

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2004

**PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE: REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION
TO CLOSE DARVEL FACILITY**

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To invite the committee to note an ongoing review of the public convenience service and authorise closure of the facility at Darvel.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council operates a number of public conveniences as follows:-

Burns Mall, Kilmarnock

(0800 to 1830 Monday to Saturday with attendance present at all times);

Tanyard Toilets, Cumnock

(0830 to 1830 Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1800 Saturday: Attendants are present at all times);

Shopping Centre, Cumnock

(0800 to 1800 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday; 0800 to 2000 Thursday and Friday);

Mauchline Toilets, Loudoun Street, Mauchline

(0800 to 1530 Monday to Saturday (winter) 0800 to 1530 Monday to Sunday (summer));

Darvel Toilets, West Donnington Street, Darvel (male only)

(0730 to 1530 Monday to Friday)

The toilets at Cumnock Shopping Centre, Mauchline and Darvel are unattended except when cleaning is carried out.

- 2.2 With the exception of the facility in Burns Mall, Kilmarnock, the others require varying degrees of refurbishment. The facility at West Donnington Street, Darvel, which only caters for males, is the subject of ongoing vandalism and is regularly out of commission as a result.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Officers are in the process of carrying out a full review of public convenience provision and the associated cost.
- 3.2 In the case of the Darvel facility, however, it is suggested that the facility be closed forthwith since it is felt that it is beyond economic repair and is not capable of being refurbished to modern standards. Furthermore the locational need has changed with the decline of the textile industry.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the Committee agree that the Darvel facility be closed, there would be a saving of approximately £10,000.

5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Of the five public conveniences operated by the Council, only two are attended on a full time basis with the rest being attended only during cleaning programmes.
- 7.2 Apart from the Burns Mall facility which has been refurbished during the last three years, the remaining facilities are in need of refurbishment and costs of reinstating these to an acceptable condition are currently being sought.
- 7.3 In the case of the facility at West Donnington Street, Darvel, it is felt that the facilities are beyond economic repair and should therefore be closed and declared surplus to requirements

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (i) Note that a review of public conveniences is ongoing;
- (ii) Agree to the permanent closure of the male toilets at West Donnington Street, Darvel, with the building then being declared surplus to requirements in the normal manner; and
- (iii) Otherwise note the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/GW

24 August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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