

## Working with Parish Councils

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**Summary:** A sub group of the Board has produced a series of recommendations for working more closely with parish councils. That programme will require funding of £10,000 per annum for holding two major events and a small grants scheme.

**Purpose of Report:** To seek approval to create a budget for this programme.

### Background

1. At the Board meeting in October it was resolved to form a sub group to consider ways to work more closely with parish councils. That sub group has met and produced the following recommendations, some of which require consideration by the Executive Committee as they have financial implications.
2. The sub group recommend the following programme:

1. Production of a directory of services and resources the Board can offer parish councils.

This will be an electronic document and whilst it might require a small amount of graphic designer input can be accommodated within the existing budget.

2. Production of a PowerPoint presentation on the AONB and Board which can be used by staff, board members and others for showing to parish councils. This will be made available on CD or in a downloadable format on the web site.

The costs will be minimal and can be accommodated within existing budgets.

3. Organisation of two forums (north and south) for parish councils. The cost for each event including venue hire and catering will be approx £1,000 each.

The cost has been included in the draft core budget in the Promotion and Awareness/Events.

4. Creation of Parish Councils Small Grants Fund. This would be very similar to that offered during the Board's celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AONB designation. The Board awarded 37 grants totalling just over £8,000 (max of £250 per parish council) for small projects which helped implement the AONB Management Plan.

For 2008-09 it is proposed to create a grant fund of £7,500 and to offer individual grants of up to £250 at 100% of costs, or up to £500 at 75% of costs. It would operate on a first come first served basis until the fund was exhausted. It is estimated that between 25-30 grants will be awarded. Each parish council would be entitled to one grant.

There is no provision within the budget and release of reserves would be needed.

3. The overall cost of the programme would be in the order of £10,000, of which £2,500 can be accommodated within the core budget. The Small Grant Fund will require release of reserves of up to £7,500.

### **Recommendation**

1. **To approve allocation of £10,000 in 2008- 09 for the programme; £2,500 from the core budget and £7,500 to be released from the general reserve.**