

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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| Report Originator | Community Partnerships Manager Kettering Borough Council | <i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> - | |
| Wards Affected | All | 4th February 2016 | |
| Title | KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME | | |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on Kettering Borough Council's Grants Scheme in 2014/15 and 2015/16

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Kettering Council's Community Grants are set up to provide a helping hand to organisations that are looking to deliver projects which make a real difference to local people.
- 2.2 Despite the financial pressures local councils are facing, Kettering Borough Council has continued to provide this vital funding to local community organisations.
- 2.3 The diversity and creativity of the applications received this year was impressive and the panel found the task of selecting the projects to support extremely difficult.
- 2.4 Groups have also started to bring procedures and policies in line by including the following:
- Equality Policy Statement
 - Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Statement
 - A governing document (e.g. a constitution)

3. GRANTS AWARDED

- 3.1 Grants were awarded as follows:

a. **Capital Hall Grants – up to £5000 (breakdown at Appendix A)**

In 2014/15 Kettering Borough Council Capital Hall Grants awarded 12 groups £28,000. The projects ranged from repairs to halls, roofs and lighting.

In 2015/16 Kettering Borough Council's Capital Hall Grants scheme awarded seven community groups grants totalling £32,000 with a combined total,

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including leverage, of £66,000 towards improvements to facilities across the borough of Kettering. The schemes which have received funding are very much needed as in some areas it is the only facility available. Projects this year have ranged from improvements to the facilities at a cricket pavilion in Broughton, to energy improvements at Wilbarston Village Hall.

b. Community Fund – up to £2,500 (breakdown at Appendix A)

In 2014/15 the Community Fund awarded 22 groups £40,000 which allowed a further £67,000 investment back into the community. The community fund helped projects such as Rushton Primary School Parents to create an IT suite for the whole community to access and a new all weather play area for Broughton Village.

In 2015/16 Community Fund grants (totalling £39,000) have been allocated to 20 local community schemes across the borough. Funding was prioritised based on whether schemes attracted other forms of investment and match funding. As a result, the Council's investment will help unlock a further £52,000 of investment in local facilities from other organisations.

This year has seen an increase in the number of defibrillators installed in rural areas (Wilbarston and Sutton Basset) along with renovations to help keep communities connected.

c. Small Grants – maximum £500

In 2014 /15 there were 43 small grants awarded, totalling £16,000 across the borough which truly add vibrancy to the local area. Geddington's Brickyard Garden C.I.C is one which stood out last year as it offered the whole community chance to get involved in creating a community space which will be enjoyed by all.

In 2015/16 small grants have already paid out £11,000 to different organisations and groups including Braybrooke, Stoke Albany and Pipewell fetes which provide a warm and lively forum for the whole community to get together. Other grants have been awarded to the Inspiring Neighbourhoods project, and to High Five which offer families and young people living in the borough of Kettering support and activities.

3.2 Case Study - Teamwork Trust – Capital Hall scheme

Teamwork Trust received £2,500 in 2015 from Kettering Borough Council, towards refurbishment of kitchen, toilets and new furniture. The improvements will provide a more sustainable and safe venue to increase participation and community engagement.

John Bruce, Director of Teamwork Trust, said: "On behalf of Teamwork trust, I would like to say a huge thank you to Kettering Borough Council for its support.

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This grant will enable us to offer more to our local community by offering a Well Being Hub for vulnerable adults where people can feel included and no longer isolated.”

4. THE FUTURE

- 4.1 Kettering Council is one of the few councils still to offer a community grants scheme. As stated previously, this funding has proved to be vital to many community groups who wish to improve their own areas with just a little help. Appendix B details where grants are distributed in the borough.
- 4.2 Leverage from other funds has been significant. The Capital Hall Grants scheme has levered in £67,000 in 2014/15 and £34,000 in 2015/16. The Community Fund scheme has levered in £52,000 in 2015/16.
- 4.3 Plans are already under way to further improve the process which is already in place. The scoring process is to be more transparent and easier to understand so that when applicants are completing the information they can see what information they should be including. The application form will also ask applicants what the need for the project is. This will help the panel to see if the project is relevant and in line with council objectives

RECOMMENDATION

The forum receives the report and notes the community grants made in 2014/15 and 2015/16