

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Brendan Coleman Head of Environmental Care Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	Barton Seagrave, Burton Latimer, Desborough Loatland, Desborough St. Giles, Rothwell.	12 th October 2016	
Title	A6 COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the forum in regard to the A6 Community Toilet Scheme

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2012, Kettering Borough Council launched the Community Toilet Scheme across the borough. There are currently 7 businesses signed up to the scheme in Kettering Town centre.
- 2.2 Initially there was a business in Burton Latimer that was part of the scheme, but they have since withdrawn.
- 2.3 The public toilets in Rothwell remained open, with members of the Town Council managing the opening / closing and cleaning. Currently these toilets are closed, but the town council are looking to reopen these soon.
- 2.4 There are currently no businesses in the Community Toilet Scheme in Desborough.

3. HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

- 3.1 Local businesses sign 'pledges' to show support to the scheme and display a 'Community Toilet Scheme' sticker in the entrance, highlighting membership to the scheme.
- 3.2 Information about participating organisations is communicated to visitors in the following ways:
 - ◆ A sticker in the windows of participating organisations
 - ◆ Information provided on maps in the key locations around the town centre
 - ◆ Promotional leaflets and flyers
 - ◆ Inclusion on the Kettering Borough Council's Website

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4. **REASONS FOR THE SCHEME**

- 4.1 The toilet facilities that were provided by Kettering Borough Council before this scheme was implemented consisted of older toilet facilities that were expensive to repair and maintain and newer facilities that were expensive to lease. The level of use was also low, partly because the facilities were unattractive.
- 4.2 The tougher financial situation facing the Council, along with a commitment to provide value for money services and low usage figures for toilet facilities, made a rethink of the approach a viable and sensible option.

5. **SCHEME BENEFITS**

- 5.1 The key benefits of the scheme are:
- ◆ Increased provision of toilets across the town centre with more choice for visitors.
 - ◆ Newer, cleaner and safer facilities for people to use.
 - ◆ Lower costs of toilet provision to the local taxpayer.
 - ◆ Better toilet facilities, such as baby changing units in some participants' toilets scheme.
 - ◆ A platform for moving forward in a constructive and sensible way.
- 5.2 Kettering Borough Council is keen to lead by example and so improved the public toilet facilities at the main offices and also incorporating a disabled toilet.

6. **RECOMMENDATION**

Town Councils views on trying to re-start discussions about the community toilet scheme in any of the A6 towns are sought; together with ideas about potential partners/premises owners.

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes: