



Public Conveniences Emergency Meeting

Subject: Cowes Town Council Public Conveniences Management

Date: Wednesday 26 August 2026 6:15pm

Proposal

After the discussions detailed below it was agreed that the following is:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council approves:

1. Trial Closure of the CTC Public Conveniences Overnight:
 - Facilities would close between **8:00pm and 9:00pm** each evening.
 - Facilities would reopen between **7:00am and 8:00am** each morning.
 - Disabled toilet facilities will always remain available.
 - The Cut facilities will remain with 24x7x365 availability i.e. remain as is.
2. A review of the current key-holder and cleaning regime services.
3. A **Public Conveniences Working Group** is convened to identify strategy and actions to manage the CTC public convenience facilities.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barney, Marriott, Moore, Reen, Southwell and Walters.

Meeting Overview

The mayor opened the meeting and outlined concerns regarding the recent increase in vandalism and damage incidents affecting the Town Council's public convenience facilities.

Recommendations

1. Trial Closure of Public Conveniences Overnight

It is recommended that all public conveniences in Cowes, with the exception of **The Cut toilets**, be closed overnight for a trial period of six months.

- Facilities would close between **8:00pm and 9:00pm** each evening.
- Facilities would reopen between **7:00am and 8:00am** each morning.



- Disabled toilet facilities would remain accessible at all times, as access is controlled via the Radar key system.

2. Review of Operational Arrangements

The Council office will investigate and report on the most effective method for managing the opening and closing of the facilities.

Options to be explored include:

- A dedicated key-holder service responsible for opening and securing the facilities.
- Expanding the responsibilities of the current cleaning contractor.

Costings, quotations and operational implications will be obtained and presented to Council for consideration.

3. Formation of a Public Conveniences Working Group

It is recommended that a working group be established to examine the future provision and management of public conveniences in Cowes.

The group's remit would include:

- Legal obligations and statutory requirements.
- Long-term management options.
- Refurbishment and improvement programmes.
- Security measures and vandalism prevention.
- Future investment and sustainability of facilities.