



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/

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| Committee:-      | Finance and Governance Committee |
| Date:-           | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023       |
| Author:-         | Martin Hammond, Clerk            |
| Report Title:-   | Love Wildlife Competition        |
| Wards Affected:- | All                              |

**1. Purpose of Report**

To consider proposals to fund projects submitted to the Love Wildlife Competition

**2. Recommendations**

Members views are sought on the various proposals submitted

**3. Information**

3.1. Council at its meeting in December 2022 agreed to host a competition for local groups to submit ideas which would generate bio-diversity gains in Kettering. The competition was advertised by social media, on the website, and in the local press. The deadline for submissions was set as Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

3.2. At the time of writing 6 bids have been submitted and they are summarised in the table below. Further bids received between the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and the deadline will be circulated to members on Monday morning (27<sup>th</sup>).

| Name of organisation   | St Mary's primary school   | Isebrook school  | Southfield School for Girls   |
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| Contact details :  | Lisa Bailey<br>01536485500<br>L.bailey@stmarysprimarykettering.co.uk<br>Fuller street<br>Kettering<br>Nn16 0JH<br>Www.stmarysprimarykettering.co.uk  | Vince Simmons<br>01536 500030<br><br>vsimmons@isebrookschoo.co.uk<br><br>Isebrook school, Eastleigh Road<br>,Kettering,NN15 6PT<br><br>www.isebrookschoo.co.uk   | Dr Andrew Fordham<br>01536 513063<br>afordham@southfieldsch.co.uk<br>Southfield School<br>Lewis Road<br>Kettering<br>NN15 6HE<br><a href="https://www.southfieldsch.co.uk/">https://www.southfieldsch.co.uk/</a>  |
| Charity/CIC no   |  |  |   |
| Organisation   | Forest school  | SEN school   | School (state maintained)   |
| organisation's main role and purpose   | I am the Forest School leader  | teaching people with special education needs to become the best they possibly can. To train students to work in horticulture and environmental industries  | The main role of this organization is as a place of education.  |
| Which prize are you applying for?  | £200   | £200   | £1,000  |
| Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. | It is a small patch of land, which was once part of the park. It is a beautiful area, with 6 well established trees that are home to birds. We have lots of brambles which help the visiting wildlife. Also we are lucky to be a nesting site for ladybirds. | We are situated on the border between a woodland ecosystem and a wetland ecosystem we see our project as a bridge between the two. We wish to create habitats where we can encourage butterflies that will forage both habitats. Build places for amphibians to over winter above the flood zone to provide a food source for butterflies and other insects. To build hedge hog dens to encourage them to breed and with the increase in biodiversity be able to sustain a viable population. To make feed and watering stations for woodland birds as well as nesting sites for water fowl (they often breed on this site anyway). Most of the work will be done and designed for the students but we would like to work with local wildlife agency's to make sure we are growing species that are native to our area . We would like to reintroduce plants that are now rare in this area that were once common. We would like to install owl and bird boxes to give much needed nest sites for small as well as larger birds then our students could study them. Our site is close to a river and is one of the few areas around here you can see bats . we would like to install bat boxes and with the wild flower areas we are planning we are sure to attract insects for them to feed on. Our site is badger and fox friendly we would like to look at ways we could | Our project, led by Eco Club students, is to develop a school pond at Southfield School. Our students are following the Eco Schools initiative and devising different environmental projects. The group were successful last year in gaining the Green Flag status for our school. One of the projects that they want to focus on this year is around Biodiversity. We do not have a pond and we feel it would be a great benefit for local wildlife and will increase biodiversity. It will also allow us to study habitats and the biodiversity, as part of our learning. With the removed soil, we will create a butterfly bank. The soil will be sculpted into a mound, and planted with various wildflower seeds. We are bidding for a £1000 grant, as this will not only include the purchase of the pond liner and pond plants, but the mini-digger hire to dig the pond and also the fencing around it, to make sure it is safe. It will be located in a quieter area of the school grounds, which has various trees and some established habitats. The addition of an aquatic habitat will attract different insects and also provide a water source for other wildlife. Our Geographers and Scientists will be able to learn more about biodiversity as well. I have spoken with staff from those curriculum areas and they are excited about creating such learning opportunities, which |

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|                                      |  | make it deer friendly as well. Our work with the superbloom project last year created large areas of nectar rich corn flowers bringing insects in to feed we would like to continue with that.   | will benefit our community through education.  |
| What exactly will the funds pay for? | We want to have an area for bees and others to visit. We would also like to invest in a mud kitchen, a hammock and anything that will encourage local wildlife to visit. | We would look at the funds making deer gateways bird and bat boxes nesting platforms for redkite. Supplies of area appropriate wild flower seeds clearance and disposal of any materials found that are detrimental to the environment. Materials and equipment to enable our students to study the wildlife. binoculars books spotters guides may be even a camera so we can film what goes on at night in the wildlife area. | The funding will pay for a pond liner (approximately £60 from RSPB), pond plants (approximately £60 from Fish and Pond Centre) and also a mini-digger hire (approximately £200 from JW Clark). Our site staff will be able to provide the labour at no additional cost. Funding would also pay for fencing around the pond, to make it safe (anticipated to be approximately £300). We would also need 1 tonne bag of sand, to line the pond (approximately £70 from JW Clark). We would also need some large stones / rocks around the edge of the pond (approximately £250 from JW Clark). Finally, some wildflower seeds will be needed to create the butterfly bank (1kg for approximately £60 from Boston Seeds). |
| When will the activity happen?       | Once the weather is better we plan to get the child to plant some plants to encourage the wildlife.  | We are already starting to clear the area and will plant seeds in the next month.  | Depending on when we find out if we are successful with our project bid, the pond could be created by our Estates staff around Easter-time, and ideally during the school holidays, to limit any noise from machinery. Eco Club students can then develop the pond, in the summer term, by finishing it off and planting the pond plants. The pond could then be utilised in learning opportunities in Science and Geography.  |

| Name of organisation | Grow Wild   | Bishop Stopford School  | Ise Valley Scout Group  |
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| Contact details :    | Oliver Connolly<br>07779960099<br><a href="mailto:oconnolly@growwild.life">oconnolly@growwild.life</a><br>10 Market St, Kettering<br>NN16 0AH<br><a href="http://www.GrowWild.Life">www.GrowWild.Life</a> | Victoria Hutchinson<br>01536 503503<br><a href="mailto:vhutchinson@bishopstopford.com">vhutchinson@bishopstopford.com</a><br>The Headlands<br>Kettering<br>NN15 6BJ<br><a href="http://www.bishopstopford.com">www.bishopstopford.com</a> | Laura Batten<br>07557803338<br><a href="mailto:lvsg-wolves@outlook.com">lvsg-wolves@outlook.com</a><br>C/O 32 Sussex Road<br>Kettering<br>Northants<br>NN15 6JY |

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| Charity/CIC no   | 13357010   | n/a  | 1030310   |
| Organisation   | Community Interest Company   | School   | Scout group registered charity  |
| organisation's main role and purpose   | To support people with disabilities, Neuro diversity and mental health to access nature and outdoor activities by supporting contribution to local green spaces and environmental projects   | Bishop Stopford is one of the largest secondary schools in Kettering. Consequently we can make a huge impact – both through projects on site, and in educating our students on the impact they can have on the environment around them. We desire that every student should realise his or her unique potential, and empower them to make change themselves. Our curriculum nurtures and challenges, prioritises individual worth and social cohesion and fosters independence and interdependence. Through both the taught and wider curriculum, such as environmental projects like these, we provide the foundation for future success, developing both depth and breadth   | The Ise Valley Scout Group are a group of approx. 100 young people aged 6 to 16 based on the Ise Lodge in Kettering. We strive to bring the fun, friendship and adventure of Scouting to as many young people as possible in the local area and enhance our local area with community projects and activities.  |
| Which prize are you applying for?  | £1000  | £200   | £200  |
| Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. | The River Ise in Kettering has become heavily polluted with rubbish and debris, affecting the habitats of the wildlife that rely on the river. To address this issue, we propose a project to clean up the river and improve the habitats of the wildlife that call it home. | The vision is to create an outdoor space for the school, which will promote biodiversity, bring back the bees and encourage the birds whilst equally providing a sensory Garden of Reflection. We have selected an area of the school site which will lend itself well to this project and our hope is to plant trees in November as the area develops. We would like to plant many flowers including lavender, create a large herb planter (for the herbs to be used by The Olive Grove school canteen), make 3 large bucket ponds, create a seating area and have bird feeders and upcycled homemade wind chimes. We have some community days coming up in the summer where we plan to do all the building and planting, and our on-site team have agreed to make us some herb planters from pallets. An Eco Group already exists within the school that meets every Thursday so we hope to engage this group with the upkeep and development of this project. We see this as just a beginning. We also have a year 12 student very keen to start a horticulture club in September 23. I am keen for the students to 'own' the project and see this as something they have | Our garden area at our hut, which is next to a public footpath and visible to passers by, needs some love! We would like to make it a more wildlife friendly place by planting some low maintenance bee and butterfly friendly perennials in our flower beds, build some bird and bat boxes for our well established trees and some big hotels and create a bird feeding station. As a group the Young people and their families would be involved in creating the project and then maintaining it for future generations. We are located close to the river Ise and know there are many insects, birds, animals and butterflies locally but at the moment our garden is not very attractive to them. During our community events such as our May Fair local people will be able to visit the garden as well as enjoy it when walking past and benefit from the increase in wildlife it will bring. The space is also used by various community groups such as playgroups. Our aim would be for the Young people to carry out as much of the work as possible, building the bird and bat boxes and bug hotels, planting and maintaining the perennials and making and regularly maintains |

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|   |  | <p>created and invested in. We are submitting our application following a focus group of year 7 and 8 students. These students had lots of ideas for future projects including hanging planters and a beehive! We will see!</p> <p>As school chaplain, I am keen for the school to have a space to escape the noise and to be outside with nature. I believe that this will provide benefits for mental, spiritual and emotional health, as well as the amazing improvements this will make for local biodiversity</p>  | <p>bird feeders. We often have family work party days where our members, their families, and the wider community are invited to help us in the garden and having more infrastructure would likely increase engagement and encourage more volunteers.</p>   |
| <p>What exactly will the funds pay for?</p> | <p>The project will begin with a community-led clean-up event, involving local volunteers, to remove rubbish and debris from the river and its banks. The cost of equipment and supplies for the clean-up event is estimated at £500, including gloves, rubbish bags, and other necessary cleaning equipment.</p> <p>To further improve habitats for wildlife, we will install a series of nesting boxes for birds and bat boxes in nearby trees. This will create new homes for local wildlife and help promote biodiversity in the area. The cost of materials and installation for the nesting boxes and bat boxes is estimated at £250.</p> <p>The wider benefits of this project to the community are numerous. The clean-up event will bring together local residents to work towards a common goal, promoting a sense of community and civic pride. The project will also improve the aesthetic value of the river and its surroundings, making it a more attractive destination for local residents and visitors. By promoting biodiversity and improving habitats for wildlife, the project will also help to preserve the natural heritage of the area, benefiting future generations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbs – £10 for 3 plants. £10 per herb, and 5 herbs out of this selection, whichever are in stock at the time = £50 (mint, rosemary, chives, parsley, sage, dill, lemon balm, thyme, marjoram)</li> <li>• Large lavender plants - £9.99 x2 = £20</li> <li>• Bird feed – 13KG pack £21.50 (Mixed bird seed from Vine House Farm)</li> <li>• 3 bucket ponds – £40</li> <li>• Pond weed - £40</li> <li>• Perennial flowers - £20 – a mix of flowers ready to plant and some seeds to grow on</li> <li>• Compost – 3 bags for £10. 6 bags total = £20</li> <li>• Materials to make bird feeders – jute string £3.99, Coccolina Natural glue £4.50,</li> <li>• Paint? – Approximately £10, most of the materials will be upcycled.</li> </ul> | <p>DIY bat and bird boxes to be built by Young people and installed on site.</p> <p>Low maintenance bee &amp; butterfly friendly perennial plants and compost for flower beds.</p> <p>A bird feeding station with different feeders and various bird seed &amp; feed.</p> <p>Resources to create our own bug hotels such as wood, logs, bamboo canes.</p> <p>Gardening tools as necessary.</p> <p>Maybe some fruit trees to screen off the neighbours garden in a wildlife friendly way.</p> |

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|                                | <p>In summary, our River Ise clean-up project will involve a community-led clean-up event, installation of nesting and bat boxes, and tree planting and wildflowers. The total cost of the project is estimated at £950, leaving £50 for contingency purposes. This project will help to improve the habitats of the wildlife that rely on the river, promote biodiversity, and provide wider benefits to the community</p> <p>Equipment to clean river that includes waters bin hoops litter pickers and material to build bat and bird boxes and wildflower seeds</p> |   |  |
| When will the activity happen? | This will take place late spring early summer, with flow up events throughout the year  | The school has a unique opportunity to undertake this project in the form of a new Activities Week in June 2023. Two days have been allocated to year 8 students to be involved in community projects. This a project to benefit the school community as a whole and will take place on Monday 26th and Wednesday 28th June. This will be the start of the project which will then become a longer-term vision. | Depending on when funds received but preferably during the summer months with a “grand opening” once finished for families and the community- we’ll send you an invite- we make great cakes! |

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

The Council has sought proposals from community groups and schools primarily.

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

The Council has set aside £3000 for tree planting and bio-diversity measures in its 22/23 budget. The competition was launched with a top prize of £1000 and up to 10 prizes of £200, although, depending on the pattern and quality of applications, it might be possible to vary this to have more top prizes and less smaller prizes.

#### **6. Climate change implications**

This provision is specifically aimed to encourage and fund measures which improve local bio-diversity and people’s engagement in the issue.

## 7. Policy Implications

The Council's corporate plan says that the Council exists:-

- To understand what local people want and aspire to
- To provide services not already delivered by statutory bodies, where there is an unmet need
- To represent its area to other service providers
- To provide leadership to its community
- To provide civic pride and presence

Objective 8 says the Council will, within its own remit, strive to protect, restore and enhance our local biodiversity and the natural world that surrounds us and of which we are all a part and will strive to take the most sustainable approach to the design and delivery of its own services

Background Papers

Publicity material

Bids