



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/032

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Kettering Amateur Boxing Club
Wards Affected:-	All Saints primarily but not exclusively

**1. Purpose of Report**

To submit an application for financial support from Kettering Amateur Boxing Club

**2. Recommendations**

The Committee's views on making a grant to the club are requested.

**3. Information**

- 3.1. The Kettering Amateur Boxing Club has existed for 30 years, operating out of premises in Regent St Kettering. PC Kerry York, who supports the club, has prepared a submission (attached below as appendix A) which sets out their request for financial support to keep the club functioning. Their normal day to day costs are met by subscriptions, sponsorship and gifts and contributions in kind. They have well over 100 regular users attending each week but their equipment, particularly the canvass of the boxing ring, has become worn out and is need of replacement.
- 3.2. The submission sets out the contribution the club makes to the wider community and to the wellbeing, confidence and behaviour of individuals. The club also provides a base for the police to conduct some of their work on youth intervention which in turn contributes to the well being of the wider community.
- 3.3. They are seeking support to replace their ageing equipment, without which the club cannot continue – the submission details what they need and puts it in priority order. The total replacement cost is nearly £5000 but they are not asking the Town Council to meet all of these costs.

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

None to date

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

The Council has a community resilience budget of £8600 in 24/5, of which £3140 has been committed to date, leaving £5460.

At the next meeting, members will be invited to consider bids for the small grants pot, for which 10 applications have already been received – the themes of this grants round are mental health and mitigating cost of living pressures. This application has been received outside of this round because of its focus on community safety and resilience, but it could be dealt with through that grants process instead.

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

None directly

#### **7. Policy Implications**

The Corporate plan says :

“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”

In particular -- “The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, through its own services and in partnership with others”.

#### Background Papers

Material from the KABC.

## **APPENDIX ONE SUBMISISON ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB**

### **Kettering Amateur Boxing Club , Regent Street, Kettering , All Saints Ward – Proposal**

#### **Background -**

Kettering Amateur Boxing Club is a well-known, grass roots club, affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Alliance, that has been helping the youth of Kettering, and the surrounding area for over 30 years. It was started by local boxer, Dave Wallington who was at the helm until ill health forced him to stop some 18 months ago. The club has now been passed to the control of Head Coach Ash Taylor, who co-ordinates the classes and other coaches, as well as organising the home boxing shows and regulating the status of the young boxers, organising bouts and maintain the Warrior Boxing System. The classes are popular and full and they are hoping to schedule more sessions, especially for younger children to meet the growing demand. The club keep their weekly subscription fees low, to ensure they stay accessible for all. Ash is also known to waive fees some young people whose parents are really struggling with their finances. The subscriptions cover bills and essentials only. The coaches volunteer their time for free and for the love of the sport and the satisfaction and reward of giving back to the young people of Kettering. This, however, means they must raise all their own funds to cover competitions, licenses, doctors, travel, equipment, etc. They make no profit; everything is ploughed back into the club. They have recently managed to call in favours and repainted the walls of the gym but everything else is now falling apart and/or held together with gaffer tape. They have some limited sponsorship from local businesses which helps to keep them going, however,

**Achievements** - KABC is a welcoming place for anyone and everyone. The young boxers that train here come from many different backgrounds and cultures but in the gym there are no barriers. Everyone is treated with respect and given the skills and advice they may not find anywhere else. The young people that attend this club thrive in the environment and many have gone on to become accomplished boxers. They do not turn anyone away including members of the Traveller Community and young people I have taken along, despite them being involved with police, everyone is given the same chance, the same rules, and expectations. The atmosphere in the club is one of mutual respect, and community. It is a place that inspires community cohesion and unity. Ash has personally assisted young people who have been misusing drugs, have mental health problems and difficulties remaining in mainstream education.

Ash has also developed young boxers into boxing coaches, putting them through their qualifications so they can pass on their skills to the next generation.

#### **Classes -**

Monday evenings – Young boxers 6pm - ages 10 to 16, average of 15 each class.

7pm – Seniors – aged 16 upwards, average of 15 each class.

Tuesday evenings – Women and girls – any ages. Many mums bring daughters, police officers, mixed ages and abilities. Average of 10 per class.

Wednesday evenings – Mixed ages class, aged 10 upwards, average 15- 20 per class.

Seniors 7.30 Adults 10 to 15 per class.

Thursday evenings – Young boxers ages – same as Monday. 20 to 30.

Friday closed

Sunday mornings – 5 to 10 mostly carded boxers.

**Total – Approximately 100 participants per week.**

Carded Boxers - 30 ABA Carded boxers. Carded boxers pay their own medical costs which is £30 for each boxer and the club pays £10 for each Card.

**Proposal** - I work for Northamptonshire Police in the Youth Violence Intervention Unit. I work entirely in the community; we have no premises of our own and need to carry out interventions and visits wherever we can. As part of working with young, at risk people, we find out what motivates and inspires them and help them to access opportunities that will, in time, lead them to more fulfilling lives and away from crime. Clubs like this are vital for young people to have somewhere to go where they are safe, nurtured, developed and all for little cost. Cost becomes a barrier for so many in these difficult times. The work KABC do in teaching these young people focus, fitness and work ethic is priceless. We utilise clubs such as this when we are carrying out our intervention work as there is an obvious appeal. Boxing can be the lifeline some children need to survive. Most of these young people have very little but this club gives them something for themselves, to build upon, to change the course of their life for the better.

The club are keen to continue their important community work. By submitting this proposal I am requesting the money needed to keep them going. This investment would last for many years.

We are all working together for the youth of Kettering and the North. This money would help so many. Any help you can provide would be much appreciated.

**Equipment needed** - The club is now very run down and the equipment is well past it's best. Most of their training punch bags are taped up, as are the ring floor and the training floor. I have put together a quote from a reputable equipment supplier in Birmingham who will give us a great discount. The cost to replace the most urgent items would be £3615.60 plus VAT. The cost of replacing additional items that are damaged or worn out would be £1281.20 plus VAT.

**The most urgent items the club needs are as follows :-**

Boxing Ring Canvas - 16ft, Red – £550 (Boxing Ring Floor)

Jigsaw mats 40mm red/blue – £3065.60 (Training Gym Floor)

**Additional damaged and worn out items to be replaced £1281.20 broken down as follows:-**

Hand Wraps - £52

Gumshields – £31.25

Boxing gloves 10oz – £124.90

Boxing gloves 8oz - £187.35

Focus Mitts Standard – £212.40

Punch Bags 3ft - £89.97

Microfibre Punch Bags 5ft – £416.66

Shipping £166.67

Many thanks for your time and attention in this matter, Kerry York