

Neighbourhood Fund

The following application is recommended for approval from the 2020/21 NF budget

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested
Kepier Hall	The Kepier Trust	£10,000
<p>The Kepier is a Grade II* listed building situated in the conservation area of St. Michael & All Angels Church and Kepier Almshouses – the oldest properties in Houghton-le-Spring. The Kepier Management Committee manages the Kepier on behalf of the Kepier Trust and is a highly successful community resource. The resident manager oversees all aspects of the daily running of the centre which is a restored building founded in the 16th century as a Grammar School by Rector Bernard Gilpin.</p> <p>The weekly footfall of the building is around 700 excluding events such as weddings, parties, social events, Houghton Feast celebrations etc. The regular users include, Local History group, W.I. Mothers Union, Uniformed Organisations, Toddler Group, Weight Watchers, Clothing Bank and more recently Food Bank run by Space 4 which is a community outreach project from St. Michael's Church. Currently we have two tenants: Innovations, who provide daily activities for vulnerable adults with complex learning difficulties. Hug in a Bag, a Charity for cancer patients occupy a small office.</p> <p>We are currently seeking funding for repair of the flat roof, replacement of the existing defective soil and vent pipework and for the investigation of water ingress and damp into the WCs and washrooms at Kepier Hall, Houghton le Spring. There will be considerable decoration and flooring to be renewed when this work is finished. This plumbing job needs to be tackled before the winter sets in and currently, with the lock down, the building is empty which would be a perfect time for work to be done. All users will benefit from the work being done as the areas concerned are essential to a safe, working environment.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approve</p>		