

Environment and Planning Committee

Meeting Date: 18th February 2026

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Subject: Review of Parking Issues – Chapel Street Toilets

1. Purpose of Report

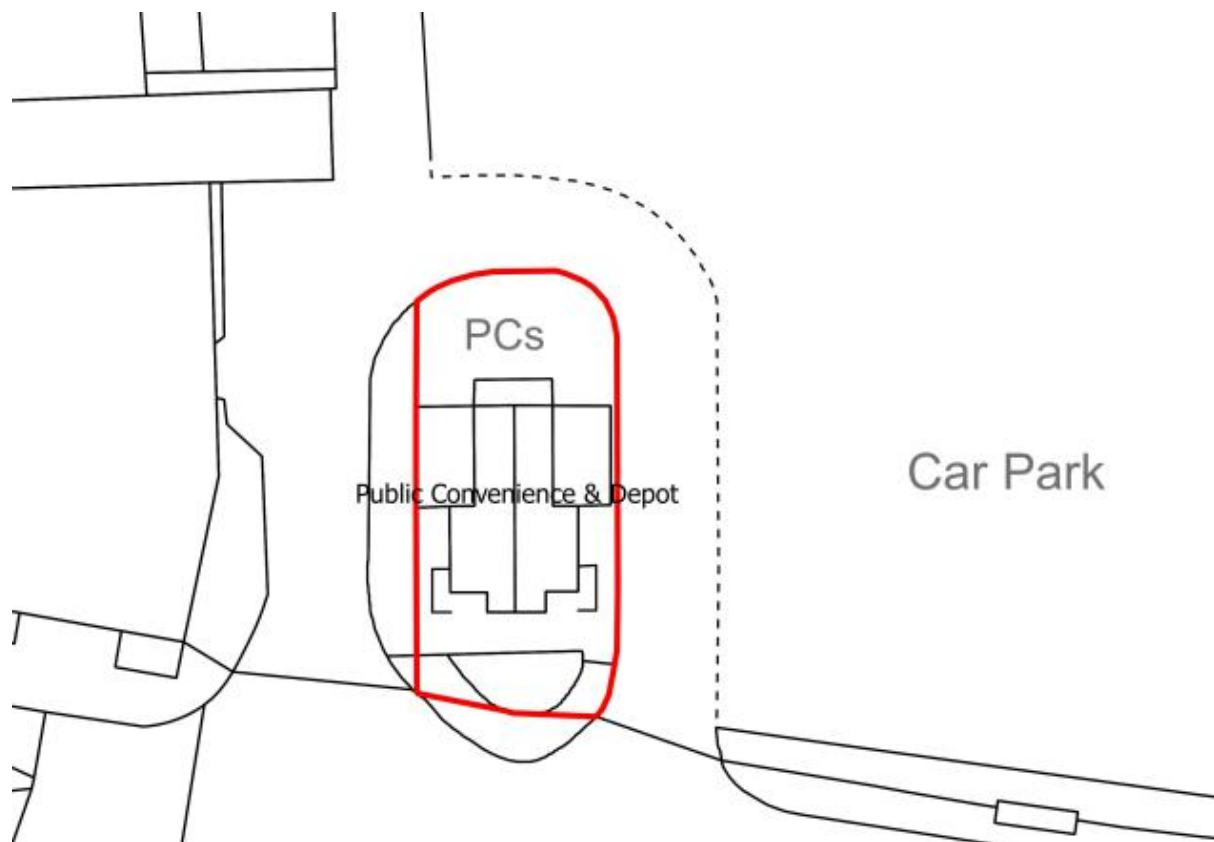
To request that the Environment and Planning Committee undertake a review of ongoing parking issues at the Chapel Street public conveniences site and consider the installation of physical preventative measures.

2. Background

Following the recent opening of the supermarket at the former Co-Op building, there has been a noticeable increase in vehicles parking within the boundary of the public toilet facility. This includes vehicles obstructing the access gate, which presents both operational and safety concerns.



The site location and layout are illustrated in the below plan, which highlights the proximity of the building to surrounding car parking areas and access routes.



Site Practicalities and Physical Constraints

Chapel Street toilets as a site is currently very open in its layout, with a wide, unobstructed hardstanding area directly adjacent to the building. As a result, the space can easily be mistaken for an extension of the nearby car park, encouraging informal and unauthorised parking.

The absence of defined boundaries, kerbing, or physical deterrents means vehicles are able to pull up directly against the building and access gates without restriction.

Additionally, the openness of the site reduces the effectiveness of existing signage and advisory notices. Without a clear physical indication that the area is not intended for parking, drivers may continue to use the space for convenience, particularly during periods of increased demand following the opening of the nearby retail premises.

Given the layout, the installation of physical measures such as telescopic bollards would provide a clear visual and practical boundary while still allowing authorised access when required. This approach would help formalise the space, protect access points, and support safer day-to-day operations without significantly impacting the surrounding streetscape.



3. Current Situation

Despite efforts to discourage inappropriate parking, including placing advisory notes on vehicles and signage on the building, the issue persists.

Vehicles continue to park directly in front of the access gates, restricting entry for authorised personnel and preventing essential access.

4. Proposed Solution

It is recommended that the Committee consider installing physical barriers directly in front of the gates to prevent unauthorised parking.

4.1 Preferred Option:

- Installation of three to four telescopic steel bollards to allow authorised access while preventing obstruction.
- Products similar to the *Round Steel Telescopic Security Post (500mm)* – *Bison Security Posts* would be suitable.



Round Steel Telescopic Security Post 500mm - Bison Security Posts

4.2 Alternative Option:

- Surface mounted plate or drop-down frame posts could be considered where groundworks present challenges.

- **Metal Hoop Barriers**

As an alternative to telescopic bollards, consideration could be given to the installation of fixed metal hoop barriers along the edge of the hardstanding area. These would provide a continuous physical and visual deterrent to unauthorised parking while clearly defining the boundary between the public conveniences and the adjacent car parking area.

Metal hoop barriers would be particularly suited to the open nature of the site, as they would prevent vehicles from mounting the pavement or stopping directly in front of the access gates, while still maintaining pedestrian visibility and permeability. They also require less ongoing maintenance than retractable systems and avoid the need for user operation.

This option may offer a more cost effective and robust solution.



5. Estimated Costs

Depending on the chosen option. Installation would require preliminary ground scans and associated works. A provisional budget of approximately £2,000 - £4,000 is anticipated, although this is subject to confirmation through procurement.

6. Other Considerations

Alternative deterrents, such as large stones or fixed blocks, may offer a lower cost solution; however, these may not align with the visual aesthetic of the location and would not provide flexible access or use.

7. Recommendation

That the Environment and Planning Committee:

1. Review the parking issues currently affecting the Chapel Street public conveniences site.
2. Approve an assessment of suitable barrier options.
3. Allocate funding for the installation of telescopic bollards (or an agreed alternative) to ensure continued access and protect the integrity of the facility.