

To receive a report on public conveniences and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Report to:

Services Committee

Date of Report:

28.04.26

Officer Writing the Report:

Town Clerk

Purpose of the report:

To ensure that Members are fully informed of the extent and impact of vandalism and anti-social behaviour affecting Town Council public convenience assets.

Officer's Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and determine how the public conveniences should be managed in light of ongoing anti-social behaviour, the associated financial cost to the Town Council, staff resource implications, and the impact on staff morale.

Report Summary

Operational Arrangements

The current opening hours for the Town Council public conveniences at Longstone Park, Alexandra Square, Belle Vue, and Waterside are as follows:

- **1 October to 31 March:** 08:30 – 17:00
- **1 April to 30 September:** 08:30 – 19:00

All public conveniences are cleaned and serviced by Minister Cleaning on behalf of the Town Council. Any maintenance requirements are addressed by the Service Delivery team.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Vandalism

The Town Council is well aware that the public conveniences have been subjected to persistent vandalism and anti-social behaviour over a number of years, at significant cost to the taxpayer. This experience is not unique to Saltash, as many towns face similar challenges, and there is currently no clear or proven solution that effectively reduces or prevents such behaviour.

All incidents of anti-social behaviour, regardless of scale, are reported through the Devon and Cornwall Police online "Report It" system. More recently, concerns have also been raised directly with the police. Officers have confirmed that they are receiving these reports and have expressed a willingness to meet jointly with the Town Council to explore how collaborative working could help address the issue.

Collaborative and Preventative Approaches

The police have indicated an interest in developing a broader initiative focused on promoting civic pride and citizen responsibility. This could involve residents, schools, and community groups and may address issues such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism, littering (and potentially parking and responsible driving). The aim would be to encourage a shared responsibility for keeping Saltash safe, welcoming, and well maintained. Increasing community awareness and engagement would also strengthen the "eyes and ears" on the ground, helping to deter and challenge inappropriate behaviour.

The police have asked for the Town Council's views on how such an approach could be delivered in practice.

Impact on Service Delivery

A log of vandalism incidents is attached to this report for Members' information. Recently, all four public convenience buildings were vandalised within the same period, resulting in temporary closure until repairs could be completed. Due to other operational commitments, the Service Delivery team is unable to prioritise reactive maintenance at short notice to the extent required under current circumstances.

As an interim measure to reduce further incidents, the Longstone Park public conveniences are currently being closed at 3pm each day.

May Fair – Toilet Provision

The May Fair is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2/3 May. Diverse Events have asked whether the Town Council public conveniences will be open during the event and, if so, until what time. Diverse Events have confirmed that they believe they have sufficient toilet provision for the event and, if required, are able to arrange additional facilities.

Budgets

Budget Codes:

6525 Public Toilets (operational cost)

Budget Availability: £3,159

Committed spend:

Minster Cleaning contract

Budget Codes:

6580 EMF Public Toilets

Budget Availability: £26,398

Signature of Officer:

Town Clerk / RFO