

Your ref:  
Our ref: Petitions 23-24-P23-05  
Please ask for: Lisa Cooper  
Direct dial no: 01424 787813  
Date: 4 December 2023



To: Lead Petitioner

**Lorna Ford**  
Chief Executive

Town Hall  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex TN39 3JX

Dear Lead Petitioner,

### **Petition – Temporary Closure of Devonshire Square and Other Toilets**

I confirm receipt of your Petition which was handed in to Rother District Council on Tuesday 28 November 2023. I am writing to confirm how the Council intends to deal with your Petition.

In accordance with our Petition Scheme any person living, working or studying in the Rother District can sign a Petition; there are approximately 1,857 signatures on your Petition, although it is noted that not all of them are residents and the petition does not qualify whether they work or study in the area.

Details of the Petition and this response will be added to the Council's Petition Log and can viewed at the following link: [Petitions and e-petitions – Rother District Council](#)

Rother District Council has taken the difficult decision to temporarily close several toilets across the district, on a trial basis over the winter months. Information and the rationale for the closures is set out on the Council's website at the following link: [public-toilets/public-toilets-to-close-on-a-trial-basis](#) together with frequently asked questions that can be found at this link: [public-toilet-trial-closure-faqs/](#).

The toilets will most likely be closed for the winter until the trial ends on 1 March 2024 and whilst the budget consultation is in progress, which refers to the closures and invites feedback from residents and stakeholders. The consultation closes on 17 December 2023 after which the full results of the consultation will be considered by the Council in meetings during January and February 2024.

There will be ongoing reviews during the consultation period, and the Council will continue working with colleagues at Town and Parish Council level to facilitate public toilet provision being managed at a local level for the communities they serve. Rother District Council has been in negotiation and discussion with Bexhill Town Council for some time about the devolvement of the public convenience provision within Bexhill, for which the Town Council has already raised a pre-cept.

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Your petition will be considered during the review period and a copy of it has been passed to the Head of Neighbourhood Services, Deborah Kenneally for her information.

The Council is not able to accede to the request in your Petition at this time, for the reasons given.

Thank you for organising this petition and taking the time and trouble to submit it to Rother District Council.

Yours sincerely,

*Lisa Cooper*

Mrs Lisa Cooper  
Democratic Services Manager