

<b><u>Consideration of comments received after completion of consultation</u></b>		
<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Site(s)</b>
Matlock Civic Association	<p>We understand you have been consulting on the proposed closure of these two public toilets. We urge the District Council to reconsider these proposals. To go ahead with them will produce an obvious danger to public health. Anyone 'caught short' will inevitably use the nearest bushes - which creates a risk of diseases spreading. This is not a situation a responsible public authority like DDDC should deliberately create. There are alternative ways of funding the toilets and we suggest one obvious possibility below.</p> <p>In the case of the Hall Leys Play Area the toilets were substantially paid for through public subscription led by District Councillor Peggy Edwards. Her campaign was precisely because of the popularity of the play area with residents and visitors and the distance from the other nearest toilets on Causeway Lane. When small children 'want to go' they definitely want to go - quickly – and not in the nearest bushes (which is what will happen).</p> <p>In the case of Artists' Corner there is a popular car park adjacent (always full at summer weekends and during the Matlock Bath illuminations). In this case it is a very long way to the nearest alternative public toilets so the use of the riverside trees is the likely alternative – the resulting contamination will go into a river used for water abstraction downstream.</p> <p>We understand the budget pressures on the District Council but find it ironic that at the very time DDDC is proposing to close several toilets (and introduce charges for others) Network Rail has announced it is discontinuing charges for its toilets – in part no doubt because of the distress to passengers and the public health risks that have been created.</p> <p>DDDC is promoting tourism and it rightly acknowledges the contribution of tourist spending to the local economy. Closing toilets popular with visitors (like these two) is not consistent with a policy of attracting visitors to the area.</p>	Matlock Bath Pavillion
		Artists' Corner

	<p>We urge DDDC to consider alternatives to the proposal to close these two public toilets. One idea would be to link public toilet and car park budgets. The public are used to paying for parking (though not for toilets). A modest increase in parking fees would be an obvious way to secure the funding to keep these important toilets open and free.</p>	
Darley Dale Town Council	<p>I have been asked to write to the District Council following our recent Town Council Meeting to express the concerns of Darley Dale Town Councillors at the recommended closure of the public toilets in Darley Dale. They consider they are a valuable community asset and would like to highlight to the District they are the only public toilets between Matlock and Bakewell and by closing them it will represent a loss to the area. Furthermore they would like to question what will happen to the building if they are closed as they are concerned for both vandalism of the building and the site becoming a possible eyesore in the Town. Would the District be able to guarantee this would not be the case if they were to close.</p>	Darley Dale
Business Peak District	<p>I have been contacted about the above (Public Toilets - Monsal Head) in my capacity as Chair of Business Peak District. There is concern that tourism in the area may be adversely effected by the closure of public toilets, and I have to agree. Increasing spend by visitors to the area – and the numbers that come - has never been more important, and it seems short sighted not to support this with basic public amenities. It looks like the public consultation has now closed – I was informed of it very late in the day – so I thought direct communication would be best. I trust that you are able to note my comments accordingly.</p>	Monsal Head

<p>Little Longstone Parish Meeting</p>	<p>Little Longstone Parish Meeting wish to express their strong objection to the Monsal Head toilets being closed.</p> <p>The toilets at Monsal head should be looked at alongside Baslow, where there are similar visitor numbers, and cafes and pubs nearby, with the visitor attraction being Chatsworth as apposed to Monsal Head.</p> <p>The District Council have two car parks adjacent to the toilets. One of which is owned by Little Longstone Parish Meeting, where a peppercorn rent forms part of the lease. Therefore, the funds from that car park go directly to the District Council.</p> <p>DDDC should look to charge for using the toilets and also increase your car parking charges, alongside looking at sponsorship from local businesses for an internal refit and a possible outsourcing of the facilities.</p> <p>We believe that the introduction of a strategy for Baslow toilets, where funds are generated from additional car parking charges, sets a precedent, DDDC should apply the same principle to the Monsal Head facility.</p> <p>Monsal Head is a well visited area, highlighted by the 111 thousand visitors to the area. The closure of the toilets will have a huge impact on both the visitors and adjacent businesses. For the Review of Public Conveniences Final Report to state 'Alternative facilities exist in the nearby hotel, bar and café' without even discussing the matter with the businesses concerned is unrealistic. The toilets in the hotel, bar and café are private premises and persons other than customers have no rights to use the facilities.</p> <p>The Peak District thrives on tourism which supports the local economy, so to remove the most fundamental facility, is tourism suicide.</p> <p>Please could you advise me of the date of the special meeting, where there will be representation from Little Longstone Parish Meeting, following your consultation process aimed at residents/ not users i.e. visitors.</p>	<p>Monsal Head</p>
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Andrew Wager	<p>I would like to record my personal views on the closure of public toilets in the area, and particularly in Thorpe.</p> <p>The toilets in Thorpe are located at the entrance to Thorpe Pastures which is a convenient starting or finishing point for many walks to Thorpe Cloud and Dovedale. There are no alternatives within acceptable distance. This location is frequently used as a starting and finishing point by coach loads of walkers visiting the area. The toilets are heavily used in these instances, and regularly by tourists travelling by car. The toilets have their own car park which makes them convenient for motorists.</p> <p>Most people in the village do not use them unless caught short when out for a walk. They are within a few minutes walk of most houses. Thus these toilets are an important asset for tourism and for local health and hygiene. If they are closed, visitors will have no alternative but to use local fields and hedges.</p> <p>Part of the cost of maintaining these toilets will be the Council's perceived need to bring them up to 'standard'. There is no need, nor expectation that public toilets in such a rural location should emulate domestic standards. This is particularly the case if the choice is between a rural convenience and no convenience at all. A minimum job with industrial wall coating and ensuring that the fittings are safe and reasonably hygienic is all that is required. Most of the users will be wearing boots which will probably be muddy for much of the year.</p> <p>Another part of the cost is the requirement to pay rates on buildings which were always intended as a service, not as a business. The Council should support the view that public toilets like village halls should have their business rates subject to discretionary relief.</p> <p>The local district council provided these toilets because they perceived there to be a need for them. That need has not changed over the years. Council Tax payers expect services from their local councils. If these services were profitable then it might be argued that they should be</p>	Thorpe
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	<p>provided privately. Where this is not the case then tax payers expect that the local councils should provide these services in return for tax. It might be argued that the District Council spends tax payers' money on services that ought to be provided privately. Leisure centres and agricultural markets are cases in point. And what is to be said about the provision of new signs on the district boundaries to welcome visitors? Providing such unnecessary signs rather than public toilets would seem to be a mistake in the Council's priorities and hardly a good advertisement to tourists.</p> <p>The gist of these remarks probably applies to the other locations in the District that are threatened with closure of toilets. Ashbourne has already suffered from the closure of convenient toilets in return for a single expensive replacement that is of such a 'standard' that it cannot be kept open in the evening when tax payers need it.</p>	
G.W. & P. Batstone	<p>My husband has been endeavouring to follow up the feature in <i>The Matlock Mercury</i> with regards to a survey on the use of public conveniences. The address given was <a href="http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/toiletconsultation">www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/toiletconsultation</a> but when he tried to access this all he got was a survey from September 2017 not the more recent one referred to in the paper. Having rung to check this address and followed instructions, he still could not access it.</p> <p>Though I have already written on this subject more than once, I am therefore writing on his behalf because as a seasoned walker/walks leader he has a concern that, as the area attracts walkers from many areas in the country, they rely on the availability of public toilets, especially in the more remote villages and to cease to have these available, given that they are identified on many maps that people will be using, would be detrimental to tourism in the area, which I am sure the District Council is all too keen to promote.</p> <p>You ask which ones people use most on the list you have given - in my case, definitely Cromford, Matlock Bath, Bakewell, Ashbourne, Hall Leys Park and Matlock Bus Stations which should be a priority for maintaining. As I have said before, this is a serious public health matter.</p>	Cromford, Matlock Bath, Bakewell, Ashbourne, Hall Leys Park and Matlock Bus Station

	<p>As for using business premises, while there are useful department stores in larger areas, the Derbyshire Dales does not boast these and I do not think you should solve your problems by attempting to use smaller premises since this would be more inconvenient to them than convenient to the public. I've had to do this in other areas and it is clear that the staff are not happy with the arrangement, and nor should they be. If you have money available to offer them, it should be spent on keeping the toilets we have open.</p>	
<p>Matlock Bath Development Association</p>	<p>I am writing on behalf of the Directors of the Matlock Bath Development Association CIC.</p> <p>Two years ago, the village started on the important journey of a much-needed renaissance with the 'Into the Future' Project lead by Matlock Bath Parish Council and the Department of Tourism and Leisure at Derby University and included many contributors such as Derbyshire Dales District Council. This resulted in an in-depth report by the University and the formation of the Matlock Bath Development Association CIC at the start of 2017. The team of Directors and Members, comprising of residents, businesses and other interested parties has begun working with the whole village to give Matlock Bath the rightful place as an iconic tourist destination for the 21st Century that its 400-year tourism heritage commands. This is building on the new feeling of optimism in the village.</p>	<p>Matlock Bath Pavilion</p>

	<p>Foremost in the requirements for such a tourist destination is adequate toilet provision. The proposed removal of the Pavilion toilets will not only negate all the work done over the last two years but also make any further progress down this difficult road, if not problematic, impossible.</p> <p>We fully understand and appreciate the issues that Derbyshire Dales District Council is facing. However, we feel that this 'broad brush stroke' approach to all toilet provision in the Derbyshire Dales is not a sensible way forward to a solution to the problem in Matlock Bath. We agree that the Pavilion toilets have no long-term future in their current condition and maybe repair to the current facility is not the solution. The long-term solution is that a new facility, suitable for 2019 with a small fee for its use, is provided on the site. We realise that Derbyshire Dales District Council is currently not able to provide such a new facility.</p> <p>Our proposal therefore is that, under the umbrella of the Matlock Bath Development Association, a consortium of interested parties is formed and investigates the practicality of a Community Asset Transfer. The Matlock Bath Development Association, with its CIC credibility, is in an advantageous position to apply for funding from a variety of sources, then working with other groups, we can plan how this new facility is funded and managed in future years.</p> <p>We therefore, hope that before a final decision is made regarding the future of the Pavilion toilets, such a consortium can sit down around the table with Derbyshire Dales District Council representatives and take this project forward in such a way that it benefits all parties concerned.</p> <p>We also do have concerns about the proposed closure of the toilet facility at Artists' Corner. Given that it has a minimum income of over £12,000, according to Derbyshire Dales District Council figures (at a charge of 20p), we feel that this, with the correct management, would also be a viable proposition and not be a drain on Derbyshire Dales District Council finances.</p>	Artists' Corner
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<p>Matlock Bath Parish Council</p>	<p>Matlock Bath Parish Council has asked me to forward to you their comments regarding the possible closure of the Artists Corner and Pavilion toilets in Matlock Bath.</p> <p>Matlock Bath Parish Council is most concerned about the possible closure of two of the toilet facilities in Matlock Bath especially as this was not intimated in the first discussion document issued last year.</p> <p>Matlock Bath is a tourist destination and unlike many of the other market towns in the Derbyshire Dales, it relies entirely on visitors to use the businesses in the village. Virtually all of the businesses are provided for the tourism market and the village's existence is a result of tourism. In 2016 the Parish Council worked with the Tourism and Leisure Department of Derby University who produced a 28-page report on the future of tourism in the village. This enabled a successful Leader grant bid bringing over £20,000 of investment into the village plus some matched funding from the Parish Council. From the report, the Matlock Bath Development Association was formed and is working to develop the village as a tourist destination for the 21st century.</p> <p>Quality public conveniences are central to any tourist destination's success as they service the basic need of all visitors to the village. DDDC has estimated around 700,000 visitors a year come the village. The village economy (and that of the wider area) rely on this number being maintained and increasing. The possible proposal to close both the Pavilion and Artists' Corner toilets will have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers with the possible closure of some of the attractions and businesses. We feel that the closure of the toilet facilities will also conflict with many of the policies named in the DDDC Local Plan such as SO9, SO17, SO18, KI7, KI8, KI9, KI10, EC6, EC8, HC17. DDDC has policies in place which should help and support the rural economy and promote and support tourism. To do this Matlock Bath needs to provide adequate public conveniences for its visitors. A single set in the Memorial Gardens for a village nearly 2 miles long and with the number of visitors especially on busy days is insufficient.</p>	<p>Matlock Bath Pavilion</p> <p>Artists' Corner</p>
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	<p>The Matlock Bath Development Association has commissioned an accessibility survey of the village to enable us to promote the village as an accessible destination. Fifteen per cent of tourists have accessibility issues. The 'purple pound' has been identified by Visit England as a target growth area. The lack of adequate public toilet facilities disadvantages an already disadvantaged group, as most private providers (shops, cafes, pubs) do not have disabled toilet facilities.</p> <p>We realise that DDDC has difficult financial decisions to make and we are appreciative of the money spent on the refurbishment of the Memorial Shelter. However, had we known before this refurbishment was carried out that this could result in the closure of other toilet facilities, we could well have counselled for a distribution of the extensive funding used in a different way, support all the facilities instead of the one.</p> <p>With respect to the Matlock Bath provision, the Parish Council feels that DDDC is not looking at the bigger picture. We are convinced that fewer toilet facilities will result in fewer visitor numbers and this will impact on both car park income and business rates for DDDC. It will also detrimentally effect employment in the village with possibly more shops closing for more of the year than currently. There is currently a new optimism in the village with new businesses opening or due to open shortly. The newly formed Town Team under the guidance of Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire are enthused and with new and extended events such as the Frankenstein Festival the village has started to move forward. We are keen that this continues but unfortunately the gloom that is hanging over the toilet facilities issue is putting this in jeopardy.</p> <p>The Parish Council feels that given the correct planning and infrastructure, all the current Matlock Bath public conveniences could prove profitable. The Parish Council is certainly not in a financial position to take over the building however it is keen to enter into discussions with DDDC and other interested parties to see how the issue of this facility can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.</p>	
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