

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 19 June 2020

Hello, I'm here in York House Gardens and behind me you can see our famous cast iron urinal. That's been closed for the last few months because of COVID-19 but from this weekend, all of the toilets in our parks that we control will be open again. And we're encouraging as many businesses as possible to reopen their toilets so that the public can use them while they're out and about. To help this we're offering a new enhanced Community Toilet Scheme package to those companies which are not yet signed up. This is going to be £350 for the next three months. What we want to ensure is that people can go out, shop in our town centres and do so in the knowledge that there will be some toilet provision there. We can't guarantee it unfortunately. And I know that there is a desire from some people to have temporary toilets, the portaloos that we see at festivals, available. However, the advice from the Government and Public Health England is that this is not the way forward. And there is an immense cost to these facilities as well. So, we're working with licensing, we're working with the police, to ensure that where there are hotspots of antisocial behaviour, that these get dealt with. So, we are doing what we can. We are reopening our facilities. We are encouraging private businesses to open their facilities and of course, in the long run we're going to take a fresh look at the provision of public toilets in our town centres and in our parks. Thank you.

Find out more: www.richmond.gov.uk/community_toilet_scheme