

Partnership working – Rugby Borough Council and Rugby Disability Forum

As everybody is aware, councils throughout Warwickshire have to save money.

In Rugby, one problem that we have is that someone is misusing the toilet for disabled people at night, by spreading ripped up toilet paper and excrement around the toilet. This then means that the council has to pay the cleaner extra to clean the toilet on each occasion this happens.

The council have the option of either taking out an injunction on the person responsible (which will incur extra costs) or closing the toilet completely.

Most other councils in Warwickshire have taken the decision to close accessible toilets at 6pm, which is the cheapest and easiest option but the worst possible scenario for disabled people. Able bodied people can go into a pub and use the toilet without it being obvious. It's more difficult to blend in when you are in a wheelchair.

Rugby Borough Council has contacted Rugby Disability Forum to ask for their input and whether or not they think it is justified to leave the toilet open 24 hours. Consequently, the Forum is writing back to the Council to explain that this is the only 24 hour toilet in Warwickshire, and not only do people in Rugby use it, but also those travelling through.

Having the use of the toilet is a major advantage to the disabled community and without it we feel that we would have lost a lot.

Rugby Disability Forum feel that the partnership working with Rugby Borough Council and the actions they have taken, regardless of the outcome, have allowed people with disabilities the chance to have their say before a decision is made, and not after.

Rugby Borough Council invariably talk to the Forum on a multitude of matters ensuring that the disabled community is properly served.

David Foster, Chair, Rugby Disability Forum