

Additional information to support the Footpath Project Bid.

For at least 7 years, the Travel Plan issued by Bemerton St John Primary School has called for walking busses serving the pupils who live north of the A36 (Wilton Rd). However, Church Lane is considered too dangerous for large groups of children so these parents have been obliged to escort their children on foot or take and collect them by car. The latter option leads regularly to considerable traffic congestion on Lower Rd, especially in the afternoons.

When Salisbury District Council approved an R2 grant to the new Pavilion for the South Wilts Sports Club, they stipulated provision of a path for the school which avoids Church Lane. The best place for this path to meet Lower Rd is at the side gate to St John's Church, opposite the school. There are 2 children who attend the school in wheelchairs so it is necessary to re-enforce the existing path inside the graveyard. Being only for the school children, the section of this path in the graveyard is not part of the public footpath network and therefore cannot be funded by Wiltshire Council in the usual way. It is therefore anticipated that the Friends of Bemerton St John (i.e. the School's PTA) will apply to the Board for about £2,000 for materials and equipment so they can upgrade the path through a self-help project.

Please note that a Faculty to this end has been submitted to the Diocese and they must then agree a route for the path and secure planning permission for it. It may therefore be that the grant cannot be actually spent before the end of this financial year.