

FAQ community toilets

What are Community Toilets?

Toilets in Barnet's cafés, restaurants and parks, open for use by the public. Community Toilets is a new borough wide scheme to provide accessible, clean, safe toilets in convenient locations, for residents and visitors.

Why now?

After years of weakened High Street trading and Post-Covid 19 we seek to encourage residents to shop locally to boost the local community and local finances.

Toilets previously provided in Parks and libraries closed during Covid. Additionally, seven high Street APC (Automated Public Convenience) toilets closed and are due to be removed c June 2021.

As the existing APC units are now 'life expired' and would require replacement at significant cost. It is therefore appropriate to consider alternative more cost-effective solutions.

What is the cost-savings?

The replacement APC cost is £80,000 per unit or £560,000 in total and the ongoing annual maintenance costs are around £100,000.

By setting up a community toilet scheme, Barnet is therefore, saving a £660,000 initial outlay and around £50,000 annually thereafter.

The currently allocated £50,000 which covers the cost of the annual maintenance/cleaning contract for two of the seven APC toilets will be re-allocated to the Community Toilet budget.

What is offered to businesses?

Each venue is offered an annual 'incentive' or contribution to the costs of maintenance. A proposed payment of £800, £1000 or £1,200 is provided annually as a small maintenance fee.

The fee depends on the facilities of a business, and the other community toilets in its near proximity.

What will this do to accessibility?

We're aiming to launch the scheme with at least one community toilet in the town centres where an APC is closing and we are keen to expand this to three business participants, whilst also expanding the scheme to all our 15 main and district town centres.

After the launch, we hope the scheme continues to grow to provide a toilet every 300m or 3.5m min walk on our main and district town centres, subject to available funding.

We strive towards signing up locations with baby changing facilities and facilities that are DDA (The Disability Discrimination Act) compliant where possible. Moreover, we aim to achieve a position where provisions are available to cover the morning, afternoon as well as evenings.

What will the venue do?

Members of the scheme agree to reasonable requests for people to use the loo, free of charge during their normal opening hours and without the need to make a purchase at the premises. They keep the facilities clean and place a sticker in their premise window indicating they participate in the scheme.