

CABINET
19 DECEMBER 2019
MOTION REFERRED FROM 6 NOVEMBER 2019 COUNCIL – ELMORE PARK

To consider the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor Miss O. Lyons, Leader of the Opposition, which was referred to Cabinet from Council, held on 6 November, 2019 (draft Council Minute 51.(iii) 2019/20 refers):

“Elmore Park is a beautiful space and has been consistently awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award since 2010. It is a stone’s throw from Rugeley Town Centre and sits at the heart of our local community. A space to create memories.

Now more than ever, we must cherish parks and green spaces. As a Council, we must do all we can to promote them with pride and ensure that they are welcoming for local families. Elmore Park is an asset for several reasons – exposure to nature greatly benefits mental health, it provides a place for recreational and physical activity, it is a community hub for families to enjoy and, more than that, the trees are crucial in helping to remove pollutants and clean the air.

Despite the positives – the pet’s corner, space to play, the picnic area and lake - the Park is let down by its toilet provision. The toilets do not cater for disabled users, they do not have baby changing facilities or running water for visitors to wash their hands. The Council have installed waterless hand sanitisers and replaced the urinal in the gents, but they remain outdated, unhygienic and do little to contribute to the Park being a destination site.

Over 850 individuals signed my petition, the large majority being local residents. It has identified a local need. A need to modernise the Park ensuring that it is accessible and suitable for all residents. With better toilets, more residents have said that they would use the park. That is more children being active, more residents spending time outdoors and more local communities spending more time together. As a Council, let’s listen to what our local residents are telling us and let’s prioritise their need.

I ask that the Council commits to undertake an options appraisal in relation to the existing toilet block and a feasibility study to assess the practicalities and costs of the proposals, with a view to identifying a toilet refurbishment scheme within this Council’s capital programme.”