

Proposal: To establish a small working party to consider opportunity, options and plans to repurpose one part of the current toilet facility on the Recreation Ground for use as a summer refreshment kiosk which could be let by the council on an annual basis to suitable applicants from within our community.

This proposal has been prompted by various comments made to me in person and my observation of opinions voiced by a number of our community members on social media. It is an idea based on another facility I became aware of in another recreation area in a different town I lived in, albeit many years ago.

The Recreation Ground is a valuable asset to the community and if this proposal were to succeed the benefits would include the following:

1. An outdoor seating space with access to light refreshments during summer months which would greatly benefit parents using the recreation ground with children. It would also benefit members of our community passing through the recreation ground, members of the public using the railway station and the large number of visitors that walk into Wem over the railway line (many from the caravan park at Lower Lacon).
2. It would increase the profile of the Recreation Ground as a leisure destination.
3. It would be a welcome creation of a small retail/catering business opportunity in the Town.
4. It would be a much needed repurposing of an existing community facility with regeneration in mind.

This proposal should permit a small working party to discuss opportunities, set parameters and plan with the intention to reporting findings to full council for consideration with a long term objective to completing the process for an initial opening let in late Spring/Summer 2024. The strands for consideration should be (but not limited to):

1. **Renovation Plans and Costings.** Primarily the facility would have water supply, electricity supply, a freezer, shelving and storage space for outdoor tables and seating which would be put out when the kiosk is open. The entrance could be a stable door which could double up as a serving hatch or reopening an existing bricked up window as a counter. Consideration should be made for a patio area overlooking the crossing should be created to make the facility inviting to those passing by. The working party should consider/investigate funding eg through precept or grants etc.
2. **Minimum Opening Times and Days.** Primarily the facility should be open at least every weekend throughout the let period for a minimum period each day (we cannot have the facility selectively opened for popular and lucrative days such as Carnival Day or Vehicles of Interest Day etc). Some flexibility should be allowed for inclement weather. The facility should benefit users throughout the summer period.
3. **The Let Period.** This would most likely be April-September each year.
4. **Suitable Rent.** This would need to be attractive to a person with flexible hours.
5. **Any Insurance and Liability issues.** This should include statutory permissions which may include planning, environmental health/legionella conditions etc.