**BACKING PAPER**

Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting, Tuesday 08 June 2021

**Reopening Disabled Toilet**

Pre-Covid the disabled toilet at the pavilion at Victory Fields was kept open during daylights hours for the use of the public using the park. The toilet has remained locked since March 2020 to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

Previously the toilet would be unlocked in the morning and locked in the evening by Premier Services when they open and close the main car park gate, at no extra cost to the parish council. The toilet was cleaned on a weekly basis, during the football season, by Nigel Jefferies Landscapes (NJL) who have a contract with the parish council which includes cleaning the pavilion and all the toilets.

Government advice on public toilets is that they “should be kept open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.” The recommendations include:

* Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique;
* Consider the use of social distancing markings in areas where queues normally form, and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with one in, one out;
* To enable good hand hygiene, consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets where safe and practical;
* Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets, with increased frequency of cleaning in line with usage;
* Keep the facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open where appropriate;
* Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection.

Of these, the issue which will add a cost to the parish council, and which the committee is asked to make a decision on, is the cleaning schedule; it is clear that once-a-week clean is not sufficient. NJL have advised me that the current contract only covers the football season and cleaning outside this period (June to August) is on an ad-hoc basis. As such they have quoted for two cleans of the disabled toilet per week at a cost of £55.00 per week.

**Proposal**

1. To reopen the disabled toilet at Victory Fields every day during daylight hours;
2. To contract a twice-weekly clean of the disabled toilet at a cost of £55.00 per week.