



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/051

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	22 nd January 2025
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Ward Initiatives Fund 24/5 unspent monies
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb

1. Purpose of Report

To seek members views on the re-allocation of unspent ward initiatives funds.

2. Recommendations

The committee's views are requested on the two proposals below.

3. Information

3.1 The ward initiatives fund comprises £10,000 in total, and allows each member to allocate £500 towards facilities, events. Projects or on communications within their ward. Money can be pooled within a ward or where the benefit can be ascribed to more than one ward. The money had to be spent by 1st January in each year.

3.2 A summary of how the money was used in 2024 is provided at Appendix 1 below.

3.3 £6559 was spent in 2024, leaving £3441. The following amounts per ward are unspent:-

- All Saints	£ 172	
- Avondale Grange	£ 0	
- Brambleside	£ 63	
- Ise	£ 500	
- Northfield	£ 500	
- Pipers Hill	£ 80	
- St Peters	£ 500	
- William Knibb	£ 800	
- Wicksteed/St Michaels	£ 826	£3441

- 3.4 This committee has authority to re-allocate the unspent money as it sees fit once the deadline has passed. Two proposals are set out below.
- 3.5 A request for funding support has been received from the **Kettering Boxing School**, which is located on High St Kettering. They are distinct from the Kettering Amateur Boxing Club, to which the Council made a £3000 grant at its October meeting. The KBS operates as a community interest company with volunteer coaches, and they run hour long sessions for under 13s Monday, Tuesday and Fridays, for over 13s Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and there is an additional session on a Wednesday for the more elite and competitive boxers. They currently provides tuition to about 60 children aged 9-18, and they are looking to provide equipment for them to use, as most children are not able to fund their own. The school has run since 1993, but became a community interest company under the current owner in 2021 and has a turn over of £21,000. It relies on membership fees of £30 or £35 (over 18s) for its income. Some members are given a waiver. They provide adult coaching as well as for under 18s and have about 30 elite boxers, who will train 4 to 5 times a week and compete in various competitions around the country as well as the national championships. Most members live within Kettering or close by. Apart from the technical aspects of the sport, participants learn self discipline, life skills, as sense of belonging and self confidence, and are diverted away from trouble and wrongdoing.

They have listed the following equipment costs that need replacing

- Bag Gloves £300
- Sparring gloves £250
- Head guards £460
- Bandages £360
- Skipping ropes £120 Total £1490.

There is £800 unspent from the William Knibb ward but members could allocate more of the total of unspent money.

Some of the arguments that sustained the grant to the other boxing club – community resilience, community safety, structured activities for young people – apply here, as articulated above and there is unspent money in the community resilience fund if members wished to make a grant larger than £800.

- 3.6 The second proposal is that some or all the remaining money is added to the pot for the **environmental and love wildlife grants**, as described in item 52 on this agenda. The total bis amount to nearly £16000, against a budget amount of £8000. Adding some of the ward monies in would ease the process of choosing how to award grants. At least £1550 of the unspent money comes from wards where projects being proposed are located.

4. **Consultation and Engagement**

None in respect of these proposals.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

The amount unspent in the ward initiatives budget is set out in the report. There is £2435 unspent in the community resilience fund.

6. Climate change implications

Adding to the money available for love wildlife and environmental grants will increase the range and reach, and positive impact, of projects being delivered.

7. Policy Implications

- 7.1 The Council's policy on ward initiatives funding is that it should be spent by calendar year end and that this committee determines how to allocate any underspends
- 7.2 The Council's policy in relation to the boxing school request is that "The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, through its own services and in partnership with others".

Background Papers

WIF accounts
E-mail correspondence with Kettering Boxing School
Report for item 52 on this agenda

SUMMARY OF WARD INITIATIVE SPENDING IN 2024

Amount spent in year £6559 (£7601 in 2023 and £7881 in 2022)

Pattern of spending by members 9 members spent all their allocation

5 members spent none

5 members spent at least 50% of their fund

Projects supported	Group receiving funds	Total cost	Project supported by more than one member
Kettfest	Various	£570	Four members
Kettering Amateur Boxing Club equipment	KABC	£165	Two members
Deputy Mayors Christmas party	Catering, entertainment, venue hire, disco, event supervision	£885	Two members
St Mary's school 125 year anniversary	St Mary's CEVA primary school	£600	Three members
Equipment St Michaels Scout Group	St Michaels Scout Group	£75	Two members
Bouncy castle Grange tots group	Grange Tots Group	£300	Two members
Christmas gifts for local children	Grange Resource Centre (NET Residents Assoc)	£300	
Christmas party	Grange Tots Group	£250	
Music equipment and room hire	Sahyog Indian dance group	£500	
Christmas party	Midland Band Club	£500	

Christmas party	Crescents Community Centre	£250	
Highfield Barnes breakfast Club food supplies	Highfield Residents and Tenants Association	£150	
Venue hire	Counties Community association, bi-polar group	£210	
Venue hire	Highfields bi-polar group	£69	
Day trips for children in the summer holidays	Counties Community Association	£70	
Day trips for children in the summer holidays	Friends of Homestart	£100	
Netting for playground, Park Junior School	Park Junior School	£437	
Equipment for community garden workshops	William St Community Garden	£396	
Anti dog fouling signs	All Saints Community Group	£82	
Litter pickers	Kettering wombles	£250	
new seed planting and installation of ponds, Ise valley	Natural-ise	£400	

Money spent by category

Events	£870	2 events
Christmas community events	£1885	4 events
School based projects	£1037	2 projects
Community association projects and activities	£899	6 groups

Equipment for local groups and associations	£990	4 groups
Environmental	£878	3 projects

Money spent by ward

- All Saints	£1328
- Avondale Grange	£1000
- Brambleside	£ 937
- Ise	£1000
- Northfield	£ 0
- Pipers Hill	£ 920
- St Peters	£ 500
- William Knibb	£ 200
- Wicksteed/St Michaels	£ 674