

# Toilets

## Proposal to Close Toilets

### Current Position:

- Cost of provision of the toilets is c£12,000 per annum.
- On average there are 250 uses per month, 3,000 per annum
- This equates to a cost of c£4 per use, the Parish Council receives 50p minus deductions
- Most uses are by non-residents
- Effectively Milnthorpe taxpayers are paying c£3.50 for every use of the facilities.
- The PC receives c£1,500 per year in entry fees
- Costs include cleaning, servicing, maintenance, emergencies, water, electricity, provisions (toilet rolls etc)
- There continues to be abuse of the facility with the door being propped open, the door handle being vandalised, damage to internal fittings, inappropriate use of the radar key etc.

### Options considered:

- Increase precept to cover the cost (too late for 2025/26) by c£10,500, which is equivalent to c£15 per taxpayer. Is this good use of the precept when it is not being used for the benefit of the village as a whole?
- Check to see if there is a grant available
- Return the toilets to W&F, it is believed that there is a 6-month break clause
- Increase the entry cost to meet cover the full running costs. This is unlikely to work as increasing to the required level will see no use of the toilets.

### Outcome of meeting with W&F Council

- They were understanding. They pointed out that many villages do not provide similar facilities and many villages have returned leased toilet blocks to W&F Council. This includes Cartmel, one in Windermere, one in Ambleside. Predominantly only those in tourist hot spots remain active
- It was agreed that Milnthorpe does not have enough appropriate retail premises to develop a 'Toilet Use Scheme'
- There are no grants available
- Surrendering the lease and returning the building to W&F Council would mean that the toilets would close, W&F would not keep them open.
- After an internal process has been completed W&F Council may offer the building to parties who lodge an expression of interest in taking on the building. The W&F Community Development Officer has offered to help any potential interested parties, this help is to include completing paperwork, sourcing funding etc

### Conclusion/Questions

- A decision needs to be made re the future of the toilet provision
- The toilets are not sustainable.
- A proposal to close the toilets will be included in the July meeting agenda

July update – at the July PC meeting it was decided to close the toilets wef 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025