



Supporting Our Community

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GODALMING & FARNCOMBE PUBLIC TOILETS TO REOPEN

At the meeting of Godalming Town Council's Policy & Management Committee held on Thursday 19 October, Councillors agreed to accept the Heads of Terms that will enable the transfer of the management of public toilets in both Godalming Town Centre and Farncombe Village Centre from Waverley Borough Council to the Town Council.

In agreeing the Heads of Terms with Waverley Borough Council the Town Council will be able to open and operate the public toilets whilst both councils work together to complete the legal procedures that will see the Town Council entering into a 20-year lease on each of the public toilet buildings.

After the meeting, Councillor Stefan Reynolds, Chairman of the Policy & Management Committee said "I'm very pleased that Godalming Town Council is now able to take on the responsibility to provide public conveniences, not only for the residents of Farncombe and Godalming but also to support local businesses and their customers and, of course, the many visitors our town attracts through all the great events that we and our partners provide throughout the year.

"Since the sudden closure of both facilities, Godalming Town Council has worked very hard to ensure a fair deal from Waverley to enable us to re-open both facilities at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer. In taking this decision, we have been buoyed by the support of residents, the business community and other local organisations in Farncombe and Godalming. Subject to all formalities being completed, we expect to open both facilities before the end of November."

Whilst agreement concerning the public toilets in Crown Court, Godalming was reached fairly quickly, the facilities in Farncombe village posed a greater challenge for both council's. Steve Cossier, Chairman of the Farncombe Initiative which has been campaigning for the reinstatement of public toilet facilities in Farncombe said "I am really delighted that the public toilet facilities in Farncombe are to be taken on by Godalming Town Council. Members of the Farncombe Initiative

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have worked tirelessly to deliver the message that a public toilet facility is essential to support the residents and businesses in the Farncombe and Binscombe area. We owe a big thank you to the Town Council for listening to the voice of local people and finding the resources to make this happen.”

A spokesperson for the Town Council stated that although the Town Council had not made provision in this year’s budget, through prudent management of the Council’s resources, funding has been found to be able to re-open the toilets before the end of November. However, the Town Council will have to incorporate the cost for the provision of the public toilets into the budget as of the next financial year, this will in all probability require a modest increase in the parish precept.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

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