



Policy and Resources Committee – 29 September 2011

Public toilets update

Purpose of report

This report provides Councillors with an update on public toilets and asks them to decide what they want to happen with public toilets in the future.

Attachment(s)

Audit of use – **Appendix A**

Results of online survey – **Appendix B**

Individual comments received as part of consultation – **Appendix C**

Equality Impact Assessment – **Appendix D**

Town Council proposal – **Appendix E**

Businesses who have said they will consider participating in a Community Toilet Scheme – **Appendix F**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A number of previous reports relating to public toilets have already been submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee including:

- 13 July 2009
- 15 March 2010
- 8 November 2010
- 4 July 2011.

1.2 At the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 July 2011, Councillors were provided with a copy of all previous reports relating to public toilets and agreed to postpone making a decision about their future so that further facts could be gathered to enable the Committee to make an informed decision.

1.3 After 30 September 2011 there is no revenue budget for public toilets. Closure of public toilets was originally identified by the Finance Working Party (previously called Budget Review Group) as an area where possible budget savings could be achieved.

1.4 This report provides Councillors with an update about:

- audit of use of the public toilets
- outcome of consultation with service users
- results of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)
- current position with Town Councils and the transfer of public toilets to them
- overview of a Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) and local businesses who have said that they would be interested in participating in the scheme

2.0 Audit of use of the public toilets

2.1 An audit of use was conducted at each public toilet during opening and closing times on one day. The results of the audit of use are provided in **Appendix A**. In summary, the total number of people who used the public toilets on the audit day were as follows:

Location	Total number of people who used the toilets	Population (2010 estimate)
Oundle	279	5,755
Rushden – Duck Street	132	29,514
Rushden – Newton Road	100	
Thrapston	93	6,024
Higham Ferrers	77	7,624
Irthlingborough	65	8,665
Raunds	18	8,832
TOTAL	764	

2.2 With the exception of Raunds, all of the public toilets have a separate disabled toilet which is permanently locked and only accessible by Radar key holders. Radar keys are available to disabled people and allow them access to locked public toilets across the country.

2.3 During the audit, none of the disabled toilets were accessed.

3.0 Outcome of consultation with service users

3.1 An online survey was conducted on the East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) website and in total 177 people responded. The results of the survey are provided in **Appendix B**.

3.2 All individual comments received as part of the survey are contained in **Appendix C**.

4.0 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 An EqIA has been completed and is contained in **Appendix D**. The EqIA identifies that if the public toilets are closed there could be a negative impact on the following groups of people:

- disabled
- elderly
- young
- female.

4.2 Consultation on the EqIA is currently taking place with organisations who represent the above groups. Consultation is due to conclude on 26 September and to date feedback has only been received from one organisation, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) who have verbally advised ENC of the following:

- that EHRC is aware that there is currently a lack of clear guidance on how to demonstrate that “due regard” has been shown
- that ENC is doing all that is necessary and that providing ENC gives people who are likely to be most affected by the potential closure of toilets a mechanism to “have their say”, and that that information is recorded, ENC will have done everything they can to mitigate any possible legal challenge
- EHRC is supportive of a CTS (see section 6) which they believe is the only way to mitigate any possible negative impact closure of public toilets might have.

4.3 Any further feedback received between now and the Policy and Resources Committee on 29 September will be tabled for discussion on the night.

5.0 Discussions with Town Councils

5.1 There have been ongoing discussions with Town Councils about the transfer of public toilets to their ownership and responsibility but to date none of the toilets have been

transferred. All Town Councils have been provided with the following information:

- access to previous Policy and Resources Committee reports about public toilets
- outcome of the audit of use survey
- results of public consultation
- confirmation of businesses who say they are interested in participating in a CTS
- a copy of the EqIA.

5.2 It should be noted that Town Councils have said that they have found it difficult to agree possible transfer arrangements due to their summer recess. Detailed below is what is known at the time of writing this report:

5.3 ***Raunds Town Council***

If East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) decides to close the public toilets, Raunds Town Council has said that it will accept ownership and responsibility. Contracts have been prepared but have not yet been signed.

5.4 ***Rushden Town Council***

Rushden Town Council has said that it will accept the transfer of the public toilets to its ownership and responsibility but wants ENC to help review its cleaning contract arrangements. As this has only recently been confirmed, no contracts have yet been signed.

5.5 ***Oundle, Thrapston, Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers Town Councils***

Oundle, Thrapston, Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers Town Councils have said that they will accept the transfer of the public toilets providing transitional funding is provided over four years which is as set out in **Appendix E**. The Town Councils also request that the following information is provided to the Policy and Resources Committee prior to a decision about the future of public toilets being made:

- that if details of the transitional funding is not acceptable (i.e. the number of years or the percentages detailed) then ENC makes an alternative proposal to the Town Councils.
- that the Town Councils are receptive to the concept of the CTS but feel they need more information and that a sufficient number of participating businesses are needed to make it workable and sustainable
- that following the P&R meeting, the Town Councils are given appropriate time to consider the outcome/decision made before any final action is taken.

5.6 The transitional funding proposed by the above Town Councils would mean ENC would have the following financial commitments. There is currently no revenue budget to pay for the toilets beyond 30 September 2011, but capital provision was made by this committee on 4 July.

Year	Capital £	Revenue £	Comments
1	63,600	42,000	One-off capital payment of £15,900 to each Town Council
2	-	30,000	
3	-	15,000	
4	-	-	
TOTAL	63,600	87,000	

5.7 It should be noted that the figures quoted are based on existing cleaning costs.

5.8 If transitional funding is offered to the above Town Councils, Councillors may also want to consider offering the same “deal” to Rushden and Raunds Town Councils. A table showing the cost to ENC of providing transitional funding to Rushden and Raunds Town

Councils is contained within the table provided in section 7.1, Option Four.

6.0 Community Toilet Scheme

- 6.1 A CTS allows members of the public to use toilet facilities in approved local businesses during their opening hours. This service is made available to the public for free without any expectation that users will purchase goods or services. Participating businesses undertake to keep their toilets safe, clean, easily accessible and well-stocked. In return, they receive an annual payment from the council organising the scheme of usually between £500 and £1,000 which recognises consumable and cleaning costs and the cost of providing appropriate public liability insurance.
- 6.2 Businesses in the local area have been identified and approached by ENC's Economic Development team to see if they are interested in participating in a CTS.
- 6.3 A small number have said that they are interested in participating in a CTS and they are identified in **Appendix F**. Some businesses have asked for their details to be kept anonymous until a decision is made about whether a CTS will be taken forward.
- 6.4 A number of CTS already successfully operate across the country. Councils running CTS say that, as knowledge about the scheme increases, more businesses want to join.
- 6.5 Research identifies that Councils who have introduced a CTS have done so before closing their public toilets. It would take approximately three months to set up and advertise a CTS.
- 6.6 The ongoing costs of a CTS will include:
- annual payments to businesses
 - promotional material
 - staff costs in setting up and maintaining the CTS (this will include regular inspections of businesses' toilets to ensure standards are being maintained).
- 6.7 The level of costs will vary depending on how many businesses participate in the CTS. If there are a maximum of 25 participating businesses across all locations, approximate costs of the scheme will be £30,000 per annum based on a payment of £1,000 to each business plus promotional materials and staffing costs.
- 6.8 Further information about Community Toilet Schemes can be found on the Communities and Local Government Website (www.communities.gov.uk) in a document called "Improving Public Access to Toilets: Guidance on Community Toilet Schemes and SatLav".

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 From 30 September 2011 there is no money in the revenue budget to pay for public toilets. A capital budget of £95,400 was approved in July 2011 to cover the cost of the one-off payments of £15,900 to all Town Councils, excluding Raunds whose payment will be made in 2012/13 when the annual payment to Healthmatic is due. Depending what Councillors decide, there is a range of possible financial implications which are identified below:

Option	Description	Revenue £	Capital £	Budget Year	Comments	
Option One – close public toilets and do nothing else	Water	£1,500	-	11/12	disconnection costs	
	Electricity	£1,500	-	11/12	disconnection costs	
	Redundancy	£11,000	-	11/12	Cleaning staff	
Option Two – close public toilets with effect from 31 December 2011 and work with Town Councils to put a CTS in place	Current running costs Oct - Dec 2011	£37,500	-	11/12	to keep public toilets open whilst CTS is set up	
	Redundancy	£11,000	-	11/12	Cleaning staff	
Option Three – keep public toilets open	Current running costs	£75,000	-	11/12	Based on current costs	
		£165,000	-	12/13		
Estimated costs for Oundle, Irthlingborough, Higham Ferrers, Thrapston						
Option Four – transfer public toilets to Town Councils over a phased basis (see 5.6 and Appendix E)	Current running costs until December 2011	£37,500		11/12	Estimated at 3 months for transition costs based on start date of phase being 1 January 2012	
	One off payment		£63,600	11/12	One off payments for four sites	
	Stepped running costs	£42,000		12/13	Year 1 estimate. Future years as per table 5.6	
	Estimated costs for Rushden					
	One off payment		£15,900	11/12	Assuming transfer in first phase	
	Stepped running costs	£26,600		12/13	Based on Appendix E % of current £38k cleaning costs	
		£19,000		13/14		
		£9,500		14/15		
	Estimated costs for Raunds					
	One off payment	£17,300*		12/13	Final annual rent and maintenance payment which includes cleaning (* previously £15,900 – includes estimated price increase)	
Stepped running costs	£nil		12/13	Based on Appendix E % of estimated £10k cleaning costs		
	£5,000		13/14			
	£2,500		14/15			

Note that redundancy costs under option 1 may still apply if transfer is not completed by the deadline of 31/12/11

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 The closure of public toilets is a contentious issue and there are possible legal risks associated with closure of public toilets.

8.2 The main risks are:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – ENC has an obligation not only to be aware of any negative impact of any decision on individuals with disabilities but to also pay “due regard” to it. In relation to public toilets that means Councillors must consider:
 - a) whether savings could be found in other areas to prevent the closure of the toilets
 - b) whether anything can be done to mitigate the impact of closure of the public toilets on disabled people.
- Judicial Review – A potential complaint could be made on the grounds of Illegality, Procedural Impropriety, Irrationality or Wednesbury Unreasonableness. Whilst every attempt has been made to reduce any potential challenge, it is not possible to guarantee that one will not be made. It should be noted that the introduction of a CTS would help to reduce any negative impact from any possible legal challenge on the grounds of Wednesbury Unreasonableness or Irrationality. A CTS would also help to mitigate any potential negative impact closure of public toilets might have on disabled people.

8.3 There is currently no case law based on the closure of public toilets where challenges have either succeeded or failed. Whilst there is no statutory duty for ENC to provide public toilets the Policy and Resources Committee should ensure, taking into account the work done by the Finance Working Party, that their decision making is:

- procedurally correct (following the advice documented below)
- made only after considering whether cuts can be made from alternative areas (i.e. other areas are considered and then decided against).
- made only after considering whether anything can be done to reduce any negative impact of the closure (i.e. introducing a CTS).
- not irrational or wholly unreasonable
- transparent and documented.

8.4 Finally, mitigating risks is all about considering how the negative impact of closing the public toilets can be reduced by considering alternatives. If the Policy and Resources Committee are to limit any potential legal challenge they must demonstrate that they have considered the facts detailed in this report and, if a decision is made to close the public toilets and not pursue alternatives, sound reasons for that decision are discussed and agreed.

9.0 Risk implications

9.1 There are risks associated with this decision. The main risks are raised in section 8 and apply to possible legal challenges. Where possible those risks have been mitigated.

9.1 There is also a risk that if public toilets are closed without putting any alternative in place, it could have a negative impact on:

- the public’s perception of ENC
- local businesses if people decide to shop elsewhere.

10.0 Equality implications

10.1 Equality implications are identified in section 4 and **Appendix D**.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to consider the options set out in

section 7.1 and decide which it wants to pursue

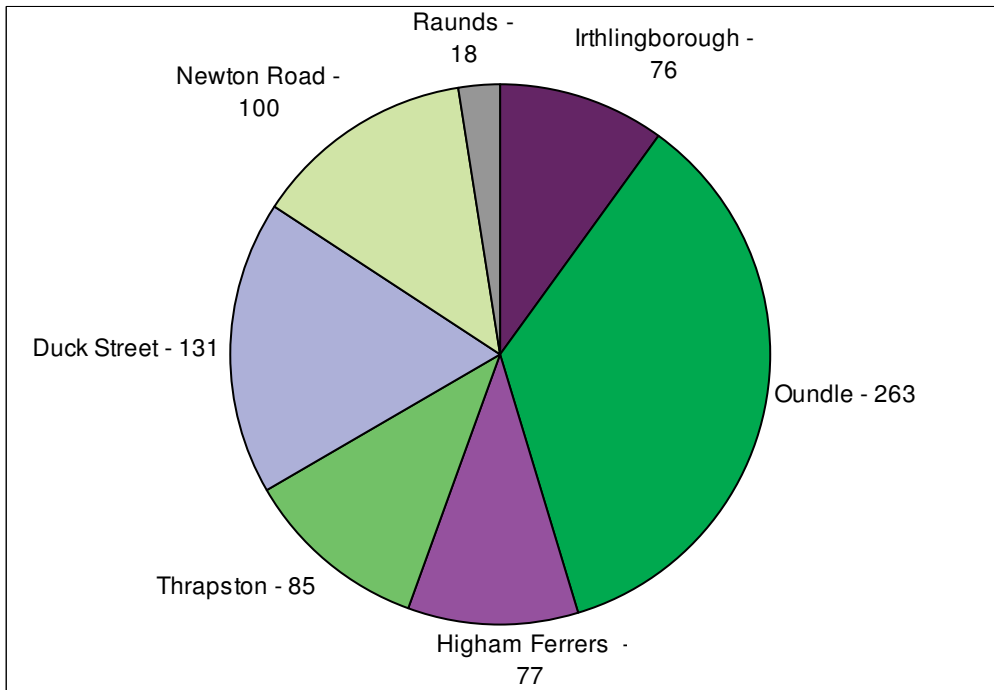
(Reason to decide on the future of public toilets)

Legal	Power: Public Health Act 1936				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Katy Everitt, Head of Resources and Organisational Development					
Date: 19 September 2011					
CFO		MO		CX	

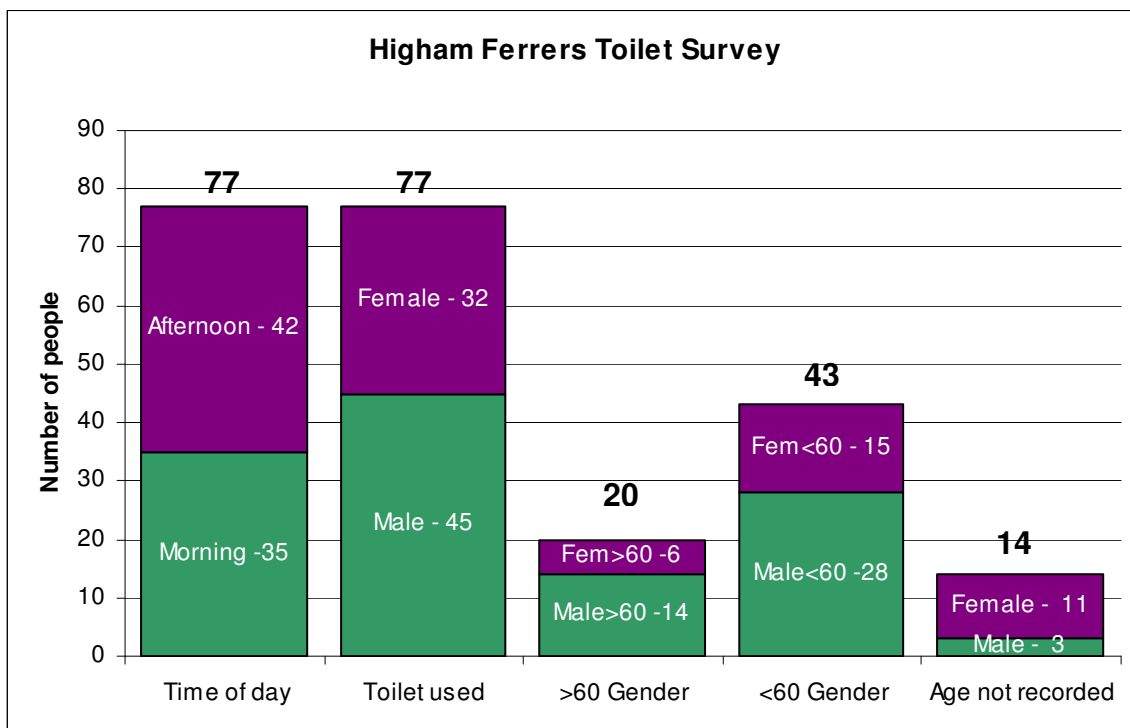
(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)



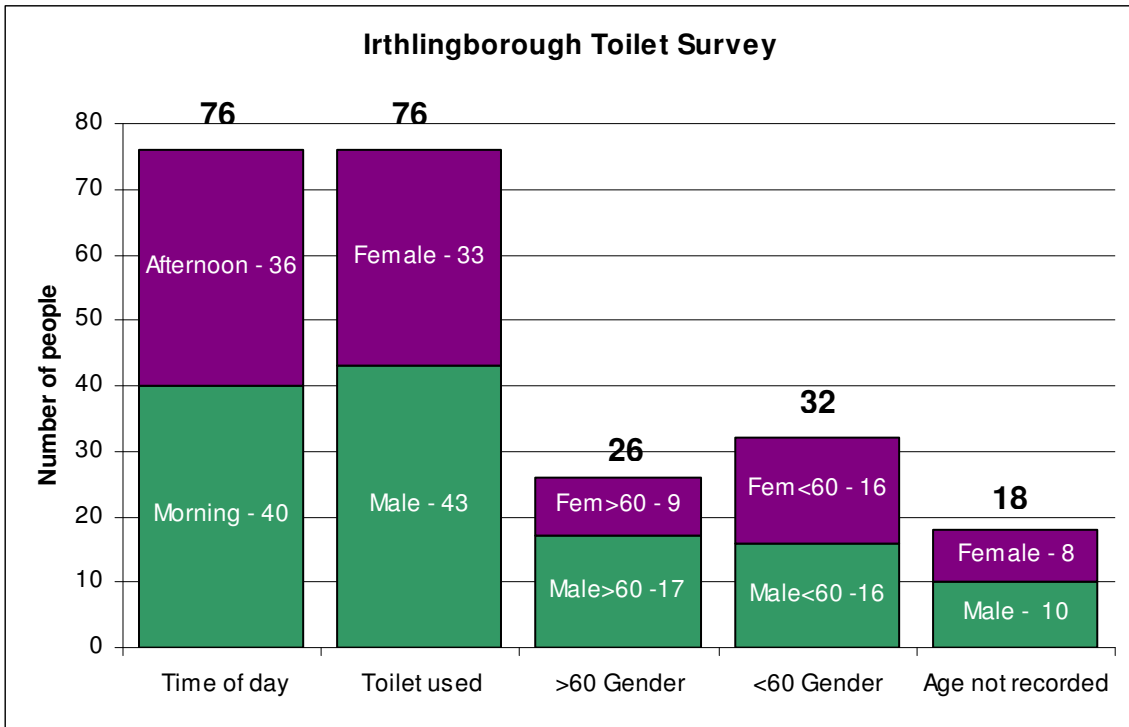
The future of public toilets – audit of use



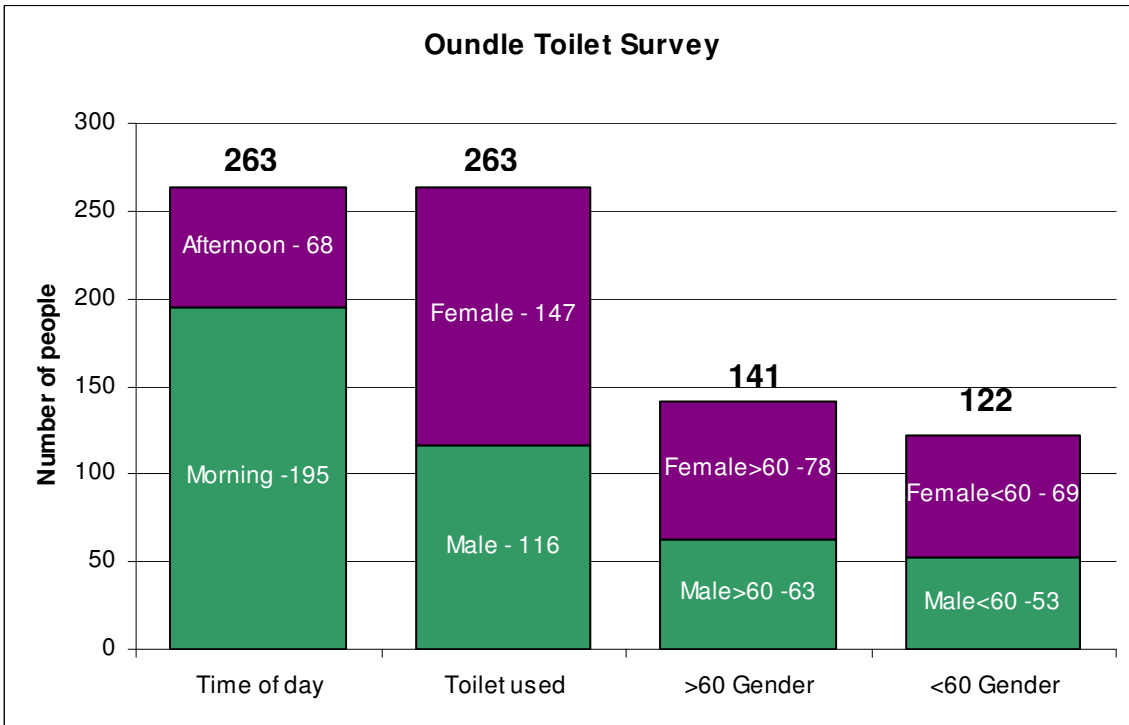
Number of people using the public toilets during the course of one day.



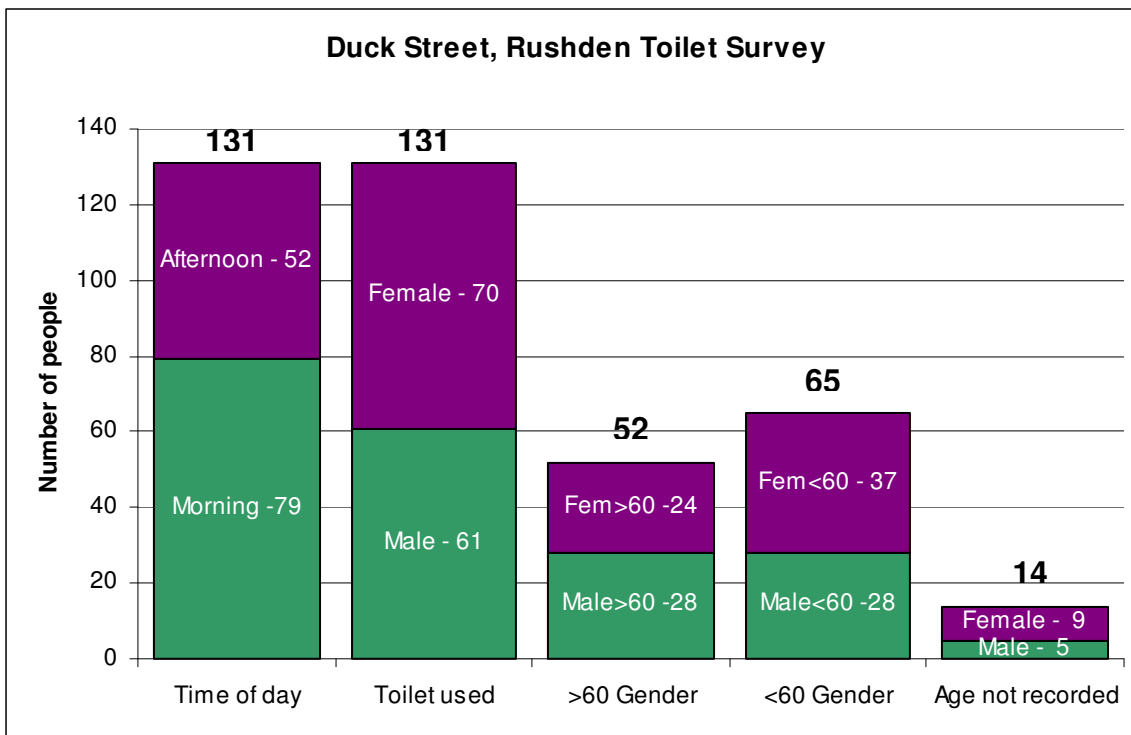
Higham Ferrers – Friday 29 July 2011



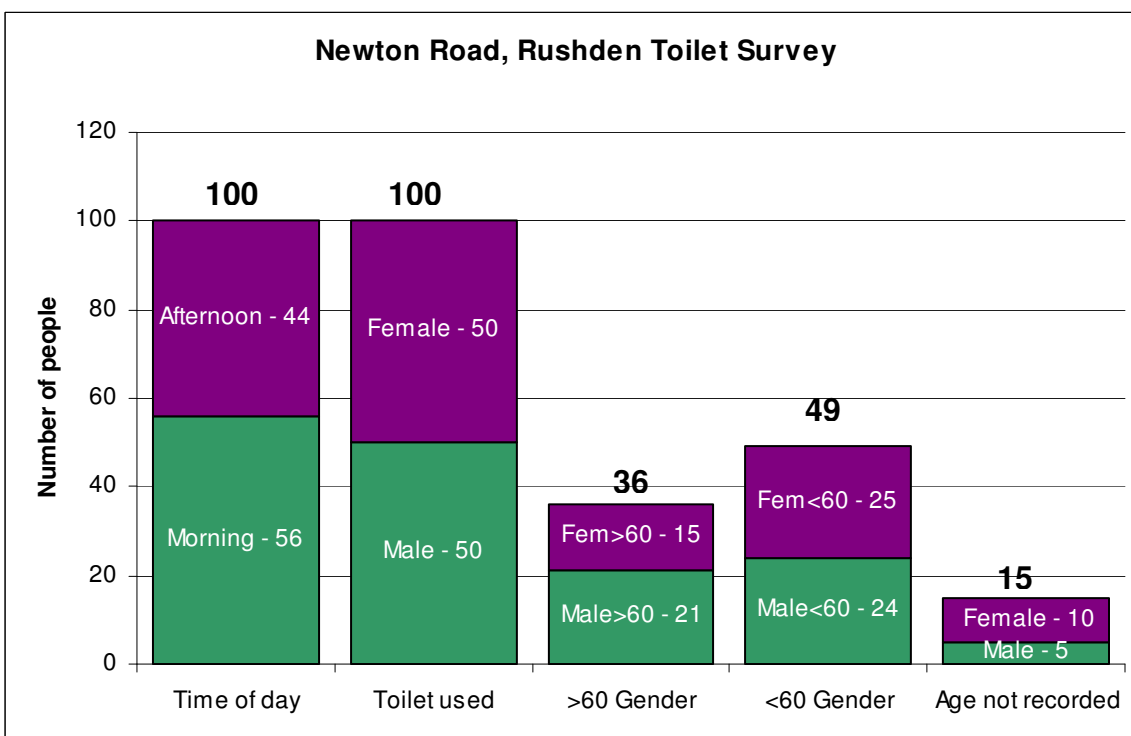
Irthlingborough – Friday 22 July 2011



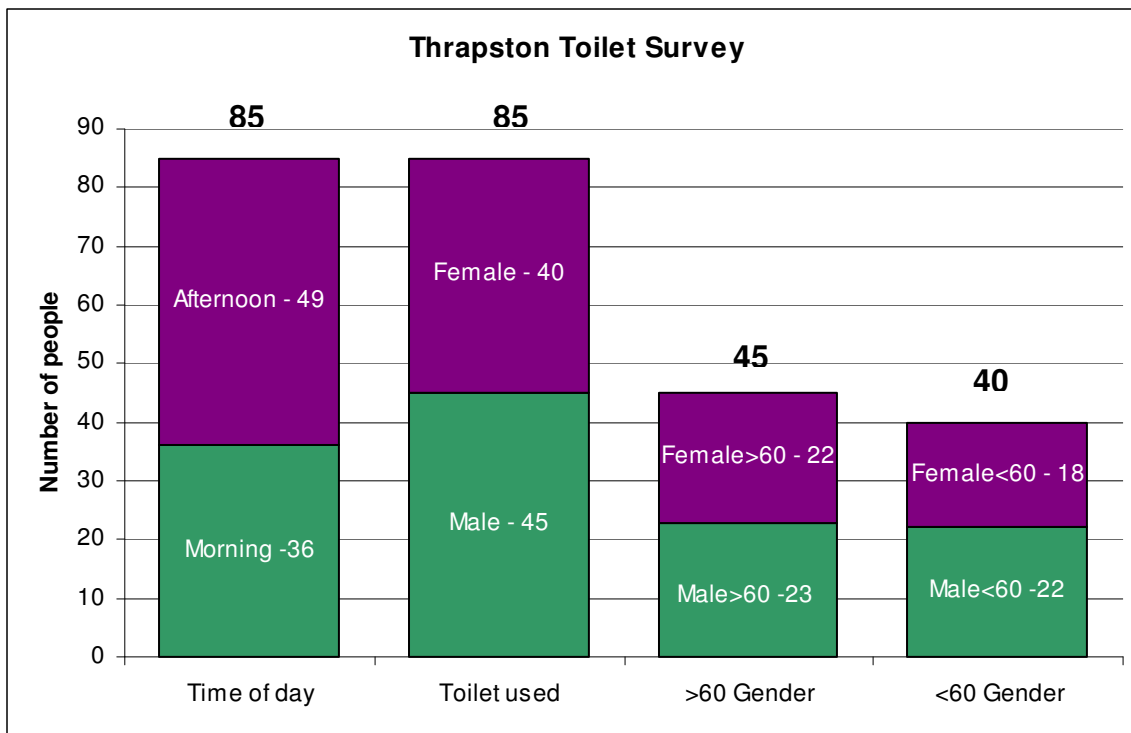
Oundle – Thursday 28 July 2011
(Market Day)



Rushden Duck Street – Friday 5 August 2011



Rushden Newton Road – Friday 5 August 2011



Thrapston – Tuesday 2 August 2011
(Market Day)

Raunds

The public toilet in Raunds is a unisex facility with an automatic count of the number of users. It is not possible therefore to separate time of day, whether the male or female toilet was accessed or the age of the toilet user.

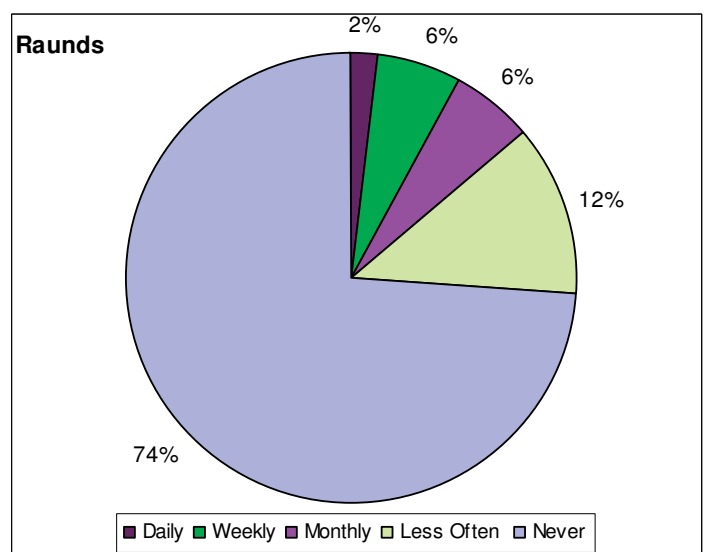
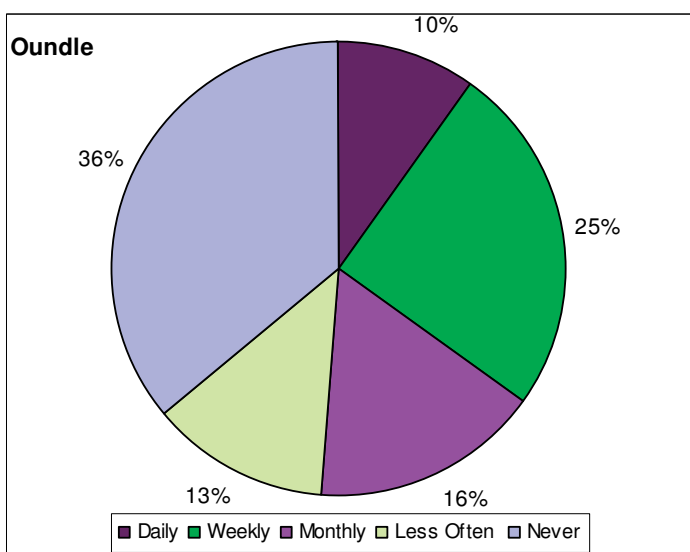
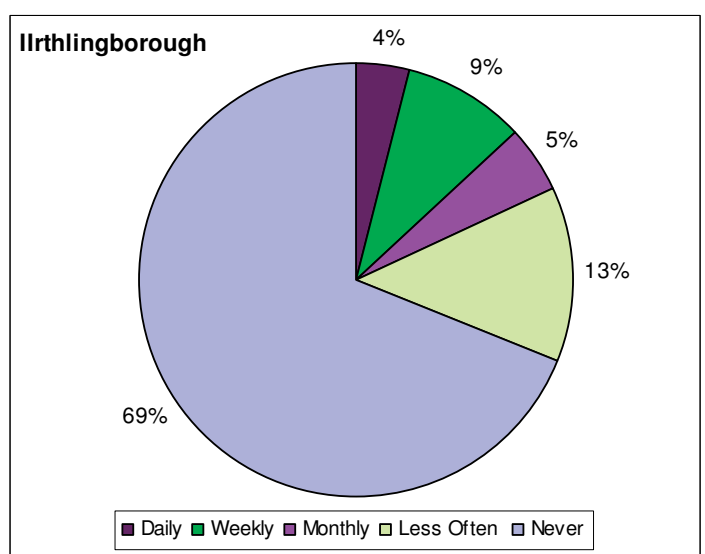
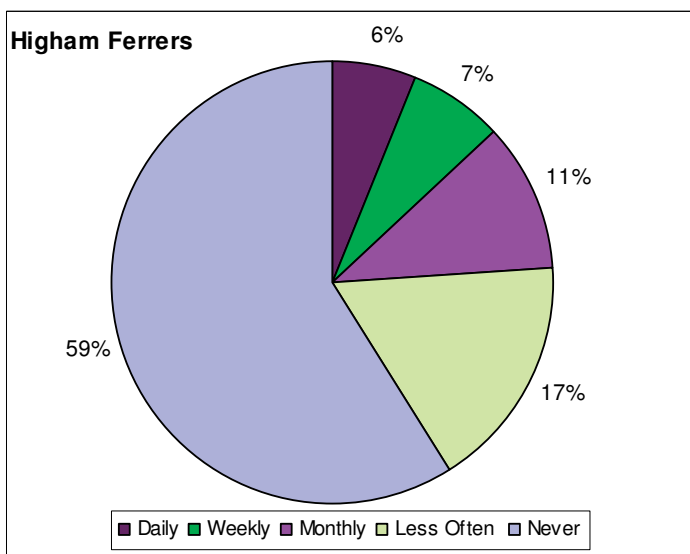
A total of 18 people used the toilet facility on Friday 5 August 2011.

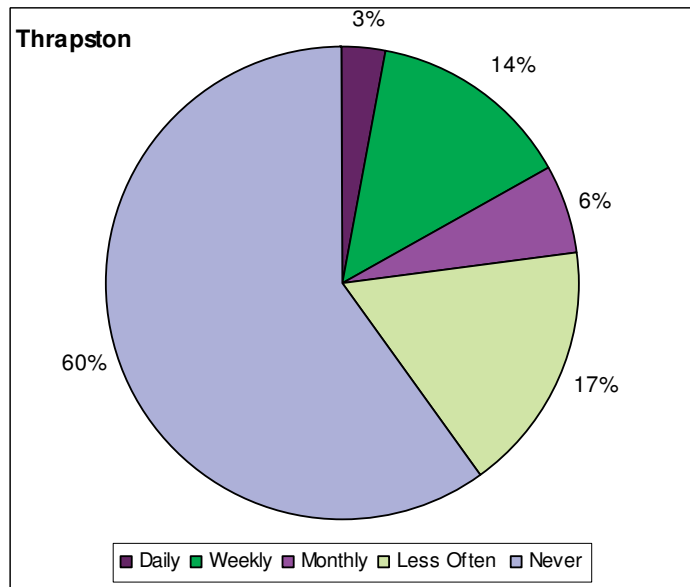
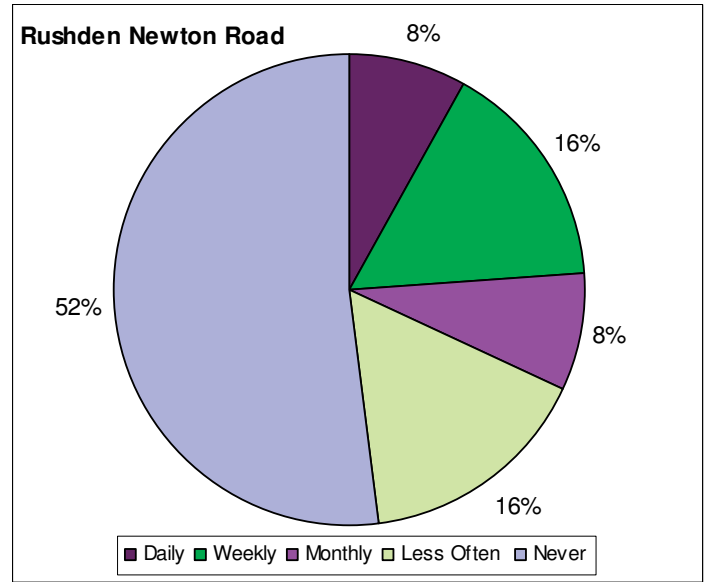
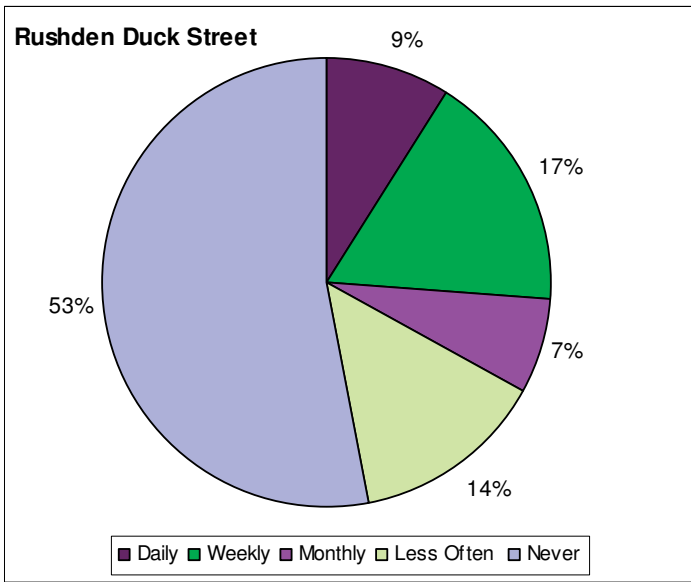


The future of public toilets survey responses

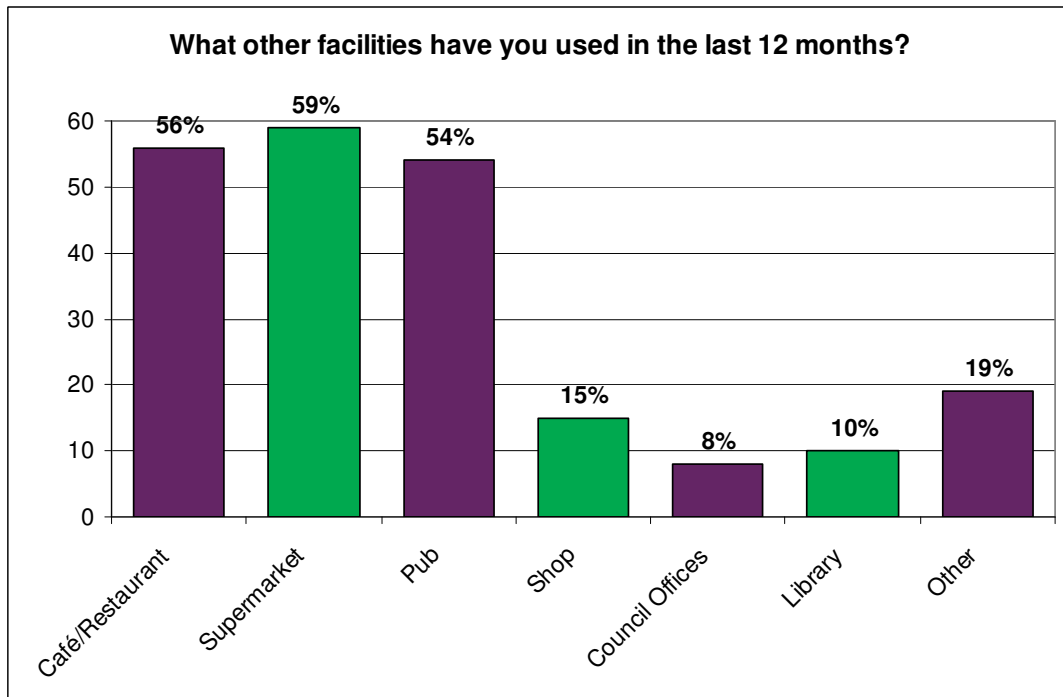
An online survey was conducted on the East Northamptonshire Council website which received **177** responses.

How often would you say you use each of the public toilets listed below ?





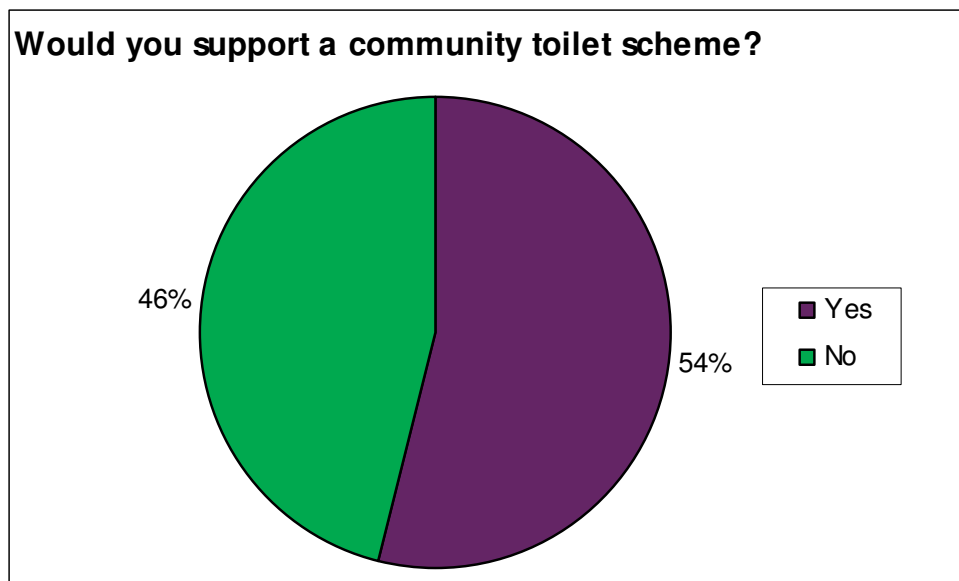
Have you used any of the toilet facilities in the following establishments in East Northamptonshire in the last 12 months?



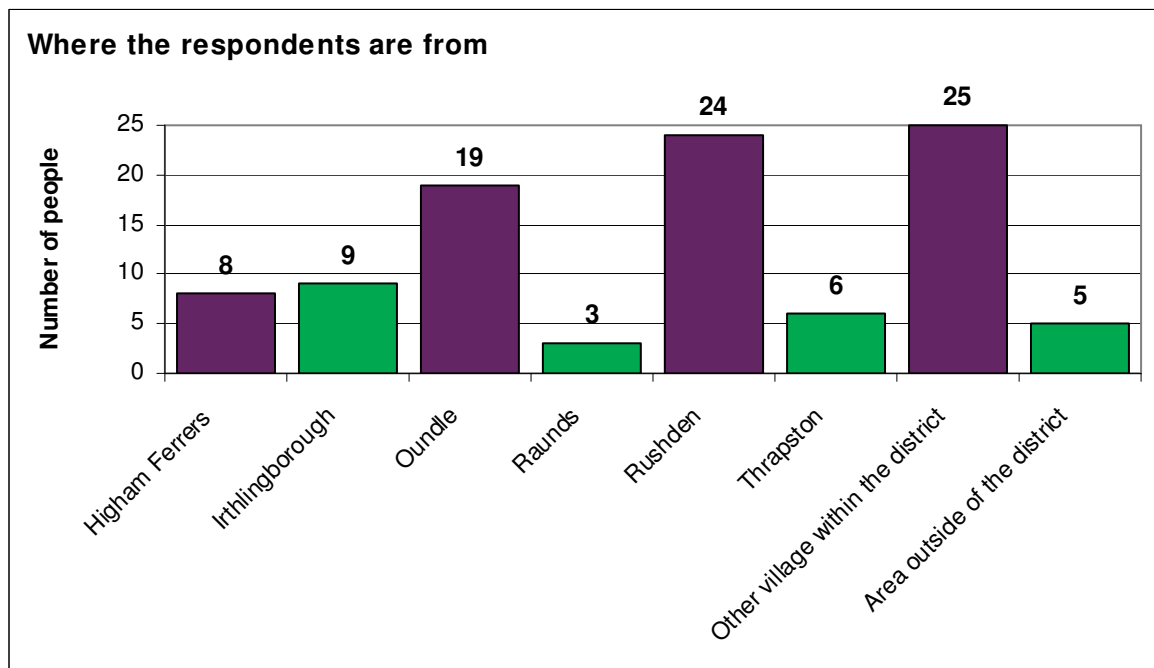
Please tell us in which other establishments you have used the toilet facilities in the last 12 months?

- Church
- Work
- Doctors surgery /Health Centre/Medical Centre
- Country parks (Barnwell, Fermyn woods, Stanwick lakes, Irchester, Sywell)
- Working Men's Club
- Football Club
- Leisure centre
- Community centre
- Theatre
- Garden centre
- Service Station
- Office

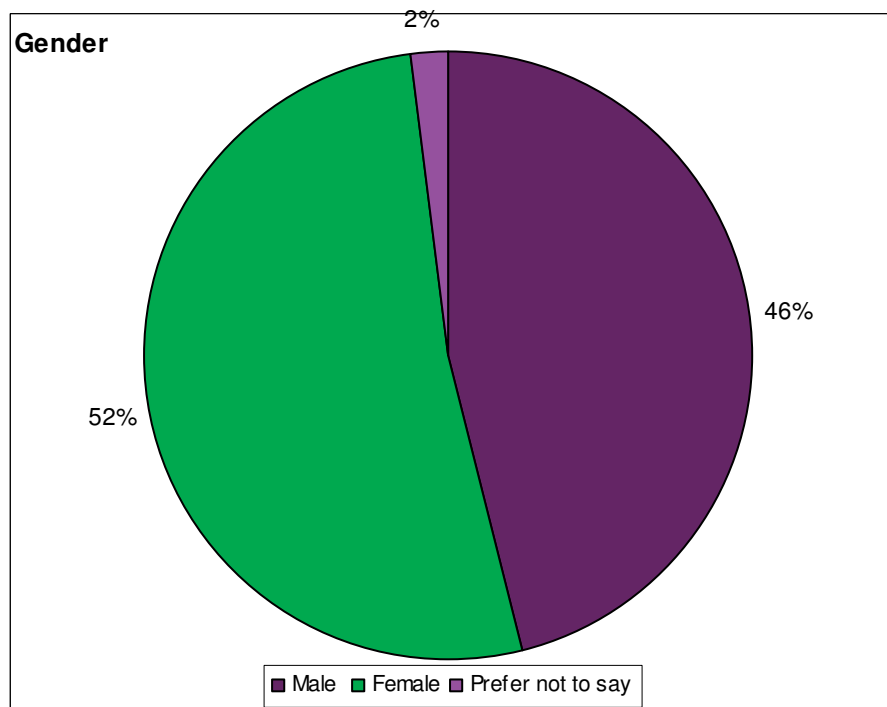
If the public toilets were to close would you support the introduction of a community toilet scheme as an alternative?



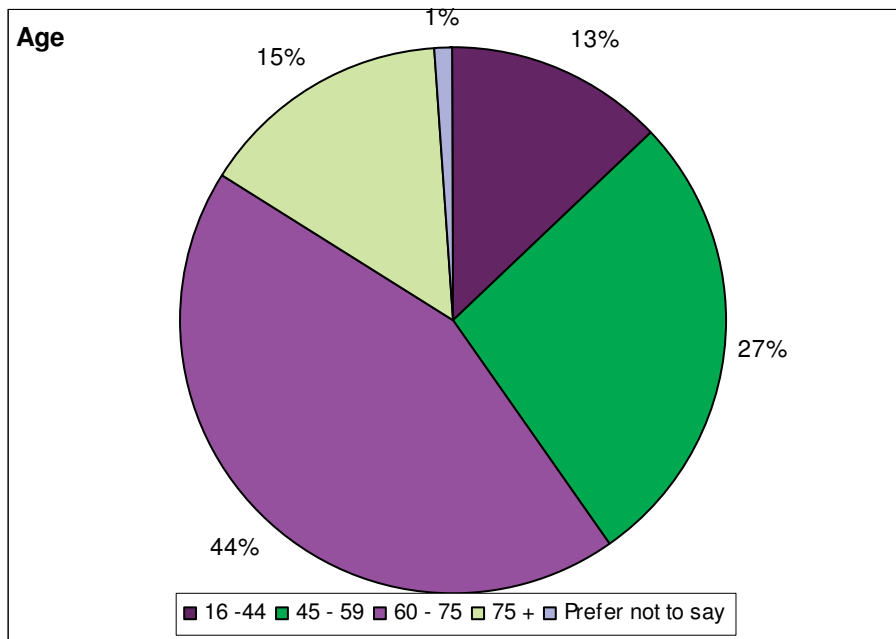
What town, village or city do you live in?



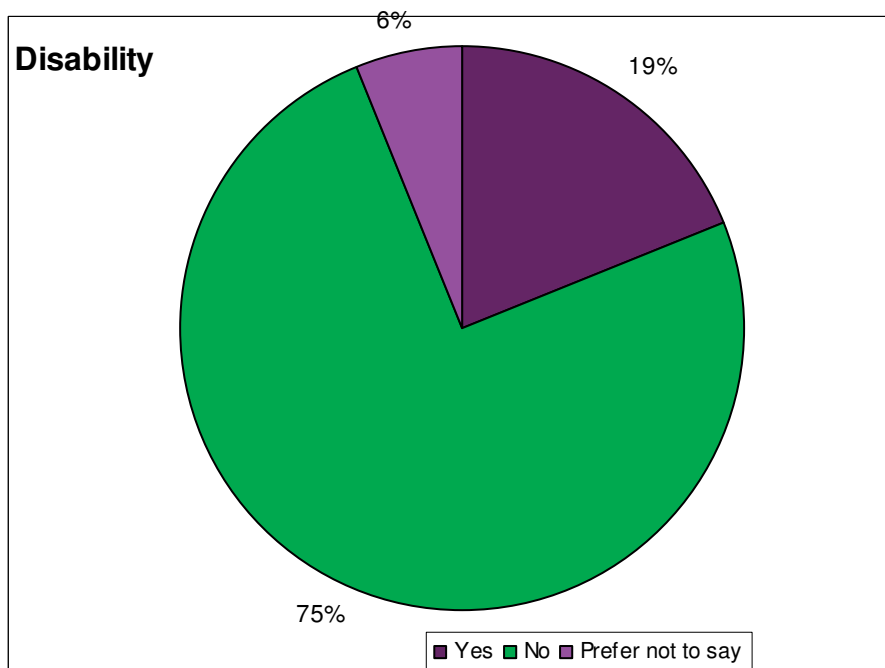
What gender are you



How old are you?

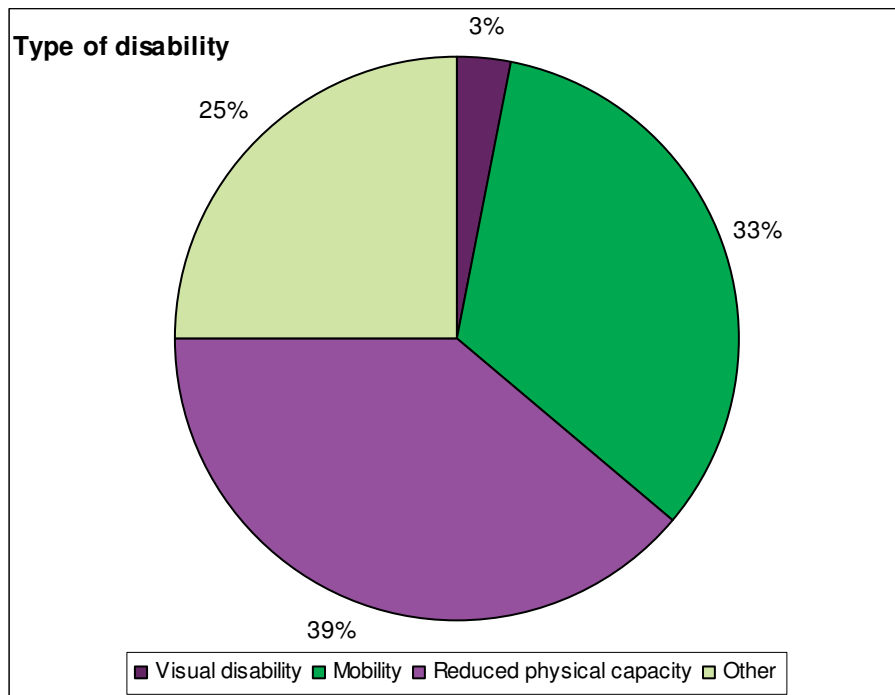


Do you consider that you have a disability?



Please choose which of the following best describes your disability/disabilities

The types of disability of the 36 respondents who considered that they have a disability are shown as a percentage below



Other types of disability

I have got a problem with migraines and I am a slow learner and got problems with my stomach
Urinary frequency (common in old age) in my case made worse by prostate surgery
Water works
Following a foot operation I can walk but my mobility is limited.
IBS
Prostate cancer
Major back surgery which limits my ability to walk long distances
Weak bladder
Bowel disease



The future of public toilets – Consultation comments

I would support it but I feel that shopkeepers would be unfriendly. I have IBS and the fact that there are public toilets make the difference in whether I can go out or not. Sometimes IBS sufferers can go the toilet and then a few minutes later need to go again, this is an embarrassing condition and public toilets are anonymous and like I say are sometimes the difference between going out or not. I also feel that some public houses, restaurants and shops especially the smaller ones will resent people going in and out and using the facilities while not buying anything. Please do not get rid of public toilets to people like me they are like a lifeline.

~

In small towns such as Thrapston shops do not have the facilities. Public toilets are absolutely essential.

~

The accessibility of public toilets is in my view a basic human right and I would oppose any closure.

~

It is surely a basic human need to use a toilet. the Council should provide such facilities. Too much other money wasted on other projects which Government make Councils responsibility mandatory. Toilet provision is not money wasted and should itself be mandatory.

~

The public toilets in Oundle are well used, sometimes you even have to queue

~

If you use the Community toilet scheme you would have to have more than one business taking part and it would need to be advertised so that people are aware that they can just pop in for the toilet and not feel guilty that they are not buying anything. Please don't forget the disabled as some people can't get into shops in the wheelchairs. Thank you

~

Perhaps the Co-Op would take over the Thrapston ones.

~

I have always been impressed with the cleanliness of the Higham Ferrers public toilet on Wharf Road (I did see the gentleman cleaning them one morning and made a point of thanking him for doing a good job!) And Newton Road are much better than they used to be years ago. Its a shame there aren't any in Raunds - when I am there with my grandson they would be useful! Both he and I are out and about a lot hence our need to use them and it would be a backward step to close them - although I realise they must be expensive to run.

~

Provision of free public toilets is enormously important. For instance, the free toilets which used to exist in Raunds, my nearest town used to be functional, if nothing more. However, when the town square was refurbished, they were replaced by pay toilets. I now very rarely visit Raunds

to shop (I go to Irthlingborough instead, since there are free toilets there), and if I do it is usually a very brief visit. I have the suspicion that the pay toilets in Raunds are not heavily used, which will probably be used as a reason to remove them entirely (the justification being that if few people use them, there is no demand for them!). Our small towns need reasons for people to visit them, rather than reasons for people not to visit them (absence of basic public facilities, such as free toilets.

~

I am disabled and hold a Radar key. I have mobility difficulties which don't necessarily mean I can use only disabled toilets. The problem with community toilets is that more often than not they are up or down stairs making access very difficult especially if one is "desperate"! To someone like me the knowledge that a public toilet is reassuring and means that I can enjoy my use of the towns (Rushden & Higham Ferrers) shops and services without undue worry.

~

The public toilets in Oundle are an asset to the community. They are the cleanest I have ever visited anywhere in the world. They are situated in a position which is very convenient. Many visitors come to Oundle and usually park in the Co-op car park and I feel proud of the toilet facilities available to them. I have only had one experience of being in the town when the toilets were closed and it was not possible to use any others as it would have meant going into a pub or restaurant and having to buy a drink and/or food just to be able to use the toilets.

~

Reduce senior staff who think of these hair brain ideas to cover the cost of running these facilities. The role of the council is to provide services to the community.

~

There is no supermarket with a toilet where I live. I do not know of any library with a toilet for its borrowers.

~

As I have a bladder problem I need to use a toilet probably twice on a visit to Oundle, at least once or twice a week. We only moved to Oundle two years ago and the fact that there was a public toilet available influenced our decision to live here and has proved a godsend when visiting the town. I would like to comment on the amount of money it costs to keep the toilets open. I often go into Oundle on a Monday morning when the toilets are supposedly being cleaned, and pass two men sitting in the small room next to the toilets, they are still there an hour later, eating their lunch with not much sign of any work having been done. The toilets are quite a small area, but it seems to need to take a long time to actually do any cleaning. I would like to suggest that someone actually monitors what work is being done in the time allowed, perhaps a substantial amount of money could be saved by not paying for two men to sit and do very little.

~

I believe the loss of these facilities will be the death of our town centres. Young families and the elderly will be further discouraged from venturing into town centres.

~

If you close the toilets and then the shops were closed you would be buggered especially if you have got a condition that you have got to go straight away.

~

This makes no sense. You pay an attendant to sit in the adjoining office all day, why not keep one toilet per town open but terminate the attendant position. It should be the responsibility of

people using the toilets to keep it clean, toilet roll and an end of day/week clean could be performed by litter pickers who are often seen walking round the town.

~

As far as I am aware a small town/village as Irthlingborough doesn't have enough shops for this to work. As I am sure with the few shops that we have this would not be encouraged. Councils are promoting encouragement for people to shop in town centres but without the facilities of toilets this will only make people shop out of town in the "sheds" where there are toilet facilities i.e Waitrose etc All of which are set out of town and on edges. This seems a really short sighted vision to try to encourage people to shop locally.

~

Yes. there are not proper facilities for disabled people in the town centre. I often need to use a toilet because of my disability. One could be provided with a Radar key. This town is dying. the street lights are off at night on Bedford Road, the main A6 and now we will have no public toilets. i want to know what I am getting for my council tax.

~

Public toilets are rarely pleasant to use. I would prefer to use those in a pub or shop. However, you're often made to feel like your asking for something unreasonable when you ask to use a shop loo - often feel obliged to buy something in return for using it which isn't fair especially if you have a medical condition. Would local shops really be up for a scheme like this? many of them seem too concerned with what they would get out of it. having been a local business owner myself, I wouldn't dream of stopping someone using our loo but many would. It will take a significant behavioural and attitude shift for this to work.

~

As long as enough shops and businesses join up.

~

In Thrapston and Oundle there are no shops large enough to offer this facility. It should be noted that many old people have to take diuretic medication causing frequency. Without these facilities they could become housebound.

~

Public toilets are a basic need for people and should not be closed. I would support the community toilet scheme only under protest.

~

A questionnaire like this does not constitute sufficient public consultation for a decision like closing all public toilets as it clearly is not targeted at the people who are most likely to make use of them. Many people will not be happy to use toilets in shops or cafes without making purchases, so this would also discriminate against e.g. the elderly. It is difficult to see the relevance of Q2, particularly in Oundle where none of the shops has customer toilets, so I suspect this is just to supply apparently supporting information for a decision to close the toilets.

~

If they closed then yes I'd have to use a shop or other, but I'm not sure if they would welcome people if they weren't spending money in there.

~

Some people especially ladies have a lack of bladder control as they get older too. There are people on "water tablets" to reduce retention fluid collecting, therefore need to use the toilet more regularly.

~

This is a backward step. Regeneration in the High Street - Proposed closing of a vital service. Come on Councillors, start using a bit of common sense.

~

Closing the toilets would target the elderly and disabled.

~

I think public toilets are a necessity not a luxury. And I am very concerned at the prospect of losing them. Many people who use shops and other facilities who are elderly or who suffer from poor bladder control might become virtually housebound and there might be a health hazard if people, especially men might be tempted to relieve themselves in alleyways etc.

~

A community toilet scheme is not acceptable as one would feel obliged to buy. Shops etc come and go. This idea is ludicrous, unacceptable. This is a basic need for every human. It will certainly decrease shoppers and visitors to the town. Money is being wasted on the High Street, Party in the park but basic human need and comfort is ignored. R.U.D.C's did not get paid, they worked hard to improve health and welfare for the public. Today's councillors are paid well and given allowances but stop all that's of benefit to the community.

~

Publication of just one figure of costs is not helpful as that amount means different things to different people according to their incomes. Putting out the information is very important. This is the first time I have read about these changes.

~

Irthlingborough public toilets are well maintained and used by all ages from children meeting parents to old fogies (me)

~

As I and many other members of the community are getting older, there is usually a need to use a public convenience on a trip to Oundle. The toilets always seem to be well used so obviously there is a need for them. It would deter me from making a longer visit to the town knowing there were no "facilities" available. What will happen when there are events in the town i.e. Farmer's markets, Christmas festivities etc ? would local shops be willing to accommodate a flow of extra people not actually buying anything from their premises? PLEASE KEEP OUNDLE TOILETS OPEN.

~

I feel the closure of the toilets in Rushden, although would save money in the short term, would cause problems in the long term; especially for parents with small children who find the toilets convenient to use. A community scheme would not be so convenient for people who have disabilities or small children with prams etc. due to restricted access. Also, why should private businesses make their facilities available for public use?

~

a basic civilised facility in a 21 cent UK town- and much needed, the older you are.

~

The Oundle public toilet (Co-op car park) is vital for local residents - particularly the older ones for obvious reasons. Oundle sets out to attract visitors - where are they to go if there are no centrally located toilets. Adding the word 'community' does not make it acceptable for people to

be forced to go into shops and businesses solely for the purpose of using their lavatories; it would be embarrassing. The Oundle public toilet is the community toilet and should remain so.

~

I think in places where there are no public toilets, at the moment it can be difficult to go in somewhere (shop, pub etc) and use the toilet. If a scheme is set up this would help, but can imagine that people would still be reluctant to go into a coffee shop just to use the toilet without purchasing something. In the case of community toilets it needs to be very clearly signposted where you can use the toilets for free (if it will be free) without having to buy something. A signpost to the nearest one from a central public place (e.g. market square) would be useful, especially if there are not that many community toilets. This would have an impact on the nearest community toilet provider which they might not be happy about (understandably).

~

I think the toilets in Oundle are a big part of the availability of the town for all and they are excellent, in an excellent place and open for all. I for one would feel awkward going into a shop to use the toilets and I think it would be a backward step to close the toilets,

~

Every town should have a public toilet, both for residents and especially visitors. Having to enter premises purely for the purpose of using a toilet is potentially embarrassing. The provision of properly maintained and accessible public toilets is a basic requirement for any council in the UK.

~

The public toilets in Rushden have been upgraded and are kept clean, with the current ongoing regeneration in Rushden it would be a shame to lose these, not everyone would be comfortable going into a shop and asking to use the toilet. The Duck Street toilet is well used (particularly by the elderly) as I frequent the nearby gym I see the toilets in constant use. Please, please keep this facility open.

~

yes, visitors should have available public lavatories and not have to search for a communal lav (where we would have to sit round in a circle communally perhaps!). Would the shops and pubs have to have large notices on the front of their buildings with communal lav available on them?

~

The public toilets in Thrapston are a vital aspect of the amenities that Thrapston should offer as a thriving market town. I am strongly opposed to the closure of public toilets in East Northants. A community toilet scheme is only as good as the toilets that are available in the community, it is not an acceptable alternative.

~

Since the toilets already exist it seems crazy not to use them. They are of particular benefit to tourists, visitors, concert-goers, shoppers on market days, Festival supporters etc.

~

The people of Rushden and district NEED public toilets more than we needed the regeneration of RUSHDEN High St which is a load of RUBBISH....

~

It is surely possible to have 1 public toilet in a town the size of Oundle. This is an essential service for the Community. If money needs to be saved do away with one of the two in Thrapston.

~

If the closure of the toilets goes ahead it will affect me considerably in that my husband will have to leave his job. He is a 62 year old bus driver and starts work at 6am. His lunch break is after 10.30am. He drives around the areas of Thrapston and Raunds and there really has to be a public toilet accessible for him and his colleagues. Shops and businesses aren't even open during the early hours. There are human rights and equality issues here and if the closures go ahead we will be taking legal action.

~

Feel there is more unimportant monies being spent by the council - rather than even contemplating closing the public toilets. Public toilet seem in very good condition and if closed or not used would deteriorate quickly

~

The public toilet in Oundle is located in the main car park and is very well used.

~

there is only a coffee shop which are for customers and the Plaza which is often closed as it is used for children's playgroups

~

Do not think the above would be practicable in the many small shops in Oundle where I live. I believe that the retention of the public toilet in Oundle is essential for use by: a. Parents with young children. b. Elderly people like myself with possible mobility and continence problems. c. Tourists who we wish to attract to our towns and villages.

~

we do not have a supermarket in Thrapston with toilets. The only other place is a tea shop and the Plaza which cannot be used because the building is shut

~

I have Multiple Sclerosis and I walk to the shops in Irthlingborough daily and rely on using the public toilets before making my return home. If the toilets were closed down I would have extreme difficulty in making the trip there and back.

~

Public toilet facilities are essential. If they were to close, then this would have another detrimental effect on our high streets.

~

We need toilets but it is like anything ... we'll only miss them when they are gone. I feel uncomfortable going in to use a toilet in a shop or business unless I am buying something, and that's not always practical.

~

Vitally important to a town like Oundle that encourages visitors to provide toilet facilities. The toilets in Oundle are very well maintained.

~

The absence of a public toilet in Oundle or other towns in East Northamptonshire will mean some people either using verges, doorways etc out of desperation or it will discourage them from visiting the town centre for shopping at all. Large supermarkets know how important these facilities are to their customers - they wouldn't be stupid enough to remove them despite their cost, as they realise how important clean and easily accessible toilets are in customers

choosing to return to their stores. Expecting small hard pressed shopkeepers in town to provide toilets wouldn't be the answer, particularly as to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act they may well have the unreasonable expense of updating them to avoid discrimination of disabled customers, where they are currently only available to staff. Parents with young children, the elderly and infirm in particular, (let alone everyone else), need good, clean, accessible public toilet facilities in Oundle and other East Northamptonshire towns. I am completely against their closure.

~

I live in a village 3 miles from Oundle. In my 13 years as a resident, I have regularly had to make use of the public toilets there whilst on a shopping trip. As the toilets in Oundle are adjacent to the Co-op supermarket, and, as such, might be considered to be an associated amenity, would it not be possible for the Midlands Co-op to sponsor a cleaner for the toilets or to offer financial support of this amenity?

~

This is a very poor questionnaire. I am asked to answer question Q1a. There is no question Q1a. The questionnaire jumps directly from Question 2 to Question 4. What happened to Question 3? It looks like a put-up-job so that councillors can be told there was no interest expressed. I am an old man - 82 - and like many old men suffer from bladder weakness. I like to walk into Oundle centre to shop and can do so with peace of mind, knowing that a set of well-maintained toilets is available at the Co-op car park. Without this facility Oundle shops will lose some of my custom. And England will be a society in decline.

~

The toilets provide a service for people who work outside as well as older people and young mothers with young children. You cannot always predict when you need to use a toilet! Perhaps one of the Rushden ones could be closed IF it is necessary but I stress I am not in favour of any closures.

~

I appreciate you have to reduce costs, but does a community toilet scheme deliver in terms of quality, accessibility, customer satisfaction? Schemes have been around for a while, but I couldn't find any published evaluation on the net. Do you know of any?

~

I am a market trader and start work at 5.00 a.m. - there are no shops or other facilities open to us except the public toilets which we have arranged to be available from this hour.

~

I have answered 'yes' to Q4, but if the location of the community toilet put moral pressure on me to buy something from the shop/business then the answer would have been 'No'.

~

I have ticked yes to shops & businesses making their toilets available. That's all well and good as long as it is well advertised that they do. It would be awful to visit a town with no public toilets. Many people require the toilet regularly, I am one of them. It would make me think about visiting a town with no toilet. My feeling is they shouldn't be closed.

~

It is inconceivable to me that a market town like Oundle should be without Public toilet facilities. It would be like returning to the 1950s. With two major cultural festivals, a weekly market and farmer's market it is simply unacceptable in this day and age to contemplate closure. Visitors to the town would rightly complain. I quite understand the cost issues, and that the major benefit is

to Oundle and the immediate villages who are dependent upon it for their daily needs. If it is necessary to charge - so be it. The Co-op, which benefits hugely from its monopoly position, and the adjacent Town car-park should also contribute.

~

The toilets are necessary. The disabled toilet is required for my elderly parents and normal toilets for my young children. Local businesses do not have facilities for the public in Oundle.

~

I feel strongly that the public toilets in Oundle should remain open. I use them about three times a week and it would be incredibly inconvenient to me and presumably lots of other people not to have them available. Access to decent toilet facilities should be a basic human right. I am staggered that the idea of closing them is even being mooted. It is beyond belief. As well as generating massive inconvenience, closure could cause health issues, sanitation issues and would be off putting to visitors, people with bladder problems, people with young children, plus many others. Please see reason and reconsider this ludicrous proposal!

~

I have downloaded the documents and think it is appalling that you would consider closing the toilets in Oundle, or indeed any of our towns, just because of pure bureaucracy. Why one person cannot be employed to look after all of the public toilets in the area is just astounding. We have hardly any amenities in Oundle anyway, surely the elderly and infirm deserve a public toilet. Or does this just mean that everyone will only shop in the out-of-town supermarket developments in future ? Frankly documents like this just confirm the poor service that we as taxpayers get from our councils. They should be ashamed

~

The public toilets in Oundle are easily accessible for all, including wheelchair users, and are always maintained to a high standard. Moving to this community scheme will bring a plethora of problems for users. Many buildings in Oundle town centre are not as easily accessed, and I am sure many people would be uncomfortable going into shops/pubs, etc. purely to use the toilet and would feel pressured into making a purchase. Hence I disagree with your assessment that there will be 'no impact on equality'. I wonder how much this 22 page bureaucratic nonsense report has cost the taxpayer. Wouldn't that be money better spent on the upkeep of one of our few local amenities?

~

The public toilet in Oundle is situated at a sensible and useful spot. People with small children and personal hygiene needs can make use of the clean and conveniently placed facilities. The only shops with toilets in Oundle are the coffee places and restaurants. None have disabled access (for wheelchairs) and all the ones I know of involve negotiating steps to get to the cubicle. Could the Coop take on responsibility for locking and opening the toilets and should a charge be made for the use like on the continent???

~

The Raunds toilet is lovely and clean to use

~

If you use toilets in businesses you feel obligated to shop there. As a sufferer of IBS my need to use a toilet is sudden and frequent. Using the toilet is fine in supermarket shopping but if I am shopping in a town with no supermarket W.C. e.g. Raunds or Higham Ferrers I rely on the public toilet. Without the facility I will be forced to only shop where facilities are provided. I would imagine parents with young children and the elderly will be in a similar position.

~

Most businesses have loos in 'staff only' areas. In the old buildings of Oundle these are often up flights of stairs or out the back and would be far from appropriate particularly for mothers with pushchairs/ toddlers or disabled people

~

As a private hire taxi driver, I'm not always in the vicinity of our offices, and therefore need some accessible public toilet, thus seeing such as an important public service.

~

From my observations Oundle has a high proportion of elderly people most of which shop at the Co-op, adjacent to the public toilet. Going to the toilet is an absolute necessity for young and old and our toilet would be painfully missed if closed. Of course we could always adopt the continental habit, the bushes in the Co-op car park would, no doubt, benefit from the extra nourishment!

~

as for q4 saying yes, that's ok as long as the local shops etc are open for business.

~

The public toilets provide an essential non-aligned facility to those of us who have age/health conditions necessitating their frequent use.

~

Quintessential English towns like Oundle are visited by numerous people for their beauty in architecture, their frequent markets, and their many social festivities all of which are outside so therefore to close the public toilet seems an unbelievable backward move! And I as a resident of Oundle who walk the 3/4 mile into town would be devastated at any thought of closure! Might I add at this time the toilets in Oundle are always immaculately clean, the like of which is seldom found elsewhere, sad to say.

~

in Irthlingborough it is not practical for the type of shops we have, you can not just walk into a shop and line up to wait, these shops have the necessary toilet facilities to conform to shop and office regulations only, plus are not insured for such a service. If it were to happen it would not last long and it would have been a quiet way for the council not to be blamed for the loss, but the shop keepers, then the service will be gone. Then you could have the problem of fouling, such as in the car parks. What about the old and those who do not have a vehicle or walking and have young children with them how can they dash back home, toilets are a basic necessity. Perhaps give the people a list of all council departments and responsibilities and let the people choose as the council is not capable of getting their priorities correct. yes savings have to be made but we hear of many council weird money spending that is not a top priority for the people.

~

A town like Oundle should offer a public toilet. I'm sure there are other areas of lower priority that could be looked at rather than taking away this essential facility. Oundle has many visitors/tourists and elderly and parents of young children should not be expected to have to travel afield to find a toilet. It is equally not suitable for people to beg shopkeepers etc. to use their facilities. On grounds of health and safety, is the council going to inspect all shops/businesses toilets ?

~

Oundle is a very popular destination for visitors from the private school and tourists generally. The very least that can be offered is public toilet facilities. These facilities should be treated as a high priority.

~

If a community toilet scheme was in operation access would have to be ensured for wheelchair users etc. I fear that the use of public areas and doorways as a urinal by less scrupulous members of the public would become more common. Who would be responsible for the cleanliness of community toilets and would the public be expected to pay on each visit?

~

If there were no toilets available in Thrapston and Oundle (where, so far as I am aware, there are no other publicly available toilets) I would have to stop shopping at both places. I am sure these comments would apply to other places if I was likely to visit them regularly. This may be an expensive service to provide but do we really want to go back to pre-Victorian provision!!

~

Public toilets are important - both for the local people but more importantly for visitors. If I need to use a public toilet then I know I can do so without anyone else knowing about it. To have to go into a shop or cafe and ask to use the toilet would be embarrassing. I do wonder where my taxes are going to - I believe public toilets are a basic requirement of any town and that money should be made available to keep them.

~

a bus driver as not got time to go round looking for TOILETS shops will not like mobility scooters going through there shops if a hotel as a party going on they will not like people walking in off the street get rid of some of the top knobs that do not work but sit behind a desk and do not know what is going on in the county this will save on a lot of salaries this would help with the cuts.

~

i am disabled and cant just go into any toilet.

~

You have improved the High Street to attract more people but are closing the toilets that they will need.

~

I have downloaded the documents and think it is appalling that you would consider closing the toilets in Oundle, or indeed any of our towns, just because of pure bureaucracy. Why one person cannot be employed to look after all of the public toilets in the area is just astounding. We have hardly any amenities in Oundle anyway, surely the elderly and infirm deserve a public toilet. Or does this just mean that everyone will only shop in the out-of-town supermarket developments in future? Frankly documents like this just confirm the poor service that we as taxpayers get from our councils. They should be ashamed.

~

How do I know where the community toilets are? I currently know where the local toilets are placed. I recently spent a week on holiday in Llandudno and I could only find one lot of public toilets that I could use (attendant controlled fee 20P) and spent lots of time going back to the hotel to use the loo. It took the edge off a good week.

~

In Oundle the majority of cafe's have only 1 or 2 toilets e.g. Smith's has only 1, Coffee Tavern has 1 ladies and 1 gent's, Beans has 1 ladies and 1 gents and the Talbot I believe has 2 ladies toilets. The Oundle public toilets are well located in the Supermarket car park which makes it easy to rush in with children or toddlers. There are also accessibility problems if community toilet schemes were the alternative.

~

Stop producing the Nene Valley News and keep the toilets open - simple

~

Well maintained public toilets are an essential service in Oundle especially on market day. They should continue to be paid for out of local tax.

~

This is a silly way to improve the local community

~

I would only support the Community toilet scheme because i would have no other choice. Every time i go shopping, i have to use the public toilets, i feel if they where taken away i wouldn't be able to go out, and i know I'm not alone!

~

No I wouldn't support it because where I live in Thrapston there would be no toilets to use in the late afternoon and at the weekend. If you want to encourage people to continue shopping on the high street then you need to keep the toilets open. If I walk to the shops I need to know the toilets are open. When the tea room or the library is closed there is no where to go to the toilet. I don't want to go in the pubs and use the loo. Otherwise you force me to drive to Kettering and shop at Tesco. (that is until you give permission for a supermarket in Thrapston and a few children are knocked down on the way to school every year. But if we can go to the toilet there then I suppose that's a bonus for you)

~

There are services that the council should offer and this is one of them. I am convinced that there are other savings that could be made under the "waste" banner which would save this type of money and keep our toilets open!

~

But... the toilet facilities in Oundle co-op car park are perfect. easy to park. Purpose built. access for buggies, wheelchairs etc. quick easy access. clinical for easy hand washing. I am a tradesman / gardener and would not wish to enter a pub [or any carpeted area] where I damage the carpet/ facilities en route. Plus I would feel uncomfortable entering such premises if I was wearing my work clothes. It is essential for hand washing before I eat from a hygiene perspective, the hand wash facilities are excellent. I use the toilets and facilities in Oundle many time during the day. They are central and always well maintained.

~

Without toilet facilities would be unable to visit any East Northants towns

~

many elderly and disabled people rely on public toilets to enable them to be able to go out.

~

If they didn't leave the lights on in the toilets in Higham Ferrers day and night, they'd be a lot cheaper to run!!!

~

Please think very hard about this proposal. I wonder if you know what life is like for people with ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease, increasingly common bowel diseases which mean that sufferers have to make frequent and urgent dashes to the loo. They are not often spoken about, for obvious reasons but not having access to a toilet can mean the difference between going out and becoming housebound. I've had the disease for 22 years, and I do work and socialise but I have a mental map of all the public conveniences in the area, just in case I need to use them (which I often do). As well as these two aforementioned illnesses, please consider pregnant women, who often need toilet facilities urgently, and older folk, with bladder weakness. A public toilet is not a luxury, it is a basic need and a right. Once again, with your cuts, you are targeting the most vulnerable and needy in society. Please take a look at your admin costs, consultancy fees etc before you consider this course of action.

~

As a District that encourages tourism closure would be a retrograde step, which would also impact upon older people travelling in the area and on Market Traders. Alleyways, churchyards etc. will be used, making this an unhygienic and unrealistic decision.

~

The loss of public toilets in Oundle, currently maintained to a high standard and an asset to the town, would be a severe loss to the town. Whenever I walk past the toilets (frequently as I use the car park regularly) someone is always entering/exiting from the toilets. Oundle gets a lot of visitors for the markets, to enjoy the beauty of the town and for the various festivals, concerts, plays etc when people walk around the town before hand and need toilet facilities. Community toilet facilities would be a poor substitute. We have lost the beautiful Tourist Information office and the wonderful service it used to provide; we are in danger of losing the recycling facility; we are in danger of losing the toilets. More and more shops are closing and premises remain un-let and if we remove all facilities fewer shoppers/visitors will come to the town and the downward spiral will continue. Let's do all we can to stop and reverse this by providing more facilities in this lovely town not closing more of the ones we currently enjoy.

~

unfair on business owners to be put in this position and surely it raises security questions for small businesses where loos are out the back of the shop

~

Not always easy for shops in small towns to let people use their toilets which means traipsing right through to the back, not good for security reasons

~

I think it is most important to have some form of toilet facilities in the small towns, and would prefer it to be a public toilet. If we are trying to encourage people to come to the area, then easily accessible toilets are must for young mums with children as well as older more mature people, who may have continence issues. Community toilet schemes would be better than nothing, but once again we are putting pressure on the hard-pressed local shopkeeper or business person.

~

what do we get for our council tax this is a joke bet you wont be giving us any money back ?

~

I am unaware of any toilet facilities in Rushden apart from the two public toilets and Asda, without going into a cafe. When I am out walking, I often have to use the toilets in Newton Road

and would not be willing to go into a cafe to use theirs without purchasing something (unless the possible new scheme comes into action). As a senior, I find it reassuring to have the facilities we have at present.

~

I wouldn't like to use the Angel Public House toilet's because you would feel obliged to order a pint then the same applies to a coffee shop and then i will be back and forwards between them.

~

Surely for residents and visitors to the district, toilets accessible to the public at all reasonable hours must be available. This is an indicator of a civilized society. To not have such access will force people to urinate in the street if 'caught short' - surely unacceptable but unavoidable. Therefore, if it is not possible to confirm the introduction a community toilet scheme in all the towns where public toilets are currently available then the Council should not shut them.

~

i am 78 years old you want us to shop local how can we with weak bladders

~

Although we only use the Thrapston Public Convenience it is an excellent facility ---- not least as I have an underlying health problem which necessitates "Going to the toilet" as a matter of urgency. My wife and I can enjoy a walk around Thrapston Lakes etc in the knowledge that if I am "Taken short" a toilet is readily available in the town centre. It means that we can not only walk for leisure but also walk to the shops rather than drive. Better for health and the environment! Clearly, provision of a community option would be acceptable PROVIDED IT WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE SAME TIMES AS THE CURRENT PUBLIC FACILITY.--- with similar "Open access" --- we would be embarrassed if it was necessary to make an unwanted purchase in a shop in order to access the toilet.

~

i am disabled and i find it hard to use some toilets without this service for what i pay for in my council tax. i wouldn't be able to use local shops in the fear of not being able to go when i need to. also i've been to Northampton were they have closed the toilets and seen people going in shop door ways and it stinks. are we in the 21 century or are we going back in time ?

~

If you close down any more of the minimal services that you provide, there will be nothing for the council employees to do and you will then be able to get rid of them and restart the services

~

if i was owner of an establishment, i wouldn't want strangers using my toilet. if there was no toilets and you were so desperate, if you went up a fence and got caught, you would get fined.

~

In difficult trading circumstances I do not think it is fair to burden local businesses further

~

Public toilets are make an important contribution to the visitor/tourist experience. Much of the attraction of Oundle as a place to visit is its architecture and outdoors atmosphere. People coming to the town do not necessarily visit establishments which have toilet facilities. Weekly market and monthly farmers market attract many visitors to outside space. Also seasonal events in the Market Square attract many people to the area who may not wish to visit a restaurant, etc. When visiting towns and villages which do not have public toilets it is always an

embarrassment for us to ask to use the toilets in a restaurant or pub which we are not intending to eat in.

~

the Oundle Co Operative store are reluctant to let customers use their store toilet because it is mostly used for equipment storage. if the aim is to increase Tourism to East Northants you MUST have Public Toilets with easy access. The local Oundle Toilets are some of the cleanest and modern toilets in the country As permission is being given to large new housing developers for Oundle, maybe as part of the impact on our town, the companies should be made to finance the Toilets, Recycle Centre and other facilities that are threatened with closure due to lack of Council funds.

~

There are a lot of tourists visiting Oundle and public toilets are an important facility in the town

~

I have ticked 'yes', but this would be a far from ideal solution. Apart from the fact that going into a shop to ask to use their facilities might be embarrassing, this scheme would put the costs of maintaining the toilets on to the retailers.

~

A public toilet is a civic right and the duty to provide that facility falls upon the local council.

~

To close the facilities seems totally daft. You might as well close sports centres, care homes etc. This would save far more money. As a council tax payer living near Oundle I have very little in the way of ENDC provided facilities accessible. Even those that do exist the council wants to close as instanced by the recycling centre and the toilets. Even the Information centre has been downgraded. Oundle attracts a lot of visitors including coach parties. The toilets are a vital facility in this regard and in just the right place. I believe the building was financed as part of the planning gain linked with the building of the Co-op store along with the short-stay car park, so all the ENDC is covering is the maintenance and upkeep - quite a bargain by my reckoning! To expect Oundle Town Council to take over the facilities is quite wrong. You might as well suggest that Thrapston Town Council should pay for the running of the extensive sports facilities just across the road from the ENDC offices in Thrapston!

~

at my age i would find it difficult to do my shopping in Oundle if I didn't have a handy convenience ideally near the car park and shops

~

Public Toilets are absolutely essential in all town centres, particularly in rural areas where people have to travel to the nearest town for shopping, doctors surgeries, dentist etc. Elderly people who have to travel by bus would be seriously disadvantaged if easily accessible public toilets were not available. People with mobility problems could not use facilities in shops with stairs or difficult access.

~

we visit Oundle about 6 times a year and always use the toilets as well as the shops and cafes

~

You should not close the public toilets it is not appropriate to rely on local businesses to fulfil this basic necessity

~

We are supposed to live in a civilised society. The closure of two public loos in Rushden would indicate that we no longer do so. What on earth would our Grandfathers have thought?and indeed what will our Grandfathers do if the loos do close. £165k p.a.? It's a disgrace that the council can't find savings in other areas.....for example, what a complete waste of money the Rushden, High St scheme has been. Whoever sanctioned that expenditure should be ashamed of themselves. If I had made such a mistake in my employment I would have been asked to leave ...and how much has it cost? Disgraceful!! Please re-think this action now.

~

As long as community toilets are local, are always available and are free.

~

I am extremely concerned that this is a cut too far. Public toilets are an essential service and without them many people will be deterred from visiting our high streets and there would no doubt be an increase in the use of the public streets as a toilet! There is a real lack of facilities already when out in Thrapston or Oundle including what is provided by cafes etc and virtually nowhere suitably accommodates children or baby changing. The accessibility of 'community' toilets is of concern, in most instances shop/business toilets are tucked away in the back of a premises. Identifying a venue, negotiate a busy shop to find the loo in a hurry - I just can't see it working. In addition, if the public toilets are shut in favour of this scheme but the business then withdraws their support where will we be then? I would like to see the addition of a suitable table or similar for baby changing so that one doesn't have to change a baby on the floor not the closure of the most essential of our public facilities

~

Although I said yes to Q4 most shops and businesses don't want you using their facilities unless you are buying something in their establishment, toilet facilities should be in the centre of town not on the outskirts where they are now. Everybody has to use toilets and myself like many others prefer to shop where there are good toilet facilities-for instance Wellingborough has very good toilets right in the centre and near the market place plus free parking.

~

I would not support a community toilet scheme as I would feel obliged to purchase something in the shop, which I might not wish to do. Shop keepers and businesses do not want people just wandering in and out and using facilities which their customers want to use. Why should they provide public toilets when they pay the council business tax and don't get much from what they pay anyway? If I were to be a customer in a shop and had to queue because non-customers were using the toilet I would be annoyed. I would rather go to Wellingborough or Kettering to shop, knowing there are public toilets than shop in East Northants towns where they have been closed. I already do not go to Northampton because the toilets at the car park have been shut and after travelling to the town I need to go to a toilet. It is discriminating against the elderly and mothers with young children because these members of the community often need to use public facilities more frequently/urgently.

~

its the responsibility of district councils to provide public toilets . would you rather see the public do it in the street

~

I believe it would be difficult to find a shop in Irthlingborough that could provide a public toilet. Perhaps the two public houses in the town could provide such a service but they are not that close to the main shops, and would not be open early in the morning. I guess that businesses would expect some financial contribution from the Council which would reduce the amount of money that could be saved.

~

i am a meter reader by occupation . I have a need for public toilets in the east Northants area especially in winter months when the weather turns colder .there are many like myself as well as taxi drivers ,police ,road workers, postmen, dustmen, bus drivers who spend all day outside .when in a position such as these it is vital that you know where to go when the need arises ,as i am sure you are aware that urinating in public is a breach of the sexual offences act and would result in immediate loss of employment for those concerned . Yesterday an even more serious point came to light for me ,whilst visiting Wellingborough road toilets in Finedon only to find that they are closed [occupational hazard] .its the kids school holidays , kids like to play in the park ,walk around a lot and generally hang out. kids also need use a toilet ,where do they go ? anywhere possible it would seem, i have an eleven year old daughter and the thought of her having to behave in such a manner is not a happy one .the thought also occurs that there may be perverts out there watching for them .
for this reason i am willing to pay for the use of toilets either by pay as you go or a few pence on the council tax [more preferable as kids go free] or pay shop keepers ,local businesses if they have a public convenience sign. but i am convinced every body needs to go at some point and they should be able to go safely and quickly when the need arises.

~

Although Q4 is an alternative I would rather not. Would they be OK for disabled? As older people like to shop locally they quite often have bladder problems. Will they be discouraged to go into town? I have this problem and when I use a public toilet it seems to be very busy. Who ever is considering the closure may-be younger and use their office toilets. But what about their mothers, fathers and grand parents? Please keep the toilets.

~

the older generation have more need for a public convenience, how would you publicize which shop made their toilets available for public use? a public toilet is more readily available to all. a town with no public conveniences is going back to the dark ages. they should stay open

~

if you want to kill off Rushden town centre close the public toilets.

~

I find the public toilets in Duck Street, Rushden, extremely useful as they are within a car park. I would be very sorry to see them close - very handy when you are out shopping. If a community toilet scheme was implemented, it would need to be very well publicised.

~

As I live in Rushden I don't make use of the public toilets but when i travel I do have to use other town's toilets. As someone with bowel disease i feel very strongly about the closure of public toilets. It's quite frightening finding yourself having to search for toilets when you need to go.

~

Will shops etc open at 8 am for use of toilets. Living in Ringstead the moment I get out of my car I need the loo so toilet access is imperative. If the toilets are closed I will shop in Wellingborough.

~

£165,000 could very easily be saved in other areas, unreasonably high salaries for instance.

~

As a non-resident of Oundle I consider it the responsibility of ENC to provide adequate facilities and I DO NOT believe that ENC should PASS THE BUCK! to someone else.

~

Having public toilets is a real help especially when you are cut short or when you have children. Knowing that you can use the local shops will be a bonus.

~

what happens if the shops who support the scheme change their minds and won't let you use them or close down and you can't use them anyway ? Can't see too many shops being happy if the only customers they have are in the q for the loo . How many shops have the facilities , most shops left in out town are only small . Only the shops such as Asda have customer facilities. I would consider shopping elsewhere if there are no public toilets , I'm sure other places will keep theirs open. NOT GOOD ENOUGH !

~

What about homeless people, parents with young children or elderly people. It might make the latter think twice about going into town.

~

Oundle is visited by many tourists particularly in the summer months and for the various music and drama festivals, the present toilets in South road car park of the Coop Food supermarket are particularly clean and well kept with good hand wash facilities with minimum maintenance. It would be a real step back in our lovely town to not provide such a necessary feature. These tourists bring revenue into the town at a time of recession too when all income counts. People of different faiths are not always able to use a pub toilet nor are unaccompanied children. Even when a pub toilet can be used the very fact of the old buildings would make access for the disabled very difficult and licensing hours could deny this anyway.

~

Comments received via email :

Dear Sirs,

The excellent and well kept public toilet in Oundle is a vital part of the amenities in the area. Not purely for the town of Oundle , but for those passing through, stopping to visit food shops on their journey and to allow elderly and disabled visitors the dignity that they deserve. Anyone who travels with a small child or who is in immediate need themselves has no other alternative for miles. We do not have a service station nearby on the 605, there are no disabled facilities in the town and having to take a distressed baby or toddler, let alone a confused elderly relative to a dingy pub toilet is not what Northamptonshire should be offering visitors.

The team that cares for the existing toilets have huge pride in what they provide, I have spoken to them and thanked them for what they do. The loos are always immaculate, even given the wild card of two schools with teenagers, meaning that the cleaning regime is appropriate and well performed.

Please let us keep the status quo...If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

We will have a collection in the Co Op if necessary to help raise funds!

~

Dear Customer Services at East-Northamptonshire,

I am responding to the proposal to close public toilets across East Northamptonshire.

I cannot think of a worse idea.

In Oundle and other towns with markets, what will happen to stall-holder hygiene without public toilets? Many parts of East-Northamptonshire are tourist areas, so what impression will tourists leave the area with, if they

cannot find a public toilet?

Also, a serious down-side to not having public toilets is the effect this lack will have on public behaviour. Does the Council really want to encourage public urinating? And then, does not the Council realise the affect closure will have on pregnant women, women with children and old people, who rely on these services?

I cannot think that there can be a more short sighted policy to save £165,000. Surely, a better idea to save this money would to sack the accountant who thought up this idea.

~

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very disturbed to learn that there is a proposal to close the public toilet facilities in the council area. I understand that there MAY be an option to transfer the operation of our local facilities to Rushden Town Council, but this doesn't seem to make much sense to me. If the District Council doesn't have enough money to provide the service, how do you suppose that an even more impecunious Town Council might be better placed?

This closure/transfer plan comes hard on the heels of the withdrawal of the travel tokens, and both schemes seem to me to be unfairly targeting the more vulnerable sections of our society. The bus passes may be a small help, but if there are few buses, they don't have much real value.

My own particular case is not unique among more senior citizens, in that, (without being indelicate), there are times when I need to have access to a lavatory more frequently than do most people. It is my experience that local businesses are not welcoming of requests from passers-by to use their facilities, and I can't say I blame them. Often, a shop's lavatory is situated in an area from which the public are rightly excluded.

When all is considered, I suppose that the decision to close has already been taken and the idea of a 'survey' is merely a sop to the collective conscience. If by some miracle this is not the case, please log this email as a definite 'NO' to the proposal.

~

Tried today to complete the toilet survey on line. Completed questions 1 and 2, clicked on "next" only to have a pop up requesting I answered question 1a. No sign of this question on the screen and I obviously could not carry on. It is certainly a good way of not getting a truthful response!!

Reminds me very much of the Parish Poll concerning the Manor Park development!! You just brushed that aside by saying the lack of response meant no-one really cared whether the development went ahead or not. Believe me, if I could have got there to vote I would have done. It was the fact it was a dark winter night and being partially sighted and having no transport, did not vote.

~



EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee decision

1. Decision being taken:	Closure of public toilets in East Northamptonshire
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Katy Everitt Head of Resources and Organisational Development
3. What is the main purpose of the Service or Policy under discussion?	<p>The services under discussion are the public toilets throughout the district that are owned and maintained by East Northamptonshire Council (ENC).</p> <p>The key outcomes of the current service are to deliver accessible, clean and safe public toilet facilities.</p> <p>The Equality Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of closing the public toilets. This is a possible outcome if current negotiations to transfer the public toilets to Town Councils fail, as this will mean ENC are unable to make necessary budget savings.</p> <p>The public toilets currently cost £165,000 per annum to provide a free of charge service to the public.</p> <p>Under the Public Health Act 1984, ENC is under no statutory obligation to provide public toilets.</p> <p>In setting the budget for 2011 – 2012 ENC has had to face difficult decisions about spending priorities and reductions in services. Its strategy in doing so is to target funding where it will make the most difference to residents and promoting economic growth to stimulate investment and jobs.</p>

<p>4. List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion</p>	<p>There are currently 7 public toilets in East Northamptonshire situated in :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higham Ferrers • Irthlingborough • Oundle • Raunds* • Duck Street – Rushden • Newton Road – Rushden • Thrapston <p>The public conveniences are opened and cleaned seven days a week. Opening and cleaning of the public toilets is undertaken on behalf of ENC by an external cleaning company.</p> <p>*The Raunds provision is via an automated public toilet which requires less servicing.</p>
<p>5. Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?</p>	<p>Residents Visitors/tourists Local businesses Outside workers e.g postal workers, market traders, council workers, taxi drivers</p>
<p>6. How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the service quantifiable measures are not available.</p>

8. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:				
Women/Girls		✓		Pregnant women and menstruating women will potentially be disadvantaged if the toilets are closed.
Men/Boys			✓	
Transgender people			✓	
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			✓	
Race/Ethnicity:				
White British people			✓	There is no known link between use of public toilets and race.
White non-British people (including Irish people)			✓	
Asian or Asian British people			✓	
Black or Black British people			✓	
People of mixed heritage			✓	
Chinese people			✓	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
People from other ethnic groups			✓	
People who do not have English as their first language			✓	
Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.		✓		All of the current public toilets have accessible toilets, if they are closed this could disadvantage people with mobility issues if accessible toilets in alternative locations are not provided.
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			✓	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia			✓	
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			✓	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV, Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy		✓		People with illnesses such as Colitis, Crohn's Disease, IBD, Prostate cancer and Diabetes could be disadvantaged if toilets in alternative locations are not provided.

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)		✓		People with temporary conditions such as incontinence and urinary infections may be disadvantaged.
Age:				
Older People (60+)		✓		Older people are more likely to suffer from continence problems and other health related issues that require them to use the lavatory more frequently.
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)		✓		Young children are less likely to be able to wait to use the lavatory and mothers with babies may need baby changing facilities.
Religion/Belief:				
Christian			✓	In general terms, there will be no greater impact on faith groups than that of the general public.
Buddhist			✓	
Hindu			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Jewish			✓	
Muslim			✓	
Sikh			✓	
Other religion (including holding no belief)			✓	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			✓	
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands		✓		Homeless people and people living on the streets may be disadvantaged if alternative toilets are not provided.
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)		✓		Carers may be disadvantaged (links to information provided in “age/disability” section).
9. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group:				
a) Is that impact against legislation?	Yes	No – There is no statutory duty to provide public conveniences.		
b) What is the level of impact?	High – The closure of the public toilets will have a high negative impact on a number of people in the district and also potentially those		Low	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
		who visit the district.		
10. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	How? N/A			
11. Could you improve a positive impact of the decision?	How? N/A			
12. If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	How? N/A			
Head of Service signature				
Date of Initial Screening:				

NOTE

If a negative impact has been highlighted and it is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete a Full EIA.

If not, you should still consider if completing a Full EIA would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.



Full EIA Assessment Form

13. Decision being taken:	Closure of public conveniences in East Northamptonshire
14. Looking back at the Initial Screening Form, in what area(s) are there concerns that the decision being taken could have a negative impact? (✓ all that apply)	
Gender:	✓
Sexual orientation:	
Race/Ethnicity	
Disability:	✓
Age	✓
Religion/Belief	
Rural isolation	
Socio-economic exclusion	✓
Any other affected groups:	✓
15. Summarise the likely negative impacts:	<p>Closure of the public conveniences will impact most on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women – specifically pregnant and menstruating women • Older people – who are more likely to suffer from continence issues • Young children – who have not yet learned to control their bodily functions • People with disabilities – due to their need for accessible toilets • Carers – who look after people with disabilities or older/younger people • Homeless people – who may use the public toilets for ablutions <p>Closure of public toilets may have a restrictive effect upon the willingness of specific groups to access public spaces, socialise and shop. This in turn can lead to</p>

	isolation and negatively impact upon a person's well-being.
16. What consultation on this decision has already taken place with groups/individuals from equality target groups?	<p>ENC has already undertaken surveys and consultation with the public about the potential closure of public toilets in East Northamptonshire. Specifically ENC have:</p> <p>Survey An on-line survey has been conducted on the council website. The survey was advertised on the Council's website and also in the Council's fortnightly newspaper, Nene Valley News (NVN). Notices were also placed in each of the public toilets. The notices advised people that if they did not have Internet access, or needed help to complete the survey, they could attend any of the Council's offices where help would be made available to them.</p> <p>Conducted audit of toilet use Each toilet has had its use audited. Town Councils were consulted about the day of the week the toilets would be used most and on that day an individual was appointed to count the number of people using the male and female toilet facilities.</p> <p>Additional consultation has taken place with:</p> <p>Town Councils – to see if they will accept the transfer of ownership of and responsibility for the public toilets to them so that the toilets can remain open.</p> <p>Local businesses – to see if they are prepared to participate in a Community Toilet Scheme. A Community Toilet Scheme is a scheme whereby local businesses make their toilets available to the public to use. Information about disabled access and baby changing facilities is been obtained from those businesses who have said that they would be prepared to participate in a Community Toilet Scheme.</p>

<p>17. What does it indicate about the negative impact of this decision?</p>	<p>44% of respondents to the survey were in the age group 60-75.</p> <p>54% of the respondents were in favour of the introduction of a Community Toilet Scheme.</p> <p>Results of the survey are contained in Appendix A.</p> <p>Results of the audit are contained in Appendix B.</p>
<p>18. What consultation will be conducted/is planned on this decision with equality target groups?</p>	<p>Now that surveys and consultation with the public have been undertaken, further consultation will take place with the following representative groups. They will be provided with a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment and canvassed by Email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fawcett Society (Gender) • Northants 50+ network • Age UK Northamptonshire • Scope Northamptonshire • Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council • Serve • Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living (CIL) • Equality and Human Rights Commission (NREC) <p>A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment will also be placed on the East Northamptonshire Council website.</p>
<p>19. Once this consultation activity has taken place, indicate the outcomes:</p>	<p>The intention of this Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the impact of closing the public toilets.</p> <p>The aim of the consultation is, as far as reasonably possible, to reduce any negative impact the closure of the public toilets will have on users of the toilet facilities and in particular those individuals with protected characteristics.</p>

<p>20. What consultation on this decision has already taken place with staff - including those that have, or will have direct experience of implementing the Policy?</p>	<p>Staff who maintain the facilities, including facilities management staff and external cleaning contractors, have been advised about what is happening. If a decision is made to close the toilet facilities, consultation in line with employment legislation will take place.</p> <p>The cleaning contract is currently being extended month by month.</p>
<p>21. What does it indicate about the negative impact of this decision?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>22. What consultation will be conducted/is planned on this decision with staff?</p>	<p>Staff will continue to be communicated with and informed about what is happening.</p>
<p>23. Once this consultation activity has taken place, indicate the outcomes:</p>	<p>See question 20 above.</p>
<p>24. What relevant research/data/reports concerning the equality target groups have been used in the planning of this decision and what does it tell us about the negative impact?</p>	<p>As detailed in question 17 the results of the survey and audit of use are contained in Appendices A and B.</p> <p>In summary, 177 people responded to the online survey. The breakdown of equality groups revealed the following:</p> <p>Gender – 52% female , 48% Male Age – 59% aged over 60 Disability – 19% considered that they had a disability.</p> <p>A total of 160 comments were received. Some were supportive of the introduction of a Community Toilet Scheme. All of the comments received via the survey and by email will be given full consideration during the decision making process.</p> <p>Shops and businesses in the towns continue to be spoken to about the potential introduction of a Community Toilet Scheme.</p>

<p>25. What research concerning the equality target groups needs to be conducted in relation to this decision?</p>	<p>Further investigation needs to be done with commercial premises on the likely success of the introduction of a Community Toilet Scheme – specifically to establish if the shops and businesses that are willing to join the scheme :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have accessible toilets • Have baby-changing facilities • Opening Hours • Likely cost to the council (if any) <p>Further research has now been undertaken and a number of businesses have said that they are interested in joining a CTS.</p>
<p>26. Once this has been carried out, what does it tell us about the negative impact?</p>	<p>See question 24 above.</p>
<p>27. If there are any research gaps, are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to obtain views and evidence on the issues?</p>	<p>We are canvassing opinion of the following groups :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fawcett Society (Gender) • Northants 50+ network (Age) • Age UK Northamptonshire (Age) • Serve (Age) • Scope Northamptonshire (Disability) • Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (Gender, Age and Disability) • Equality and Human Rights Commission (Disability) • Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living (Disability)
<p>28. Once they have been contacted, what information have we found out?</p>	<p>To date we have had one response from the EHRC who indicate that ENC are doing all that is necessary to ensure that those most affected by any potential closure of the public toilets have a mechanism to have their say.</p> <p>The EHRC confirmed that the introduction of a community toilet scheme is the only way in which ENC can mitigate any negative impact.</p>

<p>29. Is it important that we conduct/commission specific research on this issue? Explain the research required:</p>	<p>Following documents have been reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Communities and Local Government: Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets: A Strategic Guide (2008) • Communities and Local Government. The Provision of Public Toilets, Twelfth Report
<p>30. If we need to conduct /commission research what are the likely timescales and resource implications / costs involved?</p>	<p>Allow for equality groups to respond to consultation – 4 weeks (nil costs)</p> <p>Visit business premises to discuss the introduction of the Community Toilet Scheme and ensure that the right facilities are available – 1 week (1 FTE – petrol costs 40p x 50 miles approx)</p> <p>Continue to consult with Town Councils to encourage them to take over ownership and responsibility for the public toilets. Further research will need to be undertaken into Community Toilet Schemes including: any legal frameworks that will need to be put into place should this be an option Councillors want to pursue. Also, if the scheme is to go ahead, consideration will need to be given to individuals with protected characteristics for things like access and signage. Specialist advice may need to be sought.</p>
<p>31. If you require further information, what will you do in the interim to address the negative impact?</p>	<p>On-going discussions with Town Councils to take on the running of the public toilets.</p>
<p>32. List the changes that have been identified which will ensure that the negative impact is addressed:</p>	<p><i>Further research on the setting up of a community toilet scheme in the district is on-going and this section will be completed once this research has been completed . A CTS can only be set up if funding is identified to pay for it which Councillors would need to agree to.</i></p>

<p>33. Have you introduced changes you planned, with any necessary training?</p>	<p>Give details : <i>Information to follow once a decision has been made on the future of the public toilets</i></p>
<p>34. Does everyone involved in implementing the decision know and understand what you have done?</p>	<p><i>This will be completed once a decision has been made on the future of the public toilets.</i></p>



Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Action identified	Key activity	How will we know this has been achieved? (measures, milestones and dates)	Officer responsible	Quarterly progress update
Continue discussions with Town Councils	Try to negotiate the transfer of the toilets to Town Council to avoid the necessity of closure.	Signed agreements for the transfer in place	Head of Resources and Organisational Development	
Research Community Toilet Schemes (CTS)	Contact other Local Authorities who have successfully established CTS's	Best practice established	Policy Officer	
	Continue contacting businesses in the district to gauge interest in joining CTS.	Database of businesses agreeing in principal to join CTS.	Policy Officer?/Economic Development Officer	
	Establish what legal framework will need to be put into place.	Draft contracts drawn up	Legal Services	

Analyse results of consultation	Identify areas where action can be taken to minimise or remove any negative impact to residents and in particular, individuals with protected characteristics		Head of Resources and Organisational Development	
---------------------------------	---	--	--	--

Planned date for next EIA exercise	Review EIA when consultation has concluded to ensure all feedback and information contained in it is accurate and up-to-date prior to Councillors making a decision about whether to close the public toilets.
---	--

Option for Transfer of the Public Conveniences

A potential solution is that there is a collective approach from the Town Councils to request and accept a graduated basis of transfer costs over the next 4 years.

Below is an outline proposal to enable discussions to commence;

- Costs for the full cleaning service contract are phased over a four year period on the following basis:
 - Year 1: 30% of costs met by Town Councils
 - Year 2: 50% of costs met by Town Councils
 - Year 3: 75% of costs met by Town Councils
 - Year 4: 100% of costs met by Town Councils;
- Ownership of the buildings etc. become effective immediately and all associated costs to be met by the Town Councils (i.e. rates, utility bills, maintenance costs etc.) with all legal costs for the transfer met by ENC;
- The payment of £15,900 from ENC is made immediately to the Town Councils;
- That a review of the cleaning arrangements is conducted by ENC and the service provider during the four year term to ensure the most effective and efficient service delivery and contract costs.

Businesses willing to join Community Toilet Scheme

Name of business	Location	Tel No	Contact	Job Title	Opening Hours	Fee	Steps	Disabled	Baby-changin	Named
Higham Ferrers										
The Griffin	High St	312612	Gosh	Asst Manager	Mon - Thurs 11.30am - 3pm, 5.30pm - 11.30pm, Fri & Sat 11.30am - midnight, Sun Noon - 11pm	Probably free as toilet can be accessed without entering the bar area	✗	✗	✗	✓
The Green Dragon	College Street	312088	Luke	Manager	Noon - 11.30pm, Mon - Sat, noon - 10.30pm, Sun	To cover costs	✓	✗	✗	✓
Oundle										
Anon				Manager	7am - 11pm	Will need to speak to managing director when he returns from holiday on 25 Aug.	✓	✓	✗	Not until spoken to MD
Dexters	Crown Court	273366	Ian Fis	Manager	9am - 11pm, Mon - Sat	To cover costs. They use soap that costs £12.50	✓	✗	Not officially but they do have a shelf that they use	✓
Ship Inn	West Street	273918	Robert & Andy Langridge	Co-owners	11am - 11.30pm	To be discussed - please call back next week.	✗	✗	Not yet but planned	✓
Anon	Market Place			Manager	11am - 1am, Mon-Sat, noon - 1am	To cover costs	✓	✗	✗	Not yet
Anon	West Street			Manager	8.30 - 5.30pm Mon - Fri (clsod 12.30 - 1.30pm for lunch)	To cover costs.	✗	✓	✓	Need to clear with regional manager
Thrapston										
Council Offices	Cedar Drive	742000			8.45am - 5pm Mon - Fri	None	✗	✓	✓	✓
Nene Centre	Cedar Drive	734090	Chris Tye	Manager	6.30am - 10pm Mon - Thurs, 6.30am - 9.30pm Fri, 7am - 5pm Sat, 8am - 5pm Sun	To cover costs.	✗	✓	✓	✓
The Fox	High Street	732235	David Green	Owner	11am - 11pm Mon - Sat, Noon - 11pm Sunday	To cover costs	✓	✗	✗	✓

Name of business	Location	Tel No	Contact	Job Title	Opening Hours	Fee	Steps	Disabled	Baby-changin	Named
Raunds										
Creamers	Brooke Street	01933 461211	Nick Riseley	Owner	8.30am - 4.30pm Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm Sat	To cover costs	✓	✓ ramp	✓	✓
Knockout	High Street	01933 626744	Miss Tomaszew ska	Owner	8.45am - 5.30pm Mon - Sat	To cover costs	✗	✗	✗	✓
Rushden										
Rushden Centre					9am - 4.30pm Mon - Fri	None	✗	✓	✓	✓
Splash Centre	Station Road	01933 410505	Chris Tye	Manager	6.30am - 10pm Mon, 6.30am - 10.30pm Tues - Thurs, 6.30am - 9.30pm Fri, 6.30am - 4.45pm Sat, 7.30am - 4.45pm Sun	To cover costs	✗	✓	✓	✓
Rose & Crown	High Street	01933 312124	Matt Butler	Asst Manager	9.30am - 11pm Mon-Fri, 9am to midnight Sat/Sun	To cover costs	✗	✗	✗	✓
Anon	Washbrook Road			Manager	8am - 10pm Mon - Sat, Sun 10am - 4pm		✗	✓	✓	Awaiting Confirmation from MD
Anon	High Street			Manager	9am - 6.30pm Mon-Sat, 10 - 4 Sun	May be interested depending on T's & C's	✓	✗	✗	✗
Wishbones Kebab House	High Street	410010	Mrs Curtis	Manager	11am - Late	To be considered	✓	✗	✗	✓
Serve	Church street	315555	Barry Graves	Manager	Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm	None	✓	✗	✗	✓
Irthlingborough										
Café at 25	High Street	655055	Gemma Saunders	Manager	7.30am - 4pm, Mon - Sat	To be considered	✓	✗	✗	✓