

*** AMENDED VERSION ***



News Release

Communications and Media Team

Tel: 01803 861368

Email: communications@swdevon.gov.uk

Communities Work with Council to Keep Toilets Open

Please replace previous version - Amended

South Hams District Council have worked in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to save the future of public toilets in the District.

14 March 2019

As residents are aware, the Council has been working hard with local communities to find ways to keep our large stock of public toilets open. As a non-statutory service, one which the Council does not have to provide, the Council has had to explore innovative ways to keep the toilets open.

A range of options have been explored, including pay on entry, seasonal opening and the transfer of toilets to local parishes and towns.

The Council know how valued the service is, but with increasing budgetary pressures year on year, South Hams, along with many other local authorities are unable to fund the provision of the District's public toilets any longer. Resulting in the Council having to ask for residents', and visitors', help to avoid seeing closures.

Following months of work, they have succeeded through the positive efforts of the communities, towns and parishes, in keeping the majority of toilets for the public. It hasn't been easy and it has meant that local towns and parishes have had to commit

funds to supporting the toilet services, but by working together to support services in our local area they have managed to keep most toilets open when they are most needed.

Despite the Council's best efforts, the toilets at Manor Gardens, Dartmouth, have had to close earlier than planned, in advance of their planned closure at the end of September, due to storm damage to its roof. Cliff House Gardens, in Salcombe, will also remain closed due to internal maintenance which means it is no longer financially viable to reopen.

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services at South Hams District Council, said: "With such a tight budget to work with, it was always going to be a difficult choice as no-one wants to see the closure of any toilets, which is why we've worked closely with local councils to discuss ways around this."

ENDS

www.southhams.gov.uk

Please be aware that telephone calls to and from the Council may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes.

Attachments

- Toilets [Toilets](#)



[Click to Unsubscribe](#)

[#RL-1530:6368852600757