

14. AVEBURY HOUSE UPDATE

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Lynnette Ebborn, DDI 941-6605
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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the refurbishment and opening of Avebury House, and the activities of the Avebury House Community Trust.

Avebury House Community Trust

The Avebury House Community Trust is now well established and employs a community worker, Lesley MacMillan. The Trust is made up of local residents who have real feeling for the house, and a commitment to making Avebury a busy and well functioning facility. The Trust members have secured funding from sources other than the Council to assist them in their task.

Refurbishment

The Council's Property Unit has refurbished the house. Malcolm Kitt (Architectural Designer, City Solutions) has been extremely helpful in this project, and has worked co-operatively with Trust members. This input has resulted in a practical and aesthetically pleasing refurbishment. Two of the first floor rooms are sound-proofed for possible use for music practice and teaching, one of the rooms is wired for computers and the kitchen is of commercial standard. Every effort has been made to keep the house environmentally friendly, with the use of solar heating panels and the intention to set up a well-run recycling system.

Official Opening

The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon Helen Clark, officially opened Avebury House on 18 September. The Prime Minister met local residents at the opening, as well as others involved in revitalising Avebury. Family members of the original owners of the house also attended.

Local schools took part in the afternoon and added to the enjoyment. Richmond School Kapa Haka group and Avonside Girls High School Barbershop group performed, along with the Apollo String Quartet and the Daniel Kennedy Jazz Trio. Nga Hau e Wha catered the event and pupils from Avonside assisted by serving food.

General

Bookings for Avebury have been brisk, with a large number and variety of groups taking advantage of a much-needed venue.

As part of Heritage Week there were two open days: Saturday, 19 October and Wednesday, 23 October.

The Trust is also setting up a community newspaper for the Richmond area.

Trust members have contributed significant volunteer time, and are to be congratulated for their hard work in getting Avebury underway and organising the opening. Lesley Macmillan has made this process appear seamless with her unceasing energy and many skills.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received and the Avebury House Trust members be commended for the work they are contributing to the project and for the success of the official opening.