

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14th SEPTEMBER 2005

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – LOUDOUN STREET, MAUCLINE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the committee to resume consideration of the Mauchline Public Conveniences.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a special meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 23 February 2005, it was reported that the public conveniences at Loudoun Street, Mauchline were in a relatively poor condition and did not meet modern standards in relation to access.
- 2.2 It was also noted that the building was not capable of being adapted to meet modern standards in relation to access or the quality of facility expected by the public.
- 2.3 On hearing that there an interest in Community Management had been expressed, Committee agreed that consideration of the closure of Mauchline toilets be continued and it be remitted to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to investigate the possibility of community management of the facilities.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Although the facility falls short of the standards now expected by the public (and as stated previously, cannot meet modern day standards in relation to access), there has been a considerable number of representations made to the Department and the Council to have the facilities remain open. On 21 June the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services were presented with a petition of approximately 1500 names and addresses of citizens wishing to see the facility remain open.
- 3.2 Unfortunately although there was some initial interest of a community management solution to keeping the facility open, more detailed investigation indicates that this approach is not feasible and given the circumstances, it is felt these toilets are no longer “fit for purpose” and should therefore be closed as soon as practicably possible.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Mauchline public conveniences do not comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Legislation.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The member of staff responsible for the cleaning of the facility was due to retire in July but agreed to carry on until a decision on the future of the premises was made by Committee.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is committed to the provision of quality and accessible services throughout the Community Plan and at present time, the Mauchline public conveniences do not allow this.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 In February, Committee noted that these public conveniences were no longer fit for purpose nor could be made to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Legislation.
- 7.2 On hearing that the future of the toilets was being considered by the Council, individual members of the community have made representations and Mauchline Community Council has presented a petition of approximately 1500 names and addresses requesting that the facilities remain open (despite the fact that the toilets are the subject of regular vandalism and other misuse).
- 7.3 It is now felt that as the potential of a Community Management Project has been investigated but not found feasible, the toilets should be closed as soon as possible.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- (i) consider closure of the public conveniences at Loudoun Street, Mauchline.
 - (ii) If closure is agreed, request the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to arrange for the property to be declared surplus to requirement in accordance with Council policy.
 - (iii) Otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/KM

28 June 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Special Community Services Committee – 23 February 2005 by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.
2. Letter from Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to Chairperson, Mauchline Community Council dated 22 June 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask to speak to John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

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