

d. Potential Closure of Public Toilets

Potential Implementation from 2017

Potential annual savings of £40,000

1. Present Situation

Public Conveniences are a fully discretionary service and cost the authority around £40,000 per annum in recurring revenue costs. £40,000 would be immediately saved in running and repairs costs. NNDR would only be saved if the Council either removed the conveniences completely or converted them into park storage or laid out additional free parking spaces where appropriate. Five additional spaces could be created on each of East Street and Junction Road car parks.

2. Locations and Facilities:

East Street Car Park , Oadby	Superloo – 20p per visit	Plus Civil Enforcement Officers office, canteen & toilet / service room – used by Oadby Barrow Man
Junction Road Wigston	Free	Ladies / gents / disabled / service room used by Wigston Barrow Man
Willow Park/Aylestone Lane, Wigston	Free	Unisex toilet at front and disabled toilet at rear
Peace Memorial Park – Wigston	Free	Ladies / gents / disabled / service room used by Grounds Maintenance
Blaby Road South Wigston	Superloo – 20p per visit	Stand alone unit
Wigston Cemetery	Free	Unisex single toilet block

3. Usage

Usage of conveniences is low. "Superloo" income for 2016/17 was £275.80 equating to 1,379 visits per year @ 20p per visit. This therefore equates to less than five visits a day for both toilets. There are no usage figures available for the other toilets but when they have been closed for maintenance works there have been no complaints from the public.

4. Options

4.1 Keep the public toilets open as now

There would be no revenue savings. If the Council were to retain the toilets then it is estimated that it would need to spend in the region of £25,000 if it wished to upgrade the facilities to a reasonable standard.

4.2 Close all of the public toilets

Clearly the main focus will be on the three town centre toilets at East Street, Junction Road and Blaby Road Park and in each case alternative facilities are available very locally in shops and restaurants.

If the Council were to decide to close these toilets then there is the possibility of putting in place bespoke arrangements with specific local shops and restaurants where they are willing, together with the Council, to advertise them as being public toilets for general use. The Council could support this by paying these businesses an annual grant that, for instance, would cover the cost of their consumables. This would also guarantee a better standard of facility that can be monitored, overseen and managed in a way that the Council is not able to do with its existing toilet stock. These arrangements would also increase footfall into those local business where there is a greater chance that users would then stop and spend money.

There are existing toilets in the Pavilion at Peace Memorial Park which would be able to be used whenever that facility is open.

The cost of demolishing a toilet block would be approximately £10,000 per block.

Alternative arrangements would have to be put in place for the two Car Park Enforcement staff and the storage of the town centre barrows.

Notwithstanding the above any reduction in service is likely to be unpopular with the public.

4.3 Keep a combination of public toilets open

There would be limited revenue savings depending on which combination was agreed.