

SUBJECT:	PETITION – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT WESTGATE, LINCOLN
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	CHERYL EVANS, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND ELECTIONS MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive a petition which has been submitted to the City Council in the following terms:
- 1.2 *We demand that the Public Toilets on Westgate are reopened with immediate effect, local residents and visitors to the City of Lincoln need them back and their extended closure is unacceptable. Using covid to close them temporarily and now making that closure permanent is unacceptable.*

2. Background

- 2.1 A petition containing 902 signatures was received by the City Council on 24 June 2021. The petition organiser has advised that the petition remains open and is receiving further signatures. An update will be given at the meeting by the petition organiser.
- 2.2 The full wording of the petition is as follows:

Save Our Loos - We demand the reopening of Westgate Loos in Lincoln

We demand that the Public Toilets on Westgate are reopened with immediate effect, local residents and visitors to the City of Lincoln need them back and their extended closure is unacceptable. Using covid to close them temporarily and now making that closure permanent is unacceptable.

Why is this important?

Please support our campaign to save our Westgate public loos, the city council shut them during the first covid lockdown for our safety? But they have now decided to permanently close them to save money. Claiming that there are plenty of pubs, cafes, restaurants and shops that have loos and they will let people use them. We have had the Westgate loos for decades and they have always been much used by residents and visitors to the city. They are award winning loos, conveniently located by the main car parks uphill. The assumption that we can all walk far enough and fast enough to go from cafe to cafe and beg to use the loos is unacceptable and would be a humiliating experience. I was astonished to hear the councillor suggest that, rather than continuing to do their job and provide public facilities for all. I feel we all need to stand up to each and every council who tries to use covid to close our public loos, please help us save our loos.

2.3 In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, the petition organiser has been invited to present the petition to the meeting of the Council on 27 July 2021 and will be allocated five minutes in accordance with the scheme.

2.4 It is recommended that the petition is formally received by the Council and in accordance with the petition scheme, to decide whether:

- a) to take the action which the petition requests;
- b) not to take the action which the petition requests for the reasons put forward in the debate; or
- c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by the relevant committee.

3. Equality Implications

3.1 None arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 Rule 2 (xii) of the Council Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution provides for the receipt of petitions by Council. As the petition exceeds 900 signatures, it has triggered a debate by the Council in accordance with the petition scheme.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the petition is formally received by the Council and in accordance with the petition scheme, to decide whether:

- a) to take the action which the petition requests;
- b) not to take the action which the petition requests for the reasons put forward in the debate; or
- c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by the relevant committee.

List of Background Papers: Petition received on 24 June 2021.

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