

Dear

I am writing to you in respect of the proposed closure of the public toilets in Collieston.

The Slains and Collieston community although small is very active, having a great deal of pride and sense of responsibility in preserving and enhancing the character and amenities of Collieston and surrounding area. With a population of only approximately 200 people the community is already working at maximum capacity in terms of volunteering input. Among other things, the Pier is owned by the community costing thousands each year in repair and renovation. The village lies on private Estate land meaning the community is responsible for maintaining paths, the playpark and recreational spaces. To suggest that the community also become responsible for maintaining public toilets is totally unacceptable.

A comfort partnership could not be developed in Collieston on the terms that were offered. It is unrealistic to suggest that the ice cream shop – a one person seasonal business - could take on the additional responsibility of the building as well as managing and cleaning the facility.

Although the provision of public toilets may be a discretionary one, Aberdeenshire Council has a number of strategies supporting the Scottish Single Outcome Agreement. Priorities include mental and physical health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation, increasing opportunities for access to affordable open spaces as well as the development of tourism. Closing the toilets may provide short term minor savings for one budget but goes completely against the Council's own aspirational holistic approach to community wellbeing.

Collieston has been enjoyed by countless numbers of visitors over many years, with a coveted Blue Flag Beach status. The simple provision of a basic amenity of a toilet is essential for families, the young, the old and the disabled. There is no other facility in the area and I urge you to reverse this decision.

Yours sincerely,