

Report to Marlborough Area Board
Date of meeting 31 January 2016
Title of report Community Area Grant funding

Purpose of the Report:

To consider a request from Avebury Parish Council for 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 1st 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 has given 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. In the case of local business, this is to encourage them to allow non-customers access to their facilities. In the case of town & parish councils it is to help encourage either the refurbishment of toilets they currently operate or to take on the former Wiltshire Council facilities through a Community Asset Transfer.

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 Avebury PC has evidence of visitors using bushes and gardens within the village when public toilets are not available and the Red Lion pub is often inundated by coach parties using their toilets but not buying food or drink.
- 1.2.3 Avebury PC has pulled together a partnership of local businesses that are prepared to help fund the running costs of the Coach House toilets if the National Trust is prepared to allow them to be re-opened. Staff at the Red Lion pub are prepared to open and close the facilities each day. The Community Engagement Manager attended this meeting and heard how important extra facilities are for the village and the visitor attraction.
- 1.2.4 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.
- 1.2.5 Avebury PC understands that if the Coach House facilities do not re-open, the £1,000 running cost funding will be returned to Marlborough Area Board.

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. Applications for consideration

Application Name	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
The Coach House Toilets	Avebury PC	To re-open public toilets at the Coach House, Avebury	£1,000
Project description Avebury Parish Council has secured offers of funding to help operate the Coach House toilets within Avebury and is in negotiation with the National Trust to make this happen. The Parish Council has formally requested the funding available from area boards to increase the financial offer available help secure the re-opening of the facilities.			

Proposal

That the Area Board determines the award to Avebury Parish Council of £1,000

Background documents used in the publication of this report:

Quotes/estimates for this proposal can be obtained from the Community Engagement Manager upon request.

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