

**Meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2016 at 9.30am regarding WDC
Consultation about the review and future provision/management of public
conveniences in Waveney.**

Present: WDC Strategic Director Andy Jarvis, Legal Team Member Gayle Hart, Cllrs Tucker (Town Mayor), Ladd (Chairman of Landlords WG), Allen (Chairman of Leisure & Environment WG), Horwood (Chairman of Finance WG) and the Town Clerk.

The Town Mayor chaired the meeting. WDC were asked to present their plans for closures. AJ provided the context to which the consultation was taking place. AJ confirmed that this was one of a number of strategies to reduce the WDC revenue budget deficit. Strategies that WDC will undertake in the short/medium term are (1) growth, (2) Enabling communities, (3) meeting the challenges set by Government.

In relation to toilets there is a WDC revenue budget of some £400,000 p.a. and a minimum of £100,000 savings are required from this budget. Approaches have been made to the private sector regarding operating the toilets as a business operation and 2 companies have submitted proposals. Communication with the towns and parishes has resulted in 3 parishes expressing an interest in operating toilets themselves.

Any proposal will need to be ratified by Cabinet and cost savings need to be brought in for 2016/17.

WDC confirmed that they were not ruling out one-off investment into public conveniences from the capital budget.

MCT asked WDC to consider the economic impact of any decision made regarding the Southwold public conveniences together with the public health risk.

Toilets in Southwold – the Pier toilets have the highest usage of any public conveniences in Waveney and in turn have the highest running costs of some £30,000 p.a.

Data for Southwold toilets – WDC did not have the data available for the Town Council, despite having been requested on at least 5 occasions. WDC apologised for the oversight and confirmed that the data would be forwarded to the Town Clerk. MCT advised that discussions would need to continue once the data had been considered i.e. usage, possible income/costs/opportunities for further investment etc. GH confirmed that condition surveys have been undertaken on all of the WDC toilets in 2015 and a summary will be forwarded with the data.

Summary and action points

(1) WDC to provide all relevant information regarding the Southwold public conveniences to the Town Clerk.

- (2) WDC to consider whether the public conveniences in Southwold can be considered as a one-off issue, separate from the remainder of public conveniences in Waveney, due to Southwold's economic value to Waveney and beyond.
- (3) STC to set up a task and finish group to proceed negotiations/discussions on this topic with the relevant officers of WDC. **It is the recommendation that the following be appointed to the Task and Finish Group; Cllrs Allen, Horwood, Ladd and Tucker.**
- (4) Once received further meeting to take place to discuss in more depth the data provided by WDC and to consider options for a way forward.
- (5) WDC to provide STC with a public statement regarding the timing of any potential closures, and/or the pre-discussions that would take place prior to any such closure decisions being made.

Recommendation:

Public conveniences in Southwold

- 3) STC to set up a task and finish group to proceed negotiations/discussions on this topic with the relevant officers of WDC. **It is the recommendation that the following be appointed to the Task and Finish Group; Cllrs Allen, Horwood, Ladd and Tucker.**