

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/037

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	28 th September 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Community Resilience Fund
Wards Affected:-	All but especially Avondale Grange, Pipers Hill, St Michaels/Wicksteed

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for funding projects from the community resilience fund.

2. Recommendations

That

3. Information

3.1. The Council established a community resilience fund as part of its 2022/23 budget in the sum of £7400. At the last meeting, this committee agreed criteria by which the fund could be applied. The fund was intended to enable the Council to support or initiate projects which

- Supported the Levelling up agenda
- Improved access to health and wellbeing projects
- Tackled community safety problems
- Helped vulnerable groups with social interaction and neighbour support
- Enabled the community to embrace more sustainable habits

3.2. The criteria agreed in July was:-

- The money can be used to
 - Help social support networks be developed or sustained, where delivered through community groups, voluntary organisations, religious institutions or charities

- Help people take more exercise and eat more healthily – especially children and older people
- Help people improve their mental health and general wellbeing through activities and social networks.
- Support networks, like neighbourhood watch schemes, which improve the ability of neighbourhoods to resist crime
- Supports measures which help people develop habits which consume fewer natural resources and saves them money
- Communicate and publicise services listed above.
- The fund will not be available for capital expenditure (e.g to buy single items costing more than £250)
- Funding in any one year for any project does not imply that it will be repeated in subsequent years.

4. Proposals

4.1 Although too late to be considered through the grants scheme, the following requests for support were received during the summer:-

Applicant	Project	Amount requested
Citizens Advice Bureau	<p>Volunteer Recruitment</p> <p>CAB are looking to recruit many more volunteers to help them address the growth in demand for their services as a result of the cost of living crises. They aim to recruit and train 10-15 new volunteers over the next 12 months to deal with drop in traffic, face to face appointments and answer digital and phone inquiries. It takes 5 months to train a CAB volunteer.</p> <p>CAB volunteers currently provide 102 hours of advice per week and support 580+ clients a year. CAB has exceptionally high retention rates for its volunteers, with an average service of 8 years. They are aiming to be able to support an additional 380-1150 additional clients depending on the number of volunteers recruited and deployed.</p> <p>The total project comprises</p> <p>£7050 in training costs</p> <p>£200 in volunteer costs</p>	£2500

	<p>£4000 for overheads (management, equipment, insurance etc)</p> <p>CAB are seeking support from other sources.</p>	
St Michaels Church PCC	<p>“Teas Up Community Meet Up”</p> <p>Founded before lockdown, this free, volunteer led Monday morning session at St Michael’s church had success in reaching people who are lonely across generations. It provides an opportunity to chat, have refreshments and do some collective activity for people who might previously have attended a day centre. It was regularly drawing in people of all ages including some families. It was originally expected to draw in people from the immediate vicinity, but in fact had attracted people from a much wider area. Covid had knocked the confidence of some people, and older people have grown less able to travel independently. Where community transport is not available, and to encourage regular attendance by vulnerable community members the request is for a grant which would pay taxi fares for some individuals, of £650.</p> <p>A request has also been submitted for £200 to pay for a folding trolley to enable hot drinks to be served safely in the sessions (cost including delivery)</p>	£850
Picture the Difference Community Interest Community, based at the William Knibb	<p>Cookery advice and help “Lunch to Go”</p> <p>During Lockdown, PtD responded to the health and wellbeing issues of their participants by offering a series of live zoom sessions. One of the most successful was Lunch to Go. Participants would be emailed a recipe and shopping list in advance and get their ingredients ready for the zoom session. They would then connect to our colleague, cooking at home, and were supported, to cook-along. It helped with people’s confidence in the kitchen, cooking independence, planning and budgeting. Crucially, the meals were about healthy cooking</p>	£4950

	<p>from scratch on a budget and being creative about how to use what's in the fridge or cupboard to avoid food waste and to save money. The food offer has continued to evolve with new ideas and meals every week that get everyone excited about cooking. Participants are cooking, with increasing independence, and serving up to 30 people every lunchtime. They now seek specific funding to create the first in a series of cookery books to be given out to local community groups, especially in the Windmill Ward. We will be using the digital art talents of participant, Max Champion, to design 'Food Heroes' and the book cover, along with artwork and quotes from others. In addition, we will create a number of simple cooking videos featuring some of our participants, 'Cook & Pause', which will link to the recipes and go on our Youtube channel as an additional support. We will use our good, existing partnership links with Windmill Ward councillors, Home Start, Youth Works, Teamwork Trust; Jonny's Happy Place, The Green Patch and Action for Happiness</p>	

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

There is £7400 available in the budget.

Picture the Difference have not responded to a request as to whether their bid can be downscaled.

6. Policy Implications

The Corporate plan says:-

The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, particularly in the light of the impacts of covid 19, through its own services and in partnership with others.

The Council is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people.

Background Papers

None

11/09/22

