

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**22 February 2023**

## **Council Questions**

### **1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Customer Services received from Councillor Keith Hoptroff:**

“If we are to take tourism seriously, why are Leek bus station toilets still closed after over 9 months since the last acts of wanton vandalism?”

#### **Response:**

“The Council have spent a considerable amount of public funds over the years keeping these public toilets open despite continuous vandalism. The latest act of vandalism caused considerable damage to the men’s toilets requiring them to be closed. An insurance claim has been submitted and the outcome is awaited. The expectation is that the insurance claim will be approved and once funding is received remedial repairs can then be undertaken so the toilets can be reopened to the public with the benefit of the new outside CCTV surveillance which the council agreed to install at a previous meeting.

We are also investigating what other measures we can put in place to assist with the vandalism problem on the bus station toilets to do what we can to prevent repeat offences.”

### **2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Customer Services received from Cllr John Jones:**

“Given that it’s over 18 months since the sewage problem was identified and responsibility for it accepted by SMDC, why has a new treatment plant still not been installed for the Visitor Centre at Biddulph Grange Country Park?”

#### **Response:**

“There has been extensive investigation of the network to understand the extent of the problem. The mains sewer for disposal of waste out of the visitors centre is a distance of over 80 meters from the building and passes under public and private land. We believe that at some point in the past that a private landowner has cut out the network so the pipe run is no longer terminating in the main sewer.

Norse Alliance are leading on this case and are reviewing options to either installing a klargester sewage treatment tank or a septic tank which we consider to be the easier option under the circumstances. A quote has been obtained for the septic tank and Norse are out for quote on the klargester including the cost of fitting. Once the quotes have been reviewed, the next steps are for Norse to submit a planning application for the preferred option. The works are scheduled to take place in 23-24,

subject to planning. I have asked Norse to provide a programme setting out the timescales once we have received the quotations. The recommendation and most cost efficient option is to install a klargestær. We have budget available to commission the works on receipt of planning.”