

## Sheerness Seafront Toilets – Update for Sheppey Area Committee March 2021

### Background

Sheerness seafront previously had toilets however these were demolished a number of years ago.

It is not suitable for beach users to walk the distance over to the supermarket which are probably the nearest publicly usable facilities. There are toilets situated inside the Healthy living centre, however again these are already used by centre users and have been subject to vandalism/decline in the last few years from external users.

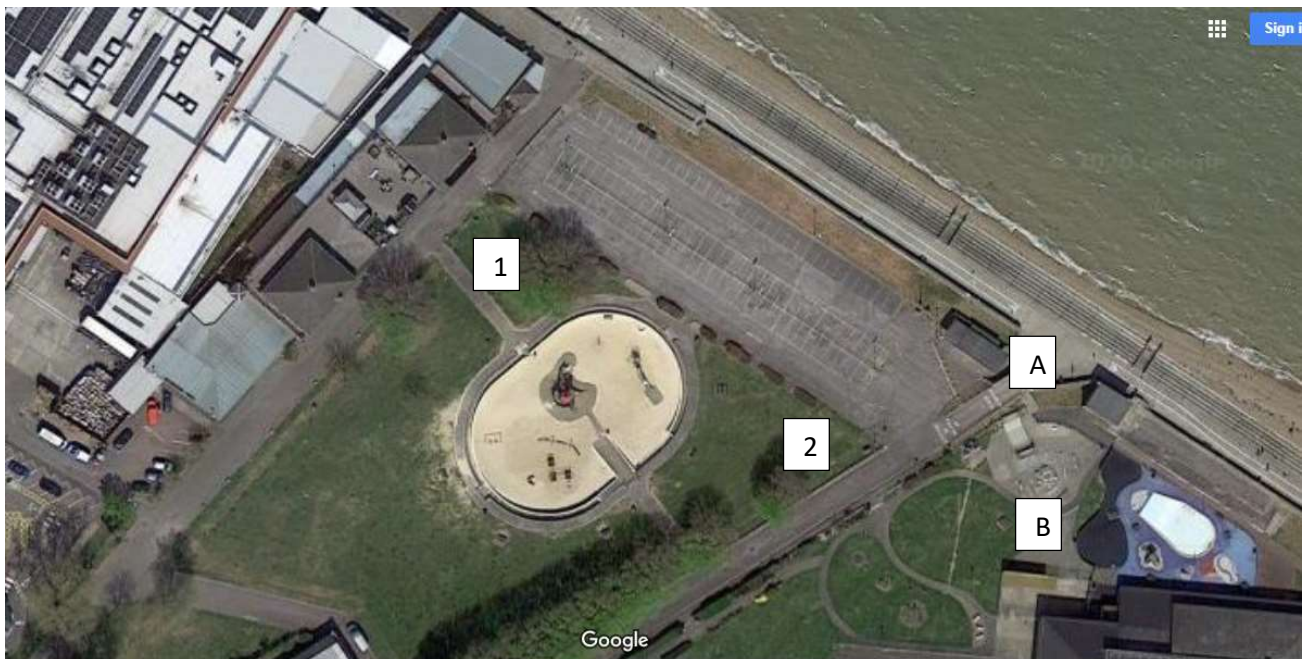
The next closest toilets are all the way into the town centre.

### Proposal

Members have asked for an options paper to look at replacing the seafront toilets with Cllr McCall leading the calls. SBC has recently undertaken two separate tenders for modular toilet blocks at Minster Leas and Milton Creek country park.

For this initial options report, details and costings have been taken from these tenders. If funding for this project is agreed, then more detailed site investigation would need to take place prior to tender. We have requested the relevant drainage and utility plans.

### The Site



Beachfields park seems the most sensible place to position the toilet block. The main pedestrian and vehicle access to the beach is to the right of the car park (marked A

on the picture). This is the area of the beach that has lifeguards and is the Blue flag area.

The car park is seasonally busy (June – Sept).

The sandpit area holds a newly refurbished playground which is popular with residents all year round. The skatepark and basketball court (marked B) are next to the leisure centre and the very popular paddling pool is between the leisure centre and sea wall.

### Proposed toilet positions

As above, no detailed investigations of mains drainage, utility connections etc have taken place, but the two most sensible locations are at 1 and 2 as marked on the map and as shown in pictures below.

Area 1 is likely to be the closest to existing drainage and utility routes given its proximity to the existing buildings. It would also likely require less pathway creation in order to provide disabled access.



Area 2 would however be more central for the playground, skatepark and paddling pool.



## Budget

Based on the two recent tenders undertaken for modular toilet blocks, it is envisaged that a budget between £100k and £150k would be needed to provide a three-unit toilet which would include 1x male, 1 x female (or 2 x unisex) and 1 x accessible toilets. There are a range of types of unit, cladding styles can be changed and optional extras such as foot showers, drinking water fountains, solar power, green roof etc could be specified.

As per other projects the revenue budget would also need to be increased to allow for opening and closing, cleaning, utility costs and on-going maintenance and repairs. These costs are estimated at £8k a year.



## **Area Committee Questions**

1. Would Members support the provision of public toilets for Sheerness seafront?
2. Which location (or others) would Members suggest is best.
3. Are there any other things we should consider?
4. What style should be considered e.g. brick effect, timber, metal
5. Consideration of budgets to use?