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Supporting Our Community

**PRESS RELEASE For immediate release**

**19 September 2024**

## **GODALMING'S CROWN COURT PUBLIC TOILETS REOPEN**

Godalming Town Council is pleased to announce that following an extensive renovation the Godalming town centre public toilets in Crown Court are now open. Godalming Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Rivers, officially opened the refurbished facility on Thursday, 19 September.

In 2018, to save them from closure, Godalming Town Council took over the running of what was a dated and unwelcoming facility, which continued to pose ongoing challenges to keep them operational.

In exploring ways to seek funds to safeguard the future of public toilets in Godalming, the Town Council submitted a funding bid to the Government's Community Ownership Fund (COF) and was one of the first town councils to receive a COF grant. With 80% of the cost coming from the COF grant and the other 20% from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy, which is funded by developers, the cost of this important project has not fallen to Godalming council taxpayers. The grant of nearly £200k for the project has transformed the facilities to provide modern, hygienic, public toilets, including disability-accessible and dedicated baby-changing facilities. These improved facilities will enhance the town centre as a welcoming, safe environment for all.

The Mayor said, "It is gratifying to know that these toilets will provide essential facilities for residents and visitors to Godalming for years to come."

Ends

### Editors' Notes

The Community Ownership Fund has awarded £49.3 million to 195 projects across the UK, with £35 million allocated to 131 projects across England, £6.2 million allocated to 28 projects in Scotland, £4 million to 18 projects in Wales and £4.1 million to 18 projects in Northern Ireland. The full list of successful bids so far can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-ownership-fund-first-round-successful-bidders>

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