

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

**15 November 2018**

**Borough Council Services Update**

**1. PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Borough Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee recently undertook a review of the Council's existing provision of 15 public conveniences across the Borough. The review was assisted by a detailed audit of each public convenience and feedback from the Parish/Town Councils.

The Committee has made a number of recommendations to the Council's Cabinet which took into account the feedback received, recognised the value of public conveniences to the community and sought to identify the most appropriate and fairest provider of public conveniences for the future. In summary the Committee's recommendations are as follows:-

- to transfer the ownership and management of the Council's public conveniences in their area to the local Parish/Town Council;
- for the Borough Council to retain the ownership and management of public conveniences located in its strategically located areas of public open space, for example Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks,
- the existing Priory Road and Castle Grounds public conveniences in Tonbridge be retained and funded via special expenses;
- the existing Angel Centre, Tonbridge public toilets be closed with public redirected to existing alternative provision.

For Parish/Town Councils with an existing public convenience in their area, Borough Council Officers will, subject to Cabinet approval, be arranging meetings to discuss the transfer arrangements. The transfers will not be progressed until the Council's cleansing contract expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, giving Parish/Town Councils adequate time to plan for the change, and for the Borough Council to ensure the existing facilities are suitably refurbished.

## **2. WOULDHAM RIVER WALL**

The Council has been working in close liaison with Wouldham Parish Council over potential reinstatement works to a length of river wall adjacent to an area of public open space owned by the Borough Council in the village. Levels of movement in the river wall have been monitored by external specialist surveyors which have highlighted little movement in the wall, with no recordings showing any need for concern. It has therefore been agreed to continue to monitor the wall over the next 5 years prior to determining the way forward in the longer term. Funding for the project will be retained in the Council's Capital Plan.

In the meantime works have recently been completed to reinstate the public path through the open space which was in a poor state of repair following localised subsidence. The works were progressed in close liaison with the Parish Council and have been well received by local residents.

## **3. LEYBOURNE LAKES COUNTRY PARK**

The Borough Council's Cabinet has agreed to 'test the market' with regard to the future management of the County Park, with a tender opportunity being advertised prior to Christmas. Local Parish Councils have been involved in the development of a future Management Agreement, with tenderers required to deliver services at the site which are compatible with its nature conservation features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained for the benefit of the local community. It is envisaged that any future partnership with a third party operator will include the provision of a lakeside visitor centre to cater for the needs of visitors to the Park. The outcome of the tender exercise will be considered by Members of the Council in spring 2019.

In the meantime the Council has invested in an extension to the existing car park to help meet demand for parking at peak times and will shortly be undertaking some improvements to the paths following feedback from users and local Parish/Town Councils.

## **4. CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTIONS**

Tuesday collection households will have their green waste service suspended over Christmas and the New Year. Monday collections will be as normal in both weeks, Wednesday to Friday bin collections will be a day later than normal, week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday to Friday, a day later than normal in week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **5. ROAD CLOSURES FOR EVENTS**

Following a report to the Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, views were sought from partners regarding the powers available to allow temporary road closures. Kent Police provided an overview of the road closure powers available and advised that all events they were notified of would be

assessed, including any requirements for traffic management or road closures. It was explained that the decision to issue any traffic order remained with the respective local or county council and the position of Kent Police was to offer advice and guidance to assist event organisers and Safety Advisory Groups.

Members reviewed all the evidence submitted and on balance felt that the approach adopted by the Borough Council in using the Town Police Clauses Act was appropriate.