

Council Meeting – 20 May 2013

Notice of Motion – Walsall Bus Station Toilets

Introduction

I set out below a notice of motion to Council on 20th May 2013 from Councillors Worrall, Jeavons, Ditta, Hussain, Anson, Burley, Thomas, Westley, Lane, Illmann-Walker, Creaney, D. Coughlan, Chambers, Cassidy, J. Fitzpatrick, S. Fitzpatrick, Young, Oliver, James, Jukes, and S. Coughlan:

“This Council call upon CENTRO to operate the Walsall bus station toilets as a free facility for all users and not to impose charges.”

Background Information

The public toilets at the bus station in Walsall town centre are the responsibility of Centro and it is their responsibility to determine what facilities are provided and how they are operated.

Accessible public conveniences are available in close proximity to the existing bus station including Tesco's, New Art Gallery, Debenhams, BhS and various pubs and restaurants.

Where new bus stations have been built recently by Centro (e.g. Stourbridge) they charge to use the toilets and charges are also made at other transport hubs such as New Street Station, Birmingham, where Network Rail make a charge.

The people most likely to use public conveniences are disabled people, older people, families (in particular those with babies and very young children), women and visitors. Help the Aged highlight that more than half of older people found that a lack of local public toilets prevented them from going out as often as they would like. People with mobility problems may find it more difficult to make ad hoc use of other toilets (e.g. within various business premises) in the area, people with bladder problems cannot hang on as long as people without such problems etc. However, this needs to be balanced with considerations of proximity whereby alternative facilities may be more accessible in any given situation than public sector facilities. In addition, all of these considerations need to be balanced against other priorities, including financial considerations, and any other obligations as appropriate.

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