

# Water Closet for Water Park

Last year, the West Berkshire council and Greenham trust had the bright idea to replace the toilets near the library, with a free to use Water Park in Victoria Park. This water park is planned to be an 11m by 11m splash pad, a foam like pad that children can run around on and not get hurt. According to The Newbury Weekly News, The council has stated that, "It would use more than 1 litre of water per second." This caused a mixture of different opinions with the public as many thought the free water park was a, "Money drain!" Although some thought that the free water park was a great idea.



One man said, "I think that the water park is a good idea, but the toilets were more important for the public." and "If the water park is built it should be free." The council has confirmed that it will be free, yet some believe it shouldn't as the extra money could help pay for it. As the West Berkshire council and Greenham Trust have had to put £85,000 together already just for planning permission and construction.

As well as the public toilets being closed down the Tourist Information Centre is also being shut down. Over half the people questioned said that the Centre is important to locals because they can buy tickets, find maps and timetables. To cover this, the Corn Exchange, the Newbury library and the west Berkshire Museum are going to be used to help



locals and tourists with their needs. However, not all of the information will be provided.

When interviewed 91.5% of the public were angry about the fact that the Information Centre and toilets were being shut down. One member of the public said, "Instead of getting rid of the toilets they should charge us 20p to use them, so it would cover the cost of maintaining it." According to the Newbury Weekly News a council member has said that "Unfortunately, we do not have the money to keep the centre and the toilets open."

Newbury is clearly going through a number of changes and a tough time, and we are keen to discover what the results will be. It seems some important decisions need to be made, for examples, the toilets seem crucial to people using the park and the Splash Park should use recycled water. It seems the locals need and rely on the Tourist Information Centre and it would be a shame to lose this valuable asset.