

Reference (official use)



Petitions – submission form

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition.
The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.

Name: Ian Reid

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone no: 7903616032

Email:

Title of Petition and Petition Statement

Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.

Title: SBC should reopen and take full responsibility for managing public toilets in West Linton

Statement (no more than 250 words):

The public toilets in the middle of West Linton, run by the Scottish Borders Council, have been closed by SBC for over 16 months since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. While other SBC toilets across the region have reopened, SBC chose not to reopen West Linton's. SBC cited lack of resources (staff and finance) as the reason. It would appear, SBC chose not to fill the post vacated when our local public toilet cleaner retired in December 2020.

Their closure has had an adverse impact on the wellbeing of people in the middle of the village - locals and visitors, front-line workers including council workers, businesses, trades folks, delivery drivers etc. The impact can be particularly felt by people with disabilities and specific health issues, young families, older people, visitors far from home etc. There are numerous reports of people being uncomfortably and embarrassingly 'caught short' and having to find their own undignified 'solutions'.

The feeling across the village is that this situation has been completely unsatisfactory from a whole number of perspectives, not least public and environmental health. In the space of a month, the strength of feeling about our toilets ongoing closure is clear - almost 1300 people have signed this petition already.

SBC have now announced the toilets will now reopen, temporarily, till 31st October 2021. While welcome, the assumption is they will close again on the 1st November. This is unacceptable

In short, we urge Scottish Borders Council to permanently reopen and manage our public toilets.

Further information.

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

1. I have listened to people.
2. I have taken and discussed mine and others concerns to the West Linton Community Council (WLCC), encouraging a 'whole community' approach to engaging with SBC.
3. I have endeavoured to support WLCC's stated approach of continuing to 'press' SBC to reopen West Linton's public toilets.
4. Via the WLCC, I have suggested holding a public meeting (online or zoom) to help engage the whole community and SBC to address the immediate situation, share the ideas and possible solutions that have been generated within the community and continue to lobby SBC to permanently reopen and manage the toilets. I have not received a reply to my suggestion.
5. Via my most local of local councillors, I have also suggested hold a public meeting as above. Again, this has not happened.
6. I have suggested local councillors resume local councillor surgeries to allow WL residents to air and discuss their concerns and ideas directly with them.
7. I have spoken with SBC Environmental Health Team re the implications of people toileting in public spaces such as the West Linton Lower Green and in the River Lyne.
8. I have spoken with the SBC Neighbourhood Services Senior Manager, acknowledging the challenges faced by SBC and imploring the need for SBC to reopen WL's toilets immediately.
9. I have submitted a Freedom of Information Request to SBC requesting more information relating to budgets, decision-making processes and risk assessments.
10. I have been in contact with the Scottish Government to fully understand the detail and spirit of their Covid-related public toilet cleaning guidance.
11. I have established how other Scottish local authorities are interpreting and applying Scottish Govt toilet cleaning guidance.
12. I have set up this petition.
13. I have been interviewed by local press, radio and TV - they are already aware that this issue effects other communities across the SBC.

Presentation of petition to the Committee.

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

*I do wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.

*I would like my deputy named below to make a statement on my behalf.

Name of deputy

Contact details

Signature of deputy.....

* please delete as appropriate

Signature of Principal Petitioner.

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner.....

Date 2/9/21

Accompanying signatures.

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.

	Name	Address	Signature
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1	LINDSAY MANN		
2	Jordan McFarlane		
3	JACQUI MORROW		
4	JANE GILCHRIST.		
5	TANGI KIRK		
6	EMMA GARDNER		
7	Nick McWilliam		
8	Mary & David		
9	JAMES SMITH		
10	Aonghus MacDonnell		

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,

or email to:

committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk