

Lowestoft Town Council

Notes - Toilet Strategy Working Group 2020-12-17

Sparrows Nest

Following discussion of the condition surveys of the public conveniences at Sparrows Nest, the undersigned investigated some of the pertinent points on site.

Concern was expressed at the failure of areas of wall tiles, possibly because of damp entering the fabric of the building, originating from springs along the cliff face to the rear. In actual fact there is a courtyard between the rear of the toilets and the Lowestoft War Memorial Museum, which does back on to the steep banking.

The affected areas of failed wall tiles are in the vicinity of ventilation openings, as shown:-

Male toilet rear wall and side wall



Female toilet



To avoid ingress of water or excessive damp, it is suggested that these openings be replaced by sealed double-glazed windows, with motion-activated lights and an extraction fan in each toilet. The condition of the locked disabled toilet is not known.

Externally, a drainpipe can be seen on leading down from the roof to the verandah above the side wall of the gents' toilet. The structure of the verandah is in poor condition.



It is considered that full structural repairs to the building, and attention to drainage, should be pre-requisites to refurbishment of the toilets. Obviously this would a costly exercise. Perhaps the proposed reduction in the 2021 precept should be abandoned, and the 2021-22 budget either held at zero, or subjected to a modest increase as necessary to cover the additional expense.

Cllr Colin Butler,

Lowestoft St Margaret's East Ward,

21st December 2020