

COUNCIL MEETING

27th FEBRUARY 2013

ORAL QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

From Mr Martin Curry of Councillor Colin Smith, Portfolio Holder for the Environment

(Mr Curry had originally addressed his question to the Leader of the Council who had asked the Portfolio Holder responsible for the service to respond on his behalf.)

Question - Public Toilets - The Walnuts

In view of the number of complaints posted on FixMyStreet about the condition of the Male and Female public toilets next to Orpington Library, will the Leader take action to ensure that these facilities are brought up to a decent standard?

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder replied that until further notice, these toilets would continue to be cleaned to a good standard four times a day, including at weekends. The road sweeper would also call in every day when passing to remove any paper etc from the floor as well.

It was to be hoped, that following on from the excellent news that the Orpington BID project had proved successful, additional measures might also prove possible locally, to help arrest and deter the disgusting feral behaviour of the small subset of visitors to Orpington Town Centre who sully these amenities from time to time, but that question remained ongoing at present.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Curry stated that given the good news about the BID and the proposal for the toilets to be taken over at some point by the business organisation – there was still quite a lot of structural work that needed to be dealt with. He mentioned accumulated dust on the grilles, missing grilles that needed to be replaced, the health and safety problem of a broken drain cover and the replacement of tiles in the gents. He recognised that the cleaning had improved. However, he asked if the structural problems could be addressed with in terms of safety and hygiene before they were handed over.

Reply:

Councillor Smith responded that if there were health and safety issues involved he asked Mr Curry to advise the Department and they would be dealt with immediately. So far as any general upgrade to the toilets was concerned there were no plans to do that at this time.
