

Item 6c - Tourism Facilities (Toilet Provision & Coach Parking etc.)

Black Text: Notes from Tim Stephen- Area Manager Kincardine & Mearns / Area Manager Marr

Red Text: Comments form SDCC Members who attended meeting

My notes of the meeting were as follows:

- Aberdeenshire Council (AC) is happy to share information on toilet costs (and did so at the meeting) and can forward on typical costs. **Would the information shared at the meeting be provided along with the info mentioned at the end of the email?**
- AC would be happy to draw up a fairly straightforward agreement (Memorandum of Understanding as an example) that allows a third party organisation to operate the toilets for a short term period. The caveat to this is that all costs should be covered by the operator. In the event that this short term project demonstrates the viability of a longer term project – it would be possible to potentially develop a longer term project that would be led by the community – probably through an asset transfer process. **The asset transfer approach was Aberdeenshire Council's preference and could be of interest to the community council if a pilot project showed the potential (e.g. operated for a year). A low, peppercorn rental approach was discussed for the pilot and it would also be of interest to know what a rental value could be if there was interest in continuing permanently.**
- Whilst (officers view) there is no real possibility of AC or another body obtaining capital grants in the short term for the beach toilets – there may be the possibility of short term revenue funding from sources such as the Common Good Fund – if a short term project may turn into a long term project. **Understood.**
- The Councils default position is that it would look to lease out the property (if no project comes forward). It is thought probable that the facility would be wholly or partially leased out to businesses that may want to develop waterfront services. However, in the event that a group wanted to undertake a trial project – AC would hold any marketing of alternative uses for the time being. However – if no project comes forward AC would look to progress this alternative approach. **If Aberdeenshire Council were to go forward with such an approach it would be worth looking at how this could incorporate a public toilet at this location as well.**

It was noted by officers at the meeting that the Beach toilets had been formally closed back in the last decade, with the Leisure Centre providing nearby toilet facilities. Therefore AC would not directly be proactive in trying to reopen the toilets.

However officers did highlight that there was an AC interest in creating a campervan cassette waste facility – and would welcome this being considered at this venue as a 'new' service.

We are also interested in this.

It was our understanding that this would be bought up at a future CC/ STP meet – officers will endeavour to submit typical annual costs for that meet.

Great.

I will have a chat with Alan to see if we can get annual costs to you for next week.

Great.

One point worth noting is that Aberdeenshire Council don't own the land out with the building's footprint — potentially affecting where a motorhome waste disposal unit could be sited.