



vision twentyone

18th January 2010

Talk Toilets - Consultation on the future of public toilets in South Lakeland

Dear Colleague,

Talk Toilets is a 12-week public consultation on the future of public toilets in South Lakeland will run from 18th January to 4th April 2010. The Talk Toilets consultation will help the Council to develop a robust evidence base and ensure that all sections of the community have the opportunity to share their views.

As you may be aware, public toilets are high on the agenda for South Lakeland District Council. We currently operate 39 public toilets across the area, costing £790,000 a year. This is funded entirely by Council Tax. However, some of our public toilets are rarely used, while others are not as accessible as they should be for all sections of the community. A number also need urgent upgrades to meet modern standards.

These challenges mean that the way public toilets are provided in South Lakeland must change. The Council want to continue to provide toilets in key locations where they are most needed and must withdraw funding in other areas. However, there are alternative ways in which toilets can be provided and South Lakeland District Council wants to work creatively with local people to reach a solution.

South Lakeland District Council realise that this issue is important to many local residents and organisations, so they have commissioned an independent company, Vision Twentyone, to carry out the consultation.

As we value your input highly, I am writing to invite you to attend a briefing session with members of the consultation team. The session will provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions and offer your initial views. The sessions will last approximately 30 minutes and appointments are available on either:

- Thursday 18th February, 11am - 5pm, Georgian Room, Kendal Town Hall, Kendal
- Friday 19th February, 10am - 5pm, Chairman's Room, Kendal Town Hall, Kendal.

If you would be interested in attending a briefing session, please contact me by 5th February to arrange a convenient time.

If you are unable to make either of these dates then there are a number of other opportunities to take part. We will be holding a series of public exhibitions across the area, giving a chance to view the information and options, discuss these with the consultation team and fill in a response form. These exhibitions will be held at:

- Grange-over-Sands, St Paul's Parish Hall, Monday 1st March 2010, 3pm - 6.30pm
- Ambleside, Ambleside Parish Centre, Tuesday 2nd March 2010, 3pm - 6.30pm
- Ulverston, Supper Room, Coronation Hall, Wednesday 3rd March 2010, 3pm - 7.30pm
- Bowness-on-Windermere, Rayrigg Rooms, Friday 5th March 2010 3pm - 7.30pm.

In addition or as an alternative to a briefing session you are very welcome to attend an exhibition preview session, to ensure you are fully equipped with all the information you need. Previews will take place from 2pm-3pm before each of the public exhibitions.

Furthermore, find out more and fill in a questionnaire online at: www.southlakeland.gov.uk/talktoilets Paper copies of the questionnaire can be printed from the website or requested by calling the consultation team on 0845 230 0139 (local rate), emailing talktoilets@southlakeland.gov.uk or writing to us at the Freepost address below.

I look forward to meeting you during the consultation. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My contact details are below.

Very best wishes,

Ben Hickman
Talk Toilets Consultation Manager
Vision Twentyone

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