elsewhere, also reference the environmental benefit of what they are seeking to do. Appendix Three identifies those applications which do either.

8. Policy Implications

This particular grants round identified the following priorities:-

- Measures which help address the cost of living pressures on local residents
- Measures which improve the local environment and help to combat climate change
- Measures which improve mental health and wellbeing
- Measures which improve the capacity and reach of the voluntary sector

Background Papers

Applications
Publicity material
Policy

