

**Report to** Marlborough Area Board  
**Date of meeting** 23 May 2017  
**Title of report** Community Area Grant funding

**Purpose of the Report:**

To consider a request from Avebury Parish Council for an extension of the funding from the Area Board.

Applicant	Amount requested
Avebury Parish Council	£1,000

## 1. Background

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance](#)

### Changes to Wiltshire Council's provision of public toilets

- 1.1.1 Because of financial pressures, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 Wiltshire Council closed all of the public toilets it ran throughout Wiltshire. This is not a statutory service, hence the decision to close them.
- 1.1.2 In order for there to still be provision within the county, Wiltshire Council gave area boards one-off funding for 2016/17 of £1,000 revenue funding to be made available to town & parish councils and local businesses such as shops and cafes to encourage them to open toilet facilities in their areas.

### The Coach House facilities, Avebury

- 1.2.1 The Community Engagement Manager was made aware of efforts by Avebury PC to re-open the Coach House toilets in the centre of the village. These are owned by the National Trust but were closed some time ago. The only other public toilets within Avebury World Heritage Site, which receives 250,000 – 300,000 visitors p.a. are located at the far side of the Tithe Barn, over a quarter of a mile from the visitors' car park, and which have limited opening times.
- 1.2.2 Following discussions with the Community Engagement Manager and the National Trust, in December 2016, Avebury PC formally requested the £1,000 revenue funding to help operate the Coach House toilets for a period of 2-3 years. Avebury PC was awarded £1,000 from Marlborough Area Board in January 2017 to allow the Coach House toilets to re-open. The area board put a condition on the award that if the toilets could not be re-opened within six months of this award, the funding was to be returned.

### Update on negotiations

- 1.3.1 Since this time, Avebury Parish Council has been in negotiations with the National Trust about extending the opening hours of the Coach House facility. Please see their separate report for further detail. Avebury Parish Council feels further time is needed for discussions with the National Trust and requests an extension of a further six months in which to spent this funding.

## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded in the 2016/2017 year is made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of it being awarded.
- 2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
- 2.3. Best practice advises that applications relating to young people or highways and transport should be considered by, and seek a recommendation from, the Local Youth Network or Community Area Transport Group.

### **3. Environmental & Community Implications**

- 3.1 There are no specific environmental implications related to this report.
- 3.2 There are no specific community implications related to this report although the benefits of having public toilet facilities are clear.

### **4. Financial Implications**

Financial provision had been made to cover this expenditure. The funding available to area boards towards toilet provision is revenue funding and can be used to help operate facilities. Wiltshire Council and Marlborough Area Board have no other responsibilities for maintaining or operating these facilities.

### **5. Legal Implications**

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

### **6. Human Resources Implications**

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

### **7. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **8. Safeguarding Implications**

The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **9. Recommendation**

Based on Avebury Parish Council's ongoing negotiations with the National Trust and their feeling that given further time a satisfactory outcome can be achieved, the Community Engagement Manager recommends Marlborough Area Board extends the time in which to spend this funding by a further six months. At the end of this extension, it will be 12 months since discussions began, so if there is not a satisfactory outcome by then, no further extensions will be given.

Background documents used in the publication of this report:  
Update report from Avebury Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**Report Author** Andrew Jack (Community Engagement Manager)  
[Andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk)