

Good morning,

Our service has responded to a significant increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the Church Street toilets in Norton. In the 18 months since these facilities reopened, post-Covid, and increasingly in recent months we have had almost daily attempts to flood the facility, repeated and extensive damage and sporadic attempts to light fires, climb on the roof and break in. We are now at the stage where we are forced to consider options, one of which would be to close the facility. Following Local Government Reorganisation in April, we have started to undertake a strategic review of public conveniences across North Yorkshire and we will include this block in the review but we feel the situation has reached a point where we need to bring forward a decision locally, at least for the medium term.

We've attempted to change our opening times to deter the behaviour and have brought forward the afternoon/evening locking up and regrettably this has not stopped the damage. We have considered weekend only opening when demand is at its highest, but unfortunately we have found damage to be occurring in the daytime at weekends, suggesting this would continue. We have engaged with North Yorkshire Police to try and deter the anti-social and criminal behaviour, they have increased patrols in the area. The last remaining option available to us would be to look at a temporary closure of the facility, taking this course of action is not something we do lightly as we recognise the impact this can have on the public, the next nearest facility would be at Malton Market Place.

I would be grateful if you could let me know your thoughts on a closure of this facility, we would revisit this **no later** than May 2024 as part of the new strategic vision for the provision of public conveniences. I know there has been dialogue with the Town Council and Officers in the former District about repurposing the site and any temporary closure would not impact the wider review or consideration about the long-term future of provision in Norton.

If you could please let me know your views by Friday 3rd November, we will review the situation and advise you of the outcome, should the situation deteriorate further in the interim then we will need to bring forward the decision to safeguard our staff and the public.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

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