

## Appendix A

### COUNCIL – 19 OCTOBER 2023 – SO 30 QUESTION

#### Question from Councillor Patel

##### Question to the Chair of the Community Services Committee (Councillor Wren)

The provision of functioning, safe and hygienic public conveniences within the District is very important and of great value to residents and visitors alike. I deplore recent extended closures. What is the administration doing to speed up the resolution of the current problems and, following on from that, to ensure that there is a resilience plan in place so that, in future, repairs can be made speedily with the minimum impact on users?

##### Response from the Chair of the Community Services Committee (Councillor Wren)

Public conveniences are a non-statutory service provided by this Council. There is one public convenience that is currently closed in the District, all the others are at the moment, open. Like yourself I am not content with the extended closures. However, where there is a valid health and safety reason for the closure of the toilets such as the presence of Legionella then this needs to be eradicated before those toilets can reopen. Unfortunately, the District's public conveniences are old and when repairs are needed these can take longer than planned as it is harder to source the parts. We are progressing plans to refurbish and invest in some of our facilities over the next 18 months, which should help to reduce the numbers of repairs that are needed and the levels of closures we have seen. A new person will shortly join the Community Services team. Their responsibilities will include public conveniences, so we are looking forward to having a more efficient repair system in the future.

##### Supplementary question

Will this be robust enough given the age of some of the facilities and the parts needed for them, or will they be replaced? Will these savings have an impact on the maintenance of these facilities?

##### Response

We will do our best to repair what we have got. It may be financially prudent in some cases to replace the toilet facility.

##### Supplementary question

Is there any plan to involve Parish Councillors at this stage?

##### Response

Yes, the new officer will be liaising very closely with Parish Councils across the whole District regarding toilets, playgrounds and open spaces.