



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/064

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	25 th January 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Ward Initiatives Fund
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To review the workings of the Ward Initiative Fund (WIF) after its first year and to determine how to use the money that has not been spent.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to

- a) note the use of the fund in 2022,
- b) amend the rules to remove the provision preventing members supplementing a project already funded by the Town Council. (by recommendation to Council)
- c) agree to invite applications to use the remaining funds of £2119

3. Information

- 3.1. The WIF has been running for 9 months. Of the total £10,000 allocated, £7881 was been spent before the deadline of 31st December. 9 members spent their whole allocation, 2 members spent nothing and the remaining 9 spent more than half. A total of 23 projects were supported (a summary list is included in Appendix one below) 10 of which were supported by pooling contributions, mostly by members in the same ward, but not exclusively.
- 3.2. Members asked if the rules governing the WIF could be reviewed. The existing rules are shown at Appendix Two. The main areas which have proved difficult for some members are
 - the rule which prevents members supplementing a project funded by the Town Council.

- the rule which specifies that food and drink can only be funded as a minor part of any event

- 3.3. The first one of these is a precaution against organisations gaming the system, but may be seen as unnecessarily restrictive; also, it does not anticipate a situation where a member makes a WIF award and then the Town Council is asked to fund the same activity through one of its other funds. The Kettfest contributions in 2022 ran up against this issue to some extent. It is suggested that this restriction could be easily dropped if members wished to do so.
- 3.4. The second issue arises from a wish to support social events where food and drink is an important part of the event, not a minor part of it; we have navigated around this by being clear about what was being paid for through the WIF (that is materials other than the food and drink). The provision as set out in the policy is an amended version of the former KBC ban on any such support for social events – this was motivated by a desire to avoid “treating” by members – and experience this year suggests that we can keep on the right side of the policy without needing to amend it.
- 3.5. The Council’s policy is that unspent monies are transferred to the grants fund, for distribution through that means. There is no other money available in the grants fund, although the community resilience fund has £2550 unspent/uncommitted within it. Given the relatively small sum available, it could be combined with the community resilience fund amount but advertised as a general grants pot of £4600 – or just advertised separately.

4. Consultation and Engagement

No consultation has been conducted on this issue.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

None – there is £2119 to re-allocate.

6. Policy Implications

The 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

and the WIF contributes to these objectives.

Background Papers

Spending records for WIF

APPENDIX ONE

Projects supported in 2022.

Kettfest entertainers	£900	five members
Swimming club equipment	£576	four members
Kettering Civic Society	£200	two members
Indian Cultural Association support costs	£300	one member
William St Community Garden	£515	two members
Hall Meadow Community Garden	£500	one member
Kettering Food Bank	£ 60	one member
Grange Resource Centre Food bank	£750	three members
Sikh Temple Food Parcels	£540	two members
Age UK craft materials Rock Rd Baptist church	£ 75	one member
Knife Amnesty box	£450	one member
31 st Rainbow Guides support costs	£ 60	one member
5 th Kettering Scout Group – trips out	£200	two members
Kettering Cubs	£200	two members
Crescents Community Centre redecoration	£500	two members
Counties Community Association jubilee event	£150	three members
Midland Band Club Xmas party	£500	two members
Highfield Community Association Xmas presents	£ 60	one member
Highfield Community Association crafts group	£360	two members
St Andrews School Eco champions	£ 75	one member
Brambleside PTA signs to discourage parking	£490	one member
Becky Hurrell Voice Academy instruments	£100	one member
Survey of residents in ward	£320	one member

APPENDIX TWO

WIF Rules Summary

◦ **WHAT WE CAN FUND**

- Community events, fayres and carnivals
- Community or Neighbourhood Planning activities
- Sports equipment, coaching activities or activity that promotes participation in physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Environmental improvements including tidying up land, new planting schemes etc
- Improvements to Community facilities
- Printing and distribution of local newsletters Support for new community groups; like first aid, or committee skills training
- Equipment for use by the local community
- Young people projects, including equipment for youth groups
- Schemes or projects which actively promote safer communities e.g. safer parking schemes and speed reduction measures
- Food and drink provided as a minor element of any of the above activities.

◦ **WHAT WE CAN'T FUND**

- Expenditure on items on which the Council is not, by law, allowed to spend money
- Requests where the beneficiary has also received or is set to receive, money from the Council's Small Grants Scheme
- Schemes that promote the positions of politicians or political groups
- Schemes that exclusively support religious activities
- Projects or schemes aimed at making a profit
- The replacement of permanent facilities or equipment that is subject to an insurance claim
- To supplement a project funded by the Town Council
- Facilities or activities which are the duty of a statutory body to provide
- Funding that benefits a single individual
- Spending exclusively on food or drink

7. Information