



**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ASSETS AND FACILITIES SUB COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2022**

15/22 TOILET CLEANING CONTRACT

Brian Warren, Operational and Managing Director at Enviro was welcomed to the meeting. He had been working with the Facilities Officer to help bring the toilet cleaning in house to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and standard of cleaning of the public toilets in Ryde. He outlined the importance of providing an attractive package including competitive wages, training and up to the minute equipment to attract quality and proactive staff. The Facilities Officer confirmed that currently a great deal of staff time was taken up with monitoring current provider and managing the contract.

A tendering process with a revised specification had recently taken place with only the current provider and a proposal from the facilities team being received. Although the inhouse proposal cost slightly more, the amount included capital investment for equipment as well as staff costs associated with managing and monitoring the contract. Members noted staff costs in managing the contract had not been factored into the tender received from the current provider. Brian confirmed that he would be willing to provide support where necessary including in the transitional period until the in-house team were up and running.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

That cleaning services for the public conveniences in Ryde be provided from 1 October 2022 using a directly employed team.

16/22 ST JOHNS TOILETS

The Facilities Officer informed the committee of the current issues surrounding the maintenance and usage of the St John public conveniences. They had been closed due to the legionella readings which were repeatedly high. This was caused by the lack of use as water was not being regularly run through the pipes. Due to their location there was an added issue with anti-social behaviour.

Discussion centred on the need for toilets to be located more in the middle of town and investment should be concentrated in that area with modern toilets which would be easier to maintain and clean. It was important that any message emphasised investment in that area. It was agreed that costs and plans be drawn up for the

closure of St Johns toilets and for the provision of more modern toilets located near to the centre of town.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

That St Johns toilets be closed on the production of plans to provide toilets that were more centrally placed.

17/22 PLANTING AND WATERING CONTRACT

The planting and watering contract was due to end in April 2023 and had already been extended for a year. Most of the cost for the contract lay in the watering. The recent hosepipe ban had allowed the opportunity to look provision of the planters as a whole and the associated waste of uprooting and discarding plants come the change in seasons. It was suggested that drought resistant plants, sustainable planting and promotion of the biosphere should be explored. Mention was also made that individual planters located outside shops should cease with the opportunity of being handed to shopkeepers if they wished to take over individual hanging baskets.

Mention was also made that individual planters located outside shops should cease and a Working Group to formed to explore handing over the provision and maintenance of the hanging baskets to shopkeepers if they wished to take over individual hanging baskets outside their premises.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the contract for planting and watering should not be retendered and instead alternatives for more sustainable planting be investigated and reported back to the Assets and Facilities sub-committee.**
- (ii) That a Working Party be formed to explore and oversee the possible transfer of hanging baskets to individual shopkeepers.**

18/22 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND CHRISTMAS TREES 2022

A report was received from the contractor who installs the festive lighting. Many of the motifs owned by the town council were in poor condition and unusable. A proposal was considered of how to best use the ones we could, ideas to floodlight the church and plans to concentrate lighting along Union Street and Cross Street. Possibilities for the upper high street and co-op square were also outlined. It was suggested not to purchase further motifs but instead to investigate the use of ex-hire stock to give variety and allow time for ideas to be fully investigated.

The Facilities Officer informed the meeting of issues associated with the location of some of the Christmas trees and it was agreed to reduce the number of Christmas trees provided by the town council in the future. It was suggested and agreed to improve certain areas like co-op square where lighting and features could provide photo opportunities. A walk around town would be arranged by the

facilities team in the coming week for councillors to discuss things further and a working group would be formed to take the ideas forward.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the number of Christmas trees be reduced this year**
- (ii) That a working group be formed to explore new ways of delivering festive lighting and report back with recommendations**