

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/041

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| Committee:- | Finance and Governance Committee |
| Date:- | 16 th October 2024 |
| Author:- | Martin Hammond, Clerk |
| Report Title:- | Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Applications |
| Wards Affected:- | All |

1. Purpose of Report

To submit applications from the 2024 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 £10,000 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 July, with a deadline for applications by the 9th September. 12 applications were received, with a combined ask of £31,500. The themes against which applications were invited were

- Measures which help address the cost of living pressures on local residents
- Measures which improve mental health and wellbeing

All the applications reference mental health and wellbeing and several reference cost of living by seeking to subsidise their services for their clients.

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 | Other aspects |
|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------|--|--|
| 1 | Big Bubble Theatre Co | Local theatre-in-education company dedicated to making theatre accessible to all children, especially those in underserved areas | £3000 | Anti-bullying project delivered in schools – 30 hour long sessions as part of anti-bullying week in November | They received a £1k lottery grant from KTC in 2023/4 for a project on mental health and coping with stress for primary schoolchildren |
| 2 | Kettering Youth Theatre | To provide an affordable opportunity for young people to perform on stage and for local people to watch a show at an affordable cost. | £3000 | Christmas pantomime at Masque Theatre | They received a £1k lottery grant from KTC in 2023/4 to meet increasing costs of providing a pantomime which will fund the 2024/5 season |
| 3 | St Andrews Arts Centre | To provide community access to the arts esp. where cost would be a limiting factor. To champion the arts and artists in the town and inspire people to be all they can be through the arts. | £3000 | Developing the arts centre range of services including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Battle of the bands - Youth cinema - Increased capacity to take more bookings | |
| 4 | Shine Arts | Improve well-being for the local Neurodivergent and SEN Adult community | £3000 | Well being outreach programme focused on access to the arts | £1k secured from other sources and £500 from own resources |

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| 5 | Ocir | Community Interest Company helping non verbal children in schools communicate | £2500 | Improving access to services for non verbal children by rolling out an app into schools which supports schools and parents | £9k national lottery grant plus own resources |
| 6 | Kettering and District Samaritans Page | Listening to people in their darkest moments and trying to save life. | £3000 | Running costs running costs to keep our building and our call lines open. | £15000 from other sources and own fund raising, shop sales |
| 7 | Wellbeing at With Complements | Community Interest Company Providing wellbeing therapy centre | £3000 | Extending their service and providing subsidised/free therapy sessions | Operates in Burton Latimer and Barton Seagrave . |
| 8 | Kettering Midlands Bowls Club | a community (not for profit) lawn bowls club | £1000 | Replacing equipment | |
| 9 | NN Community Education | | £3000 | Funding weekly kickboxing sessions for 12 months | |
| 10 | Linne Fitness | Local Club | £3000 | Providing workshops, mostly for older adults, on a variety of health and wellbeing related topics | |
| 11 | Teamwork Trust | Service provider for adults with learning disabilities, autism, & mental health challenges Aiming to remove barriers through educational learning, work skills training, volunteering, & social activities. | £2000 | Development of a learning hub to provide employability skills for their clients | |

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| 12 | Wicksteed Park | To provide open green space for leisure and wellbeing for the people of Kettering | £2000 | 6 week wellbeing programme including -fitness classes incl. yoga and tai chi -knit and natter sessions -Creative writing | |
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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. 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; in reality there is only unused funding in the community resilience fund that could be called upon and any unspent money from the ward initiatives fund after January 2025.

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 has a standing offer to support those completing an application form.

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

6.1. There is £10,000 in the budget.

6.2. The range of grants on offer is between £500 and £3000

6.3. Applicants seeking money for core costs are not guaranteed ongoing funding under the policy.

7. Climate Change Implications

Non directly – some applications indirectly will have a positive impact environmentally.

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 mental health and wellbeing

Background Papers

Applications

Publicity material

Policy

