

Date · Dyddiad 14/03/23
Your ref · Eich cyfeirnod
My ref · Fy nghyfeirnod T/CC Public Toilet Funding 2023
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Pembrokeshire County Council Cyngor Sir Penfro

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Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

Katie Daly

Via Email

Dear St Dogmaels Community Council

I wanted to follow up on my letter sent in December 2022 whereby I explained the difficult financial situation Pembrokeshire County Council are facing and how it may possibly impact on toilet provision within your community.

Cabinet considered a report on public toilet budgets at its meeting on 13th February and have agreed the following:

1. Agree to close all PCC funded toilets listed in Group 2 (where we are legally able to) from 5th November 2023, unless a community asset transfer is agreed or a funding stream identified.
2. Agree that, should PCC funded toilet closures impact financially disproportionately on a particular Community Council, that a report be brought back to Cabinet to determine whether there is a case for an exception.
3. Give notice of the decision to Town and Community Councils/ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (where applicable) to allow time to develop funding arrangements should they wish to keep them open. If, before 5 November 2023, we receive an expression of interest to either fully fund the provision going forward, or a commitment that a community asset transfer will be in place by 31 March 2024, the facility will remain open until this date to allow for arrangements to be made (unless a usual winter closure is in place).
4. Subject to Council consideration and determination of the use of an element of the Second Homes Council Tax Premium to fund elements of the Council budget relating to affordable housing and the sustainability of local communities, this funding is used to fund the contract costs of the toilets in Group 2 for financial year 2023-24 while permanent arrangements are being made.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

5. Agree that any toilet which is declared surplus to requirements and closes but is serving, predominantly, the visitor economy will be temporarily retained until the outcome of any future decision on Welsh Government's proposal for introducing a Visitor Levy is known.

The full report can be read:

<https://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/documents/s68918/3.2%20-%20Cabinet%2013th%20Feb%202023%20Toilet%20Budget%20Report.pdf>

As per point 1 above, the toilet at Poppit Sands is within the Group 2 classification. We have agreed with PCNPA that we will issue a 12-month closure notice on this toilet therefore the facility is due to close on 31st March 2024. On closure the land will be returned to PCNPA. We are currently in conversations with the National Parks about the occupation of the Surf Lifesaving Club.

As the toilet is serving a PCNPA car park, please be assured that we are continuing conversations with them to try and come to a resolution over the future funding and have recommended they consider utilising the income generated from the car park for this purpose. Unfortunately to date the Parks have not agreed to financially support any provision in Pembrokeshire.

I mentioned in my previous letter that should your Council wish to retain the facility there is an option available to you to either fund the contract cost to keep it open or consider taking over the facility from PCNPA (with their agreement). Both these models of funding have been very successful in the past with other Town/Community councils.

The current cost for providing the toilet through our existing contract is £19,028 per annum. This includes cleaning, consumables, responsive repairs, utilities, vehicles, management charge and overheads.

The contract price is subject to annual CPI increases and the contract is due to be renewed or retendered in 2024 which could affect the overall price. Some Councils have experienced that the cost of running the facilities themselves following an asset transfer is lower than this cost and we can discuss estimates for this if you wanted to explore the option further.

I appreciate this is very disappointing news however the provision of public conveniences is a discretionary service and with such a severe financial situation we can no longer afford to fund what is more toilets than any other authority in the UK (less Highlands and Island of Scotland) when we continue to charge the lowest council tax in Wales.

If you would like to discuss further the opportunity to fund the toilet to prevent closures or have any other questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Katie Daly
Strategic Business Manager