

# Darpariaeth Toiledau Cyhoeddus, Porth Tywyn Burry Port Public Toilet Provision



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## **Introduction**

This report examines the current state of public toilet facility provision in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. It has been compiled in response to public concerns raised by residents and visitors regarding the adequacy and accessibility of existing toilets.

The Council have in recent months received a number of written complaints and at Full Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> May received a Petition to rectify the absence of adequate, accessible and clean public toilets in Burry Port town.

This report sets out the historic and current provision and considering the feedback received through petitions and campaigns the exploration of future potential solutions to ensure Burry Port offers a welcoming and well-equipped environment for all.

## **Historic Provision**

### **West Harbour Provision**

Until 2020 there was a public toilet facility located on the West Harbour operated by CCC leisure division. However, due to multiple vandalism incidents which came to a significant cost in repairs, it was agreed that CCC would close down the public toilet facility.

At this stage the owner of Crazy Crepes Café approached CCC and regarding the potential for an asset transfer of the public convenience to be operated as a Café and through this agreement there was a commitment to make their toilet facility open to public use. This was agreed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 and the asset was transferred under lease agreement whereby their toilet facility is made available to the public between the hours of 9:30am – 4:30pm during the winter period and 9:30am – 7:30pm during the summer period. This is a continued ongoing agreement.

### **East Harbour Provision**

Until 2018 there were temporary toilets on the East side of the Harbour provided by CCC leisure division which were removed due to their very poor condition and risk of public safety. Local Members were consulted on this.

## **Current Provision of toilets**

### **CCC Provision**

At present CCC directly provide two public toilet facilities. One at Burry Port Train Station operated and managed by the Environmental Infrastructure division. In addition, there is also a public convenience available at the Burry Port Library.

## Private

As identified above there is a historic agreement with Crazy Crepes Café where their toilet facility is to be made available to the public between the hours of 9:30am – 4:30pm during the winter period and 9:30am – 7:30pm during the summer period.

## Town Council

Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council have installed a temporary portable toilet facility on the East side of the Harbour during the summer months.

## Map Toilets of Burry Port:



[Carmarthenshire County Council – In my area](#)

## The CCC Train Station toilet temporary closure

A payment was made to SSE Energy Solutions on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 for invoice dated 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. The SSE payment system could not identify our payment. SSE queried our alleged debt; proof of payment was sent to the electricity supplier on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October following a letter to notify of disconnection.

After multiple communication between the Council and SSE, this subsequently led to the disconnection of our electricity supply at this public convenience on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. An additional payment of £1348.47 had been requested to be made by ourselves in order for reconnection to be established, as well as payment of the original invoice again.

Further communication between the Council and SSE was made to try and reconnect as soon as possible without the additional charge.

After extensive communication and escalation to senior officials, the issue remained unresolved until there was no other option but to make the reconnection payment on the 12th of March 2024. After necessary legionnaires testing, the public convenience reopened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024.

As an interim measure, we organised for two temporary toilet unit to be placed in the car park behind the Public Conveniences block. The temporary units were provided and emptied/exchanged on a weekly basis. Cleaning was undertaken by the Town Council at these units, in lieu of the normal facilities, until normal provision was restored.

## **Next Steps**

### **Asset Transfer**

As noted above, we have successfully asset transferred the public convenience on the West side of the Harbour.

Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council are keen to proceed to take the ownership of the Train Station Public Convenience through Asset Transfer, however as part of the asset transfer process we have discovered that Carmarthenshire County Council do not own this public convenience. Our Corporate Property team are actively exploring land ownership to establish how we can continue the asset transfer, and, in the meantime, we will arrange a lease agreement.

### **Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council**

It was previously advised that CCC would consider appointing land to the Town Council for additional public conveniences. CCC have now successfully appointed land to lease to the Town Council for 3 years in order for them to provide a cabin toilet facility which will replace the current temporary toilets.

The unit is due to arrive by the second week of June. Once sited, there will be further works required to provide ramps, steps & railings. This should take no longer than four weeks with an aim to be open to the public ready for the school summer holidays.

### **Carmarthenshire Local Toilet Strategy**

Our Public Toilet Strategy is currently being considered, as part of this process, we are developing an action plan to maintain and where possible improve the public facilities throughout Carmarthenshire. One of the key actions identified is the engagement with local retail premises to explore collaborative solutions.

Furthermore, we are in the very early stages of expanding the Community Toilet Scheme. Under this scheme local businesses and organisations, such as cafes, restaurants, and shops, will be engaged to make their restroom facilities available to the public free of charge. Participating establishments will display a recognisable logo or sign indicating their involvement in the scheme as well as a full list available on our website.