

EXECUTIVE BOARD
21ST OCTOBER, 2019

**PETITION IN REGARD TO A REQUEST TO REINSTATE THE TOILETS AT
THE EAST HARBOUR, BURRY PORT**

Purpose:

To consider a petition received in respect of Toilet provision at Burry Port Harbour.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That Executive Board members acknowledge the petition and respond to local members in the context of the recently approved Toilet Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

Reasons:

Council at its meeting held on the 10th July 2019 (Minute 8 refers) received a petition to reinstate toilets at the East Harbour Side, Burry Port. As the issue raised in the petition is an executive function, Council referred the petition to the Executive Board for consideration.

This report provides a draft response for consideration by the Executive Board.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted N/A

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths – Culture, Sport & Tourism/Cllr Hazel Evans - Environment

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

Designation:

Head of Leisure

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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**PETITION IN REGARD TO A REQUEST TO REINSTATE THE TOILETS AT
THE EAST HARBOUR, BURRY PORT**

A petition was presented to Council by Councillor John James on the 10th July 2019 in the following terms:-

“We have been asked by residents and harbour users to organise a petition requesting that toilets be reinstated with immediate effect East harbour side in Burry Port adjacent to the old lifeboat station.

We, the undersigned, are concerned constituents and harbour users who urge our leaders to act now to reinstall the toilets.”

As the issue referred to in the petition is an executive function, Council subsequently referred the matter to the Executive Board for consideration.

Having considered the wording of the petition together with the recently endorsed Carmarthenshire County Council’s Local Toilets Strategy (Minute 19 of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 29th July 2019 refers), it is suggested that the petition organisers are provided with the following response:

Following the statutory consultation period, Carmarthenshire County Council’s Executive Board has recently accepted its Local Toilets Strategy. The opening paragraphs reads as follows:

“Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 states – Provision of Toilets came into force on 31st May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area.

Local authorities in Wales now have the responsibility to:

- *assess the need for toilet provision for their communities*
- *plan to meet those needs*
- *produce a local toilet strategy and*
- *review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.*

There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public toilets and the duty to prepare a strategy does not in itself require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets themselves, but they are required to make a strategic view across their area on how these facilities can be provided and accessed by the local population. In doing so it is envisaged that local authorities will consider a full range of options for making facilities available to the public.”

The Act also acknowledges that local authorities may need to make decisions in the future to close or reduce current provisions and does not seek to prevent such decisions; instead, if circumstances

arise, the Act requires us to use the strategy to maintain provision by working with private businesses, community groups and other Public Services to offer facilities within the area.

In that context Town and Community Councils play an extremely important role where 19 Town and Community Councils within Carmarthenshire have public toilets arrangements. Carmarthenshire County Council appreciates the present partnership with Burry Port Town Council in providing toilet facilities at Burry Port/Pembrey Railway Station car park.

The Council has received a petition, signed mainly by local residents, requesting the provision of a public toilet in the Burry Port Harbour area near the new RNLI Headquarters. As part of the future regeneration plans for this area, the very poor portable toilet facilities that were in situ have been removed as they were an unacceptable health and safety hazard. Burry Port Marina Ltd will now be developing the old RNLI building which will include a restaurant with changing and showering facilities and toilets.

There is a public toilet located in the car park across the foot bridge at Burry Port Harbour with new and extra directional signage to that toilet installed recently. This building is due for renovation and soon will incorporate a cafe/snack bar. The provision of temporary public toilets will be a condition of that private renovation.

The relevant Executive Board members are therefore of the opinion that local people who walk or drive into the harbour area would be aware of the location of the present facilities, and with plenty of directional signs, on both sides of the harbour, visitors would easily locate the present toilet facilities.

If members of Burry Port Town Council feel that extra toilet facilities are needed in the harbour area, we would be prepared to discuss the possible offer of suitable land.

For us as an authority to consider building new toilets when we face so many financial challenges at present would be difficult as there are other requests from members for such facilities in other areas within the county.

We would therefore be prepared to consider any land area request if you feel that Burry Port Town Council would wish to provide another toilet at Burry Port Harbour.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Decision aligns with Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Toilets Strategy (Minute 19 of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 29th July 2019), as outlined within the body of the report.

6. Physical Assets

Decision aligns with Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Toilets Strategy (Minute 19 of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 29th July 2019), as outlined within the body of the report.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

Cllrs John James and Amanda Fox are fully aware of the issue having brought the petition to the attention of full Council.

3. Community / Town Council

Updated via local members

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Toilets Strategy (Minute 19 of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 29 th July 2019), as outlined within the body of the report. To be completed		Online via EB minutes
Petition as presented to Council on 10 th July, 2019		County Hall, Carmarthen