

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016**

Title of report	PETITIONS
Contacts	<p>Councillor Alison Smith MBE 01530 835668 alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Interim Director of Resources 01530 454833 andrew.hunkin@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Services 01530 454555 steve.bambrick@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Community Services 01530 454832 john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To consider a petition received in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
Council priorities	Value for Money.
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	None
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	None
Equalities Impact Screening	None
Human Rights	None
Transformational Government	None
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.

Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees	None.
Background papers	The Council's Petition Scheme.
Recommendations	CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE PETITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION SCHEME.

1.0 PETITION DETAILS

- 1.1 A petition has been received under the Council's adopted Petition Scheme as follows:

'We the undersigned call upon the Council to open the Coalville Market public toilets on Sundays.'

- 1.2 The Petition Organiser is Mrs Dorothy Lacey MBE.

- 1.3 The petition includes 133 valid signatures and was received on 9 March 2016.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, an attempt was made to resolve the petition directly. The Petitions Officer (the Monitoring Officer) has provided the following response from the Director of Services:

"Thank you for presenting your petition to the Council for its consideration of opening the Coalville Market Public toilets on Sundays. We acknowledge receipt of the petition which has been signed by 133 valid signatories and is classed as an ordinary petition.

The Council has operated two public toilet facilities in the past in Coalville, one located next to Coalville Market and one in Memorial Square. The Memorial Square toilets were an unattended toilet facility which was open on Sundays up until their closure as at 31 March 2010. This closure was agreed by Council through its Budget and Financial Report on 25 February 2010 which agreed to close all of its unattended toilets across the District and included toilets in Whitwick, Measham, Ibstock, Hugglescote, Kegworth, Castle Donington and Coalville. Since closure the Council has received only a handful of formal comments regarding the lack of Coalville public toilets on Sundays and perhaps on average one per year.

The Coalville Market tended toilets have not been open on Sundays for approximately 20 years. A service review of the Coalville and Ashby public toilets was undertaken by the Council in 2014. The review evaluated customer usage in the Ashby town centre tended toilets on Sundays and due to minimal usage it was not deemed Sunday opening was not a

good use of public resources and they were closed from 1 April 2015. On this basis it was considered not to propose any Sunday opening times for Coalville which would cost in the region of £5,000 per annum.

However, the Council will continue to support the opening of the public toilets on Sundays when special events are held in the immediate vicinity as indeed we do for Ashby Town Centre and their event programme.

I appreciate this is not the response you would wish to receive but once again thank you for presenting the petition to the Council for its consideration.”

- 2.2 The Petition Organiser has indicated that she was not satisfied with the response and asked for it to be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 In accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme, the number of signatures included meant that the petition was an ‘Ordinary Petition’ and could be presented to Council.

3.0 PROCESS AT THE MEETING

- 3.1 The Petition Scheme sets out the process to be followed at the Council meeting, which is as follows:

“The Chairman will invite the petition organiser to address Council for up to 5 minutes on the subject of the petition. If the petition organiser is not present at Council the petition will fail and will not be considered.

Members may question the petition organiser and make initial comments for 5 minutes.

The relevant portfolio holder or Board or Committee Chairman may then address the meeting for up to 5 minutes.

There shall be no vote taken on an ordinary petition. A member may propose that the subject matter be placed on the next convenient ordinary meeting of the relevant Board or Committee. The motion shall be moved and seconded and put to the vote without discussion or debate.

If no such motion is moved or carried then Council takes no further action with the petition. The petition will be referred to the relevant Director or Service Manager who will respond to the petition organiser in writing within 28 days to explain what happened at Council”.

- 3.2 The only proposal that may be made is for the subject matter to be placed onto the next convenient ordinary meeting of the relevant Committee, which in this case is Cabinet. If such a proposal is made, then the motion shall be moved, seconded and put to the vote without discussion or debate.
- 3.3 If no such motion is moved or carried then no further action is to be taken by Council. The petition will be referred to the appropriate officer, which in this case is John Richardson, Head of Community Services, who will respond to the petition organiser in writing within 28 days.