



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/083

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Community Resilience Funding
Wards Affected:-	Avondale Grange and Pipers Hill

### 1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to make a grant to North Northants Sports and Wellbeing Club for Womens Safe Workshop in the Avondale Grange area.

### 2. Recommendations

Members views are requested .

### 3. Information

3.1. At its meeting on this committee agreed to reserve £1000 to support levelling up projects on the Avondale Grange estate which had not been able to be funded through the community voting process run by NNC. The community voting process invited local people to select from a range of schemes which ones they most valued for that to be implemented in the area.

3.2. Five schemes did not make the selected short list but nevertheless had value. After discussion with NNC officers, the clerk agreed that only one of those met the Town Council's objectives, its budget and seemed achievable in the near future.

3.3. The applicant was asked to re-describe his project and it is set out below

3.4. "North Northants Sports & Wellbeing Club (NN S&W) has been existence for a number of decades within Kettering. For over 5 years, we have been an active club within the Grange community and have started to build back the club after the COVID pandemic. NN S&W is a constituted organisation and has been accredited with the Safeguarding Code in Martial Arts with the appropriate organisation structure in place such as a dedicated Welfare Officer. NN S&W are currently working with

Northamptonshire Sport to provide training to primary children in the local Grange community. This local community needs significant investment in regeneration of support and club activities. We currently have four volunteers who have a combined experience of 70 years in providing self-defence and empowering people within their lives. SAFE Women Workshops

3.5. We currently are looking to invest our resources at the St Johns Community Hall in the Grange community in opening a Women's Safe workshop. From our feedback, we are aware that there is a great number of women who do not have the confidence levels to leave their houses alone because they feel anxious and worried about what might happen. These workshops are designed to change the behaviour of this mindset and provide them with skills and learnings to make them feel safer and instil confidence that women should feel comfortable going out in the community by themselves. We will provide a 12 x 1 Hour free workshops that will be face to face sessions directed at women only where we will address this issue. After these workshops, we will open this up to other groups and will charge a session fee between £2-3 per workshop to self-fund this initiative.

3.6. These workshops will help to develop and provide more awareness of techniques and methods to avoid any encounters which women may feel vulnerable or in danger. The classes will involve teaching basic self-defence techniques with various self defence expert volunteers, provide mental wellbeing talks with guest speakers and develop confidence levels within the women community. For this to be successful, we have allocated budgets to the venue hire to be able to do our workshops where this grant will cover the cost of the first 12 workshops (£200 Venue Hire), Insurance to provide the workshop (£150), equipment to ensure that we are operating in a safe environment such as (Chest Guards, Headgear and Gloves £400), marketing budget to ensure we can promote these workshops and also an allocation to get guest speakers who have specific expertise in domestic abuse cases (£250 for leaflets). We will promote this through social media, local faith and other community venues networks and newsletters.

3.7. The budget for this is around £3,000 and we are confident that with £1000 funding NN S&W will be able to kick start this much needed initiative to the Grange & Avondale community”.

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

4.1. NNC conducted a full engagement process on the use of levelling up monies in this area of town during the winter of 2022-23

4.2. The Council asked during its budget consultation process whether community resilience money should be spent in priority areas or on priority groups. The responses were evenly divided and in some degree, this proposal does both.

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

There is £1000 reserved within the community resilience budget for a project in Avondale Grange

**6. Climate change implications**

None directly

**7. Policy Implications**

The Council's policy is to support interventions which improve community resilience and build community confidence.

Background Papers

Submission from NN S&W and correspondence related to it.

