

# **The Melton Mowbray Chamber of Trade**

**Harwood House, Park Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE13 1TX  
Telephone: (01664) 564581 Fax: (01664) 410584**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Mr David Blanchard  
Melton Borough Council  
Phoenix House  
Nottingham Road  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire

Dear Mr Blanchard

## **Survey of Levels and Costs of Public Convenience Provision in Melton Town Centre**

We write in response to your request for the considered views of Melton Mowbray Chamber of Trade to the above, and thank you for the giving our organisation the opportunity to consider and respond to your survey.

The Chamber would question the financial costs, both capital and the overheads, which are stated in your accompanying letter, the figures quoted for: a) repair work on the Wilton Road site, b) on the day to day cost of the use of an unmanned toilet facility, c) the 50% split between paying and free usage, d) the figure of £1.10 per use, could appear to be excessive if the 50% split cannot be proved. We would enquire if the Council owns the Wilton Road conveniences or is there a notional rent paid?

The Chamber must support and promote all opportunities to welcome the local public and visitors to our town, with this in mind we are sure questions would be asked by the public if the highest standards are not met, therefore in an ideal world we would wish to see the three sets of conveniences brought into permanent and daily use, our overall view is to promote Melton the best way possible and that would include having (all) facilities which draws trade and tourism into the town centre, but as the economic climate could be a limiting factor we would consider that St Mary's Way and Wilton Road conveniences are the two most important as both are situated adjacent to Coach/Bus and Car Parks.

Regarding your question about partnership initiatives, we would suggest that the obvious link would be with the Town Estate, possibly taking control of the Park Lane conveniences, although we are aware there are facilities in Wilton Park, near Leicester Road.

If Wilton Road conveniences returned to full time usage and manned, this would recoup revenue and Park Lane conveniences taken out of use, the transfer of staff would remove the cost of a redundancy situation, again resulting in a saving to the Council.

The Chamber considers current signage requires improvement, particularly when Melton is promoting tourism, guidance and direction to all facilities is of the utmost importance.

The questionnaire mentions facilities in Burton Street (presumably at the new Council offices); we would suggest there be signage from the Railway Station and also from the Church end of Burton Street. It would appear the toilets in the new premises will be open to the public at all times, if this is not the case there will be a need for the times to be stated on the signage. Will they be manned and a charge for usage?

We would recommend you give consideration to our suggestions and look forward to improved facilities as soon as possible, We note that there has been adverse publicity in the local press recently, and any improvements to all public facilities should be beneficial to the public who are looking for an enjoyable day shopping and/or visiting our town.

Yours sincerely

The Melton Mowbray Chamber of Trade Board of Management