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From: Roger Adley

Sent: 09 October 2014 10:57

To: 'Angela Cole'

Subject: FW: Litter fines and ladies toilets

Hi Angela,

Here is a quote from Marion Ring, Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing:

"There is not enough income from litter fines to pay for a women's toilet. The council employs a contractor to issue litter fines because they help to keep the borough clean. The service is self-financing, we do not expect it to make a profit.

"The annual cost of the toilets would be £19,900 if we rented them. If we purchased them outright it would be £24,500 in the first year and then £9,500 every year thereafter.

"Next year we will have to find savings of £962,000, and £3.4 million in the next five years, to maintain current spending on statutory and important services. We have never provided temporary night time toilets for females and cannot afford to do so now. The cost would be disproportionate and poor value for money for the Maidstone taxpayer, the vast majority of whom would never think of urinating on the streets in Maidstone."

Ends

Roger

Roger Adley

MBC Communications

Maidstone Borough Council

From: Marion Ring (Cllr)

Sent: 09 October 2014 10:44

To: Roger Adley

Subject: Re: Litter fines and ladies toilets

Hi Roger

Looks fine

Marion

Councillor Marion Ring

On 8 Oct 2014, at 14:01, "Roger Adley" wrote:

Thanks Zena,

This issue is raised at most TCM night time economy meetings (and perhaps business briefings). On each occasion Sarah reports the council's position that the costs are disproportionate and that alternative facilities exist through the community toilets scheme. However on each occasion Sarah is asked to go back and ask us to reconsider. The KM hasn't taken a stance so far, it asks for an update and reports on the issue, some of the time.

I would not advise we raise the matter with the KM. It will insist it has the right to ask questions about an issue that representatives of the night time economy repeatedly claim is important. We might encourage it to consider a campaign about equality, discrimination and safety.

Could you both meet the TCM chair or go to a night time economy meeting to try to put the matter to bed, before considering a complaint to the board (which would be of interest to the press)?

In the meantime we need a quote. I would not advise we said anything to start people campaigning. How about:

Marion Ring, Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing, said:

"There is not enough income from litter fines to pay for a women's toilet. The council employs a contractor to issue litter fines because they help to keep the borough clean. The service is self-financing, we do not expect it to make a profit.

"The annual cost of the toilets would be £19,900 if we rented them. If we purchased them outright it would cost £24,500 in the first year and then £9,500 a year thereafter. Next year we will have to find savings of £962,000, and £3.4 million of the next five years, to maintain current spending on statutory and important services. We have never provided temporary night time toilets for females and cannot afford to do so now. The cost would be disproportionate and poor value for money for the Maidstone taxpayer, the vast majority of whom would never think of urinating on the streets of Maidstone."

OPTIONAL (But I suggest we keep it short):

"There really is not any excuse for this, restaurants, clubs and pubs all have toilets for customers, and other people can use the community toilet scheme."

Roger

From: Zena Cooke

Sent: 07 October 2014 18:53

To: Roger Adley; Marion Ring (Cllr)

Subject: Re: Litter fines and ladies toilets

Hi Roger, I would fully support Marion's position on this. We have stated the position for at least 6 months if not longer. We have never provided female urinals, the cost is disproportionate and we have highlighted the community toilet scheme that is operational that means anyone in the town in the evening/night can use those facilities. I think it is also fair to say that we expect people both men

and women to behave appropriately and urinating in the streets is unacceptable. Could we also point out that we have a major financial challenge as a council and repeated queries on one particular issue that only seems to be raised by the chair of TCM that is high cost and not value for taxpayers money is a concern to us.

In terms of the litter fines, we also need to be clear in our response, that the key priority is for us to keep the town clean and make sure people understand the consequences of not doing so. Income generation is not the primary objective and we would not want it to be. Even if there was enough income we would want to use it for things that demonstrate value for money.

Can we also ask the KM the basis on why they keep raising this. And if necessary do we need to formally complain to the TCM board that the press is being used in this way?

Thanks

Zena

On 7 Oct 2014, at 16:56, Marion Ring (Cllr) wrote:

Hi Roger

I would like the quote from me, also it was for night time these toilet only

Which I think must be stated and also we need to explain what we do now

As the main person behind this is Paul Alcock

Marion

Councillor Marion Ring

On 7 Oct 2014, at 16:29, "Roger Adley wrote:

Okay, John Edwards has supplied the following costs previously:

Cost for a toilet for females: £15,000 (capital cost) or £200 a week to rent.

- Servicing/emptying/replenishing for both purchase and rental options: £5,000 per year
- Transport costs for both purchase and rental options: £4,500 per year

That's £9,500 per year running costs, and either £15,000 capital cost or £10,400 per year rental agreement.

How about:

"There is not enough income from litter fines to pay for a women's toilet. The council employs a contractor to issue litter fines because they are one of the ways that we keep the borough clean. We expect the service to be self-financing and don't budget for a surplus. The annual cost of the toilets would be £19,900 if we rented them. If we

purchased them outright it would cost £24,500 in the first year and then £9,500 a year thereafter."

Roger

From: Gary Stevenson

Sent: 06 October 2014 16:15

To: Sarah Robson; Roger Adley

Subject: RE: Litter fines and ladies toilets

I'm not sure what level of toilet provision was anticipated but there are the capital costs and the ongoing cleaning and maintenance cost to consider. We don't budget for a surplus on the Fixed Penalty Notice enforcement budget and the historic surpluses have not been sufficient to cover either of the costs.

The portfolio holder's view is that it is not appropriate to use the litter surplus for any new WCs.

Regards

Gary

Shared Head of Environment and Street Scene
Maidstone Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

From: Sarah Robson

Sent: 06 October 2014 14:18

To: Roger Adley; Gary Stevenson

Subject: RE: Litter fines and ladies toilets

I think John Edwards has the estimate of costs for installing a female loo. I'd assume the litter fines are part of the litter contract (which I think is Payment by Results), so there would be clear guidelines on how any income is used.

Sarah Robson
Community Partnerships Manager
Maidstone Borough Council

From: Roger Adley

Sent: 06 October 2014 12:56

To: Gary Stevenson

Subject: RE: Litter fines and ladies toilets

What is the strategy for this one?

Roger Adley
MBC Communications
Maidstone Borough Council

From: Roger Adley

Sent: 06 October 2014 12:48

To: Sarah Robson; Martyn Jaynes

Subject: Litter fines and ladies toilets

I am picking up on a story from Louise.

Am I right in saying the litter fines are insufficient to fund the toilets.

The KM is happy to print that this week.

But if so we will be asked how much the toilets will cost and how much the litter fines are.

What do you think?

Roger

Roger Adley

MBC Communications

Maidstone Borough Council