

Council

20 FEBRUARY 2017



Updating

Agenda Item 3 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received by Councillors Nigel Taylor, Adam Sen, Danny Unwin and Joanna Beale.

Agenda Item 14 – Motions to Council

Councillors Adam Boyden and Philip Ham wish to submit the following amended Motion to Council.

That Council resolves to support the Changing Places campaign to make Mendip a more accessible district. With Council's endorsement, we require the Equalities Group to fully investigate the feasibility of providing Changing Places facilities within the district. This investigation should include:

- An assessment of demand
- Consultation with the public and other key partners and stakeholders
- The capital and revenue implications for both the Council and any other public, private or voluntary sector partners
- An assessment of the most appropriate means of provision (noting that this may not be the same for each facility)
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The Equalities Group are asked to report back to the next meeting of Council in May 2017 with their findings

This motion is seconded by Councillors Des Harris, Helen Sprawson-White and Nigel Taylor.

Written representations regarding the above motion:

1. Tony Perry

I am writing in support of the motion regarding the provision of fully accessible toilets in the Mendip towns which is being proposed by Adam Boyden at the council meeting on the 20th February. I am chairman of Frome and District Mencap Society and also the parent of a severely disable daughter, who is thirty nine and lived at home until four and a half years ago.

You may be aware that the Royal Mencap Society has been campaigning for several years for fully accessible toilets to be located in urban areas throughout the country and this has happened in many places. From a personal perspective it was always difficult to change my daughter when she became too long for the baby changing facility in a public toilet. As she is relatively small my wife and I often resorted to changing her incontinence pad on the back seat of our car in a public car park which resulted in a lack of privacy and loss of dignity for my daughter. The problem is more acute for parents or carers of adults of normal size.

I would, therefore, ask the members of Mendip District Council to give sympathetic consideration to Adam Boyden's motion.

2. Tony Singleton

I understand that the council is considering the need for more facilities in Frome Town to support people with disabilities to receive personal care.

We in Future4 are part of the Changing Places programme and have offered our facilities at colliers Court should they be required.

We are however some distance from the centre of town which would be inconvenient for visitors to Frome. We are hoping to support all our customers to engage more in the community and to this end knowing that if in town we could assist people with personal care would be of enormous benefit to our service. It would enable all our customers to access town more regularly.

I would be grateful therefore the council could give the proposal to provide facilities in town every consideration for the reasons I have stated.

3. Luke Joy-Smith

Our Learning Disability Services support around 1000 people and their carers across Somerset. Many of these people and their families need fully accessible toilet and changing facilities in order to get out and about and enjoy the day to day activities many of us take for granted - shopping, going out for a drink or a meal and accessing leisure venues included.

Whilst across the country the numbers of Changing Places facilities have been increasing, there are still not nearly enough in place.

It's not just people with learning disabilities and their carers who benefit from having more Changing Places of course, but anyone with a disability, making it an asset for the whole community. The business case for installing Changing Places facilities is strong too, given that towns, shopping centres, leisure centres and arts venues with a Changing Place will attract a far wider range of people than would otherwise be the case.

We're very happy, therefore, to offer our full support to the campaign for installing more Changing Places in the Mendip area.

4. Helen Barraclough

Our son, Alex, is 6 and a half and has long grown too tall for the baby changers in toilets. Changing him on the floor is both demeaning for Alex, back-breaking for me and also unhygienic for both of us. So I do hope you will help get this motion through tonight. Frome prides itself on being a forward thinking town and this is the perfect way in which to highlight this and both make life easier for its current disabled residents and welcome in disabled visitors from out of town.