



CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDUDOCH ST. DOGMAELS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mrs Sue Davies, Cofnodydd/Clerk
Dworek, Sarnau, Llandysul SA44 6PX
Ffôn/Tel: 01239 652997
E-bost/E-mail: stdogmaelscc@outlook.com
Website: <http://stdogmaels.org/>

Review of Poppit Sands Toilets - September 2018

Toilet block owned by: Pembrokeshire County Council

Land owned by Pembrokeshire National Parks

Toilet block maintained by Danfo

The building is part leased to the Poppit Surf Life Saving Group by Pembrokeshire County Council. There are showers and toilets on the ground floor used by this group. The Council has no knowledge of their condition.

Background: Complaints re the toilet block at Poppit were minuted at the Community Council meeting of 28.06.2018 (Mr Geraint Harries from PCNP was present at the meeting).

The complaints were followed up and reported on at the following Community Council meeting on 26.07.2018. The comments at these meetings, re the toilets, were also reported in the local press.

The following problems have been identified:

	Photo
<p>Ladies' Block</p> <p>Toilet cubicles are not large enough being both narrow and of a short length from door to rear wall.</p> <p>Doors open inwards so when entering the toilet cubicle there is not enough space between the door and the toilet bowl (Fig.1)</p> <p>The depth of the cubicle is demonstrated using a foot to show that edged of door comes to edge of toilet when open, leaving no space to be able to close the door easily (Fig. 2)</p> <p>In order for the door to be closed, those who are in the later stages of pregnancy, have toddlers with them, a babe in arms, are of a larger build or have a temporary disability have to manoeuvre themselves between the side wall and toilet bowl. Given the very narrow space available this is dangerous, particularly for anyone who is potentially off balance through body weight or from carrying a child etc. It would seem that at some point an accident is inevitable given the lack of space.</p>	 <p>Figure 1 Space between door and pan</p>  <p>Figure 2 Using foot to show distance</p>

Doors the cubicles in the Ladies toilet block have glass panels in them. Despite being 'obscured', as is evidenced in the attached photographs outlines are clearly visible. Many women feel, quite understandably, uneasy with this as it is an invasion of the privacy of those using the cubicles. (fig 3)

Fig 4, taken from inside of the toilet clearly illustrates that outlines can be easily made out through the glass panel. It is equally easy to make out outlines of anyone within the cubicle.

It is questionable as to why the glass panels remain in the doors of the ladies' cubicles when they have been removed and replaced with solid panels in the gentleman's toilets next door.



Figure 3 Door from outside



Figure 4 Glass in door taken from inside

The sink and bin are in an extremely poor state of repair. (Fig 5)

The plywood tacked to the front of the sink is rotting and the work top is chipped (Fig 6)

The bin is rusted and chipped (would you want to lift the lid on that after washing your hands?). (fig 7)

One sink in the ladies' toilets serves three cubicles and also serves as a hand wash facility for visitors to the beach.

The single sink and bin are in a narrow space close to the door of the block. Given difficulty in accessing the space if the toilet block is busy this does not lead to good hygiene practices.

It also makes it extremely difficult for those who are in the later stages of pregnancy, have toddlers with them, a babe in arms, are of a larger build or have a temporary disability to access the hand wash facility.

The toilets are kept very clean by the current Danfo employee and this in no way reflects on him. The problems arise from the design and maintenance of the facility.



Figure 5 sink and bin



Figure 6 Rotting and chipped sink unit



Figure 7 Top of bin

Due to the layout of the toilets there is no room for a baby changing unit. The disabled toilet does have space but because this is fitted with a Radar key it is not accessible to parents with young babies. Comment that mixed use can lead to significant delays is noted. However given the popularity of Poppit as a destination, suitable provision is needed for all.

The Council would also draw to your attention that some disabled older children may need to be changed and they have the right to have the facilities for this to be carried out in a safe, comfortable and dignified environment and not just on the floor of a public toilet
Fig 8, view 1 and Fig 9, view 2 show limited space.

Whilst the Gents has somewhat more room generally none is suitable for baby or disabled changing.



Figure 5 View 1



Figure 6 View 2

The disabled toilet is by contrast is a clean bright space with plenty of room and could accommodate a baby/child changing platform. (Fig 10)

It is accessed by a Radar key which limits its' use. Some people may only have a temporary disability, (recovering from an illness, injury or operation) but may find using the other available facilities on site a challenge because of this.

There is a spare Radar key located in the RNLI shop but there is no sign to alert people to this fact. (See Fig. 11 and Fig. 12)

Other toilet facilities in Pembrokeshire have notices on the door of the toilets to let people know where a spare key kept. Why is this not the case at Poppit?

Fig 10 Poppit Sands, Pembrokeshire

Fig 11 Porthgain, Pembrokeshire



Figure 10 Disabled toilet



Figure 11 Poppit



Figure 12 Porthgain

Gents toilets

Whilst the Gents side is 'adequate' (with two cubicles and three urinals and a sink) even by the standards of a public toilet facility, it is basic and would benefit from refitting and improvement.

The cubicles, which are deeper than those in the Ladies, are more spacious. (Fig 14)

The cubicles have had the glass in the doors replaced by board thus giving more privacy which is lacking in the Ladies area.

However, as with the Ladies' toilets, there is no provision for access to baby changing facilities or for changing disabled children.



Figure 13 Urinals & sink



Figure 14 Boarded doors Men's toilets

External:

Externally the toilet block is a very bad state of repair.

The access (shown to Ladies' side – Fig 15) is extremely difficult to negotiate for those who are in the later stages of pregnancy, have toddlers with them, a babe in arms, or have a temporary disability.

Children's buggies cannot easily be taken into either block and children have to be carried into the block.

The outside of the building is very dingy and needs repainting. The rendering is cracked and discoloured.

Along the bottom of the outside wall, water collects; it is understood, because of a faulty drain. Sand and mud collect in this area forming a muddy 'soup' which is insanitary and a health hazard. Fig 16

The water is also affecting the rendering.

Figure 17 shows the condition of the render adjacent the drain serving the outside tap.

Many beach toilet blocks now have full sized oversized showers. Poppit has old tap, an insanitary muddy puddle and an equally insanitary washing up bowl! There might be comment that the bowl is provided for dog water. Whilst this might be the intention it is frequently used for washing feet etc.



Figure 15 Outside

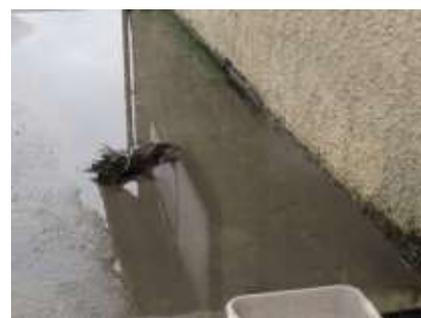


Figure 16 Water collecting



Fig 17

Even the notice boards on the walls of the block are in a disgraceful condition and need replacing. Fig 18



Fig 18

The overall appearance of the building is very unattractive, unappealing and run down. It is badly in need of some remedial work.

In summary:

Poppit Sands is a beautiful and popular Blue Flag beach, bordered by sand dunes which carry SSSI status. It is considered to be one of Pembrokeshire's 'Jewels' and a very popular tourist destination. Visitor numbers are growing year on year.

People are encouraged to visit Poppit. It is a Blue Flag beach, there is an onsite cafe (no toilets) a beach wheelchair and a good car park (pay & display).

There is also a toilet block that is an eyesore and is not fit for purpose.

The layout and size of the Ladies toilets are inadequate and in a deplorable state.

Ladies who visit Poppit and have to use the toilet facility should be entitled to do so in a safe manner with the appropriate level of privacy. There have been several reports of heavily pregnant women and those with toddlers and babes in arms having to use the cubicle facilities with the **DOOR OPEN** due to the lack of space.

Whilst the Gents facilities are adequate, even by the standards of a public toilet facility, they are basic and would benefit from refitting and improvement.

Neither offer access to baby changing or disabled changing facilities.

The current condition and design of the toilet block detracts significantly from the visitor experience at Poppit and discriminates against certain sectors of the visiting community.

This is unacceptable and requires to be addressed as a matter of urgency.