

Cove Street toilet FAQs

Q. When will the toilets close and for how long?

A. They are closed from Monday 30th September 2024 for approximately three months. Starting the work in September will keep disruption to a minimum while the improvements are carried out.

Q. Why are they closed?

A. The whole toilet block is undergoing a full refurbishment.

Q. Why will it take around three months to complete?

A. Due to the condition of the building, the floor must be removed and then the facilities must be thoroughly disinfected. All interior fixings and tiling removed. There will also be a new ventilation system installed. There will be building works to move the disabled door access and to increase the size of the current Gents doorway. A metal shutter door will be installed as well. Contingency has also been included in case the weather is adverse and prevents scheduled works taking place.

Q. What Improvements will we see once the work is finished?

A. Improvements include moving the disabled toilet door so that it is more accessible. The new urinals and toilets that will be installed will be fed from the mains supply meaning more efficient use of water. Sensor flushes, and sensor taps will also be put in. LED lighting will also be installed which will make the facilities a lot lighter than the current block, as well as being more energy efficient. And a better ventilation system will also be installed.

Q. Why is a 50p charge being introduced to use the facilities?

A. To assist with the ongoing maintenance and cleaning costs involved in keeping the towns public toilets clean and in good working order for members of the public to use.

Q. Isn't this what I pay my Council Tax for?

A. The ten public toilet blocks across Weymouth cost around £325,000 to operate, which is around £16 per household, per year on public toilets. The costs of water and staff costs are rising faster than inflation, so that figure will grow in future; hence the need to introduce a charge.

Q. How do I pay to use the toilets?

A. An electronic payment system will be installed, and visitors will then be able to use a bank card or smartphone to make the payment.

Q. Will there be a cash option?

A. No, there will only be contactless payments which can be made using a smartphone or a card. This keeps the costs down as we would need staff to regularly empty the cash collection machine.

Q. Will the disabled toilets still be free?

A. Yes, they will continue to be free to use for anyone with a Radar key.

Q. Will the gents and ladies toilet facilities stay separate?

A. Yes, once the refurbishment is complete, these will remain separate.

Q. While the toilets are temporarily closed, where are the nearest public toilets?

A. Nothe Gardens or Maiden Street.

Q. Who decided the toilets needed to be refurbished?

A. Due to the significant age and problems with the interior of the building, Councillors on Weymouth Town Council took a decision in the Environment and Services Committee on the 13th December 2023 to refurbish the Cove Street toilet block.

Q. Are other toilet facilities free to use?

A. Yes, except for the public toilets at the Swannery car park which incur a 30p charge to use.

Q. I have further questions about the toilet refurbishment, who do I contact?

A. Contact Weymouth Town Council by email: office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk or call us on 01305 239839.