

Frequently asked questions

The vote about the toilets at Victoria Park



Q: Who can vote? When can I vote? And how do I vote?

A: Anyone living in Frome over the age of 10 can vote. Voting will be online for a fortnight starting on Saturday 1st April. Simply, you'll be asked to vote yes or no and then for options 1, 2 or 3.

If you don't have access to the internet – or you'd just prefer to do it the old-fashioned way – then you can register your vote in person at the Town Hall during the voting fortnight. We'll confirm your vote online on your behalf so it can be easily recorded & counted

Q: What does the £20,000 current spend on the toilets cover?

A: This figure includes cleaning and opening the toilets once a day; and returning to close them at night. Plus all the mundane but essential supplies like toilet roll! It also covers all of the repairs & maintenance, including the enforced and sometimes costly repairs that come from vandalism & theft.

Q: What about the current café in Victoria Park?

A: Without question, the café is conveniently situated in Victoria Park - and the design and construction of the building means that it sits neatly & nicely in the park's landscape. Hence the possibility in Option 3 of improving and possibly extending the café building. But if you were designing the park from scratch, you might think about putting public toilets and a café closer together; or combining them in the same building.

And of course we have Mary Baily right next door to Victoria Park: a space that's incredibly popular with children and families; and a space that is perfect for community events including sports events, picnics and play days.

Which is why Option 3 also recognises that lots of people might like a café and toilets that can be enjoyed whether you're in Victoria Park or Mary Baily. This would mean a brand new building located more centrally in the park, somewhere near the bowls club.

Q: In Option 1, could we take out a loan to pay for refurbishing the existing toilets?

A: In theory, yes.

But we share the opinion that the toilets would probably be better located somewhere in the park - and the doors opening and closing out of sight in a dark corner doesn't exactly make access easy or welcoming.

Frequently asked questions cont'd.

The decision to apply for a loan is not one that we'd take lightly - and we will only look to borrow money if it's for a project that clearly adds value to the town. A brand new café with up to date, inclusive toilets in a central location arguably merits taking out a loan, whereas refurbishing the toilets where they are probably doesn't.

Q: What's a Changing Places toilet?

A: "Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. Changing Places toilets are different to standard accessible toilets (or 'disabled toilets') as they have extra features and more space to meet the needs of people who use them." Reproduced from the Changing Places website

You can find out more about Changing Places at www.changing-places.org

Providing a Changing Places toilet in Victoria Park will be subject to budgets and further discussion; and it might be harder to meet the required standards in the refurbishment of Option 1 rather than the new buildings that are part of Options 2&3

Q: What happens at park events if the toilets are closed?

A: One option for bigger events like the Carnival, the Lions' fete and the Children's Festival could be to hire in toilets.

For further information or to vote go online:

www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/voteonvictoriaparktoilets/

Or phone:

01373 465757

Or call in person:

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