



## Portobello Community Council

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Copies sent to: Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Maureen Child, Callum Laidlaw, Tommy Sheppard MP, Ash Denham MSP

Dear Councillors, MP and MSP,

I am writing to you on behalf of Portobello Community Council to raise the urgent matter of public conveniences in the Portobello area.

Local residents are experiencing increasing issues with visitors using private land / doorways / the lanes as impromptu toilets. With the beach and surrounding areas becoming increasingly busy, especially during the warmer weather, it has come to the attention of the PCC the need to address the lack of facilities in Portobello / Joppa.

At the moment the only toilets open are at the west end of the prom, Pipe Lane, these are open during daytime hours only. On busy days these frequently have huge queues.

Item 2.10 in the Safer Public Spaces for Scotland (March 2021, Scot Gov - <https://bit.ly/2R8zOHP>) booklet advises public toilets should be kept open and carefully managed. At present in Portobello / Joppa we have only one out of 3 possible toilet facilities open. The conveniences at the top of Bath Street are closed, and the Joppa Road toilets are closed while the building waits for redevelopment.

With the covid restrictions in Scotland relaxing and summer months arriving it can only be expected that Portobello Beach will become busier. With that in mind the lack of public facilities will quickly become a huge issue if there is not some sort of local provision made.

Please could the councillors assist / advise with a way in which situation can be improved. Temporary facilities and the opening of current facilities are in urgent need if we are to avoid a public health issue.

I note that the provision of toilets on the promenade and Bath Street will be discussed at the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 20th April. Can I please ask you all to make the concerns of Portobello Community Council and many, many residents and visitors known to the committee and ask for the reopening of the Bath Street facility and an extension to the hours of opening for the Pipe Lane toilets. Portobello is Edinburgh's seaside and provides recreation space for all.

A response to this letter would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Leeman

Secretary, Portobello Community Council

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