

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

15 March 2016

Councillor Statement from Cllr Chris Caswill

I welcome these papers and the opportunity for some at least of public toilets being kept open, where town and parish councils have not agreed to take them on. I hope the Cabinet will at least agree to Option 1, which allows for selective continuations. Even this falls short of the statement from the Leader during the discussion of the Financial Plan at the last Cabinet meeting, that providing public toilets is a civic virtue, and that no toilets would close under her administration. I see that, regrettably, a rather watered down version of that statement now appears in Minute 53.

I want to take this opportunity also to emphasise the benefits of keeping open the Bath Road toilets, which are in my ward. These toilets occupy a corner of the Bath Road site which the Council has been seeking to develop for at least six years now. This may be the reason why they have suffered a degree of neglect and are certainly not up to the best modern standards. But they are part of the busy car park, and right beside the route in and out taken by most car park users. Equally important, they are also close to bus stops just beside the Town Bridge, where several local buses start and terminate. Some National Express buses also stop there. Apart from the train station's informal offer, (several hundred yards and two streets away up hill, and away from the shops), they are also the only toilets available to the public on the New Road / north side of the Town Bridge - an important part of the town centre that has all too often suffered from neglect in plans for the future. There are on the other hand two toilets on the High Street side, and the Town Council appears now to be offering its toilets as another option in that same area. It is very much to be hoped that the Bath Road site will be redeveloped in the not too distant future, which means that any financial commitment to keep these toilets open should be time limited, which seems to be an advantage rather than the negative argument that some have been making.

Paragraph 24 (1) of the Cabinet paper sets out possible criteria for reviewing toilet provision. If and when these are applied to Bath Road, I hope that account can be taken of the recent history of the site, where I think the Council has some responsibility for the current state of these toilets, and that sufficient weight will be given to their community value, public transport contribution and physical location.

Question from Cllr Chris Caswill to Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport

What were the responses of the individual Town and Parish Councils to the invitation to take on public toilets? Please provide a breakdown, Council by Council.

Position Statement re Public Convenience Transfers

Town / Parish	Location	Post April With Local Council	Post April Remaining With WC
Amesbury	Amesbury The Centre Car Park	With TC with CAT of adjacent land	
BoA	BOA St Margaret's Street Public	TC expressed interest	
BoA	BOA Station Car Park	TC expressed interest	
Chippenham	Chippenham Monkton Park	TC expressed interest	
Corsham	Corsham Newlands Road	TC expressed interest	
Cricklade	Cricklade High Street	TC expressed interest	
Devizes	Devizes Estcourt Street	TC expressed interest	
Devizes	Devizes Superloo (next to Shambles)	TC expressed interest	
Downton	Downton Memorial Gardens	PC own land	
Marlborough	Marlborough George Lane Car Park	TC expressed interest	
Melksham	Melksham Market Place Convenience	TC own the facility	
Salisbury	Salisbury Central Car Park	With SCC with CAT	
Salisbury	Salisbury Culver Street	With SCC with CAT	
Salisbury	Salisbury Market Place	With SCC with CAT	
Salisbury	Salisbury Millstream Approach Coach Stat	With SCC with CAT	
Salisbury	Lower Bemerton	TC own facility	
Salisbury	Lush House car park	TC own facility	
Salisbury	Fisherton Rec	TC own facility	
Salisbury	Devizes Road crematorium	TC own facility	
Salisbury	London Road crematorium	TC own facility	
Salisbury	Victoria Park	TC own facility	
Salisbury	Southampton Road	TC own facility	

Town / Parish	Location	Post April With Local Council	Post April Remaining With WC
Warminster	Warminster Central Car Park	TC expressed on interest	
Warminster	Warminster Park	With TC with CAT	
Westbury	Westbury High St Short Stay Car Park	Waiting for confirmation, but expression of interest proposed	
Westbury	Westbury Warminster Road	Waiting for confirmation, but expression of interest proposed	
Wilton	Wilton Greyhound Lane	TC expressed an interest	
Park & Rides	Wilton Park & Ride	Exploring alternative funding provision	
Park & Rides	Britford Park & Ride	Exploring alternative funding provision	
Park & Rides	Beehive Park & Ride	Exploring alternative funding provision	
Park & Rides	London Road, Park & Ride	Exploring alternative funding provision	
Park & Rides	Petersfinger	Exploring alternative funding provision	
Calne	Calne The Pippin		No Decision
Castle Coombe	Castle Combe The Street		Declined Transfer
Chippenham	Chippenham Bath Road (See above For CTC Transfer Of Monkton Park Interest)		Declined Transfer
Chippenham	Chippenham Borough Parade (See above For CTC Transfer Interest)		Declined Transfer
Melksham	Melksham Bath Road (MTC To Maintain Market Place Toilets)		Declined Transfer
Melksham	Melksham Church Street (MTC To Maintain Market Place Toilets)		Declined Transfer
RWB	Wootton Bassett Borough Fields		Declined Transfer

CAT : Community Asset Transfer