



**TOILETS FOR ALL
CAMPAIGNING FOR OUR HEALTH & WELLBEING**



AUGUST 2018

WELCOME EVERYONE to the new look **TOILETS FOR ALL** newsletter which incorporates **PUBLIC TOILETS UK** and **TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK**. The newsletter will highlight issues we are *all* facing on a daily basis with regard to accessing toilets and the effect on our health and wellbeing.

PUBLIC TOILETS UK www.facebook.com/PTUKcampaign was launched in February 2015. The main aim of the campaign is to work towards a more inclusive society by (1) increasing the availability of away from home toilets and (2) working towards public toilets in the UK becoming a legal requirement – just like they are for most employees.

TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK www.facebook.com/TTUKcampaign was launched in July 2013. The aim of this campaign is to improve the health and wellbeing of lorry drivers. Until November 2017 lorry drivers were frequently refused access to facilities at many of the companies they visited, whether to deliver or collect goods on which we all depend. The *Health & Safety Executive* has now confirmed that companies '**must**' allow drivers access to toilet facilities when visiting premises. It has been a hard battle and even now there are still some companies who have failed to note the change in the regulations and continue to refuse drivers access to toilets on their premises. The next challenge is to improve drivers' welfare by (1) increasing access to toilets and showers on our road networks (2) encouraging provision of safe parking for drivers and their loads during daytime legal breaks and during overnight stays– there is currently not enough (3) to raise awareness of the effects of poor sleep; dehydration and stress on the drivers due to the lack of decent, well maintained facilities.

ARE COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEMES A SOLUTION? – at least for some of us? Public Toilets are closing at a rapid rate as there is no statutory requirement to provide them and so earlier this month the **USE OUR LOOS** campaign was launched. This is a campaign to encourage businesses and public building owners in our towns and cities to allow us use of their facilities without having to make a payment <https://www.facebook.com/UseOurLoosUK/>. Needless to say there are pros and cons related to such a scheme and *Public Toilets UK* has a general leaflet on Community Toilet Schemes [please email Gill for a copy]. In order to contribute towards a successful outcome **PTUK** requires YOUR input so do look out for requests for contributions on the **PTUK** facebook page and of course the **USE OUR LOOS** facebook page.

WHAT ABOUT MOBILE WORKERS? Many of us are fortunate enough to be able to track down toilet facilities in the larger stores or when we visit a café or restaurant [although this may not always be the case – so beware!]. However mobile workers such as those on night shifts, carers who visit people in their home, postal workers, ambulance personnel often find it difficult to access a toilet. With few public toilets available at night due to concerns of vandalism and misuse and councils closing toilets during the day their needs are not being considered. This is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. The situation for **LORRY DRIVERS** is even worse! Facilities are few and far between; parking is a nightmare as there are few parking areas that can accommodate the size and weight of HGV vehicles; the security of the vehicle is the responsibility of the driver – who has his/her personal safety issues to contend with. Drivers are fined if they park in the 'wrong' place and if they use the roadside as a toilet even though there are *no facilities available* for miles [they are only allowed to drive for a certain number of hours regardless of their comfort] (*Gill was recently interviewed on 3CR on*

this subject). In addition their quality of sleep can be very poor due to noise, poor security.... The lack of toilets encourages drivers to reduce their fluid intake which leads to a drop in concentration. That together with the stress of having to reach their destination at a certain time adds to the driver's stress. There is agreement within the haulage industry that the health and welfare of those whose workplace is the road needs to be addressed and there have been many discussion but to date there is no actual ACTION.

TRAVELLING: Travelling to and from our place of work can be fraught with difficulties particularly for those of us with 'invisible' disabilities or those occasions when we need a loo – urgently. Traffic jams, lack of facilities on our road networks, lack of toilets on trains – or toilets out of order – all add to the difficulties of everyday life. Other countries appear to be trying to improve their customers' travelling needs and various transport groups in the UK such as TfL are working hard to make travelling inclusive for all. At the present time many of us with 'invisible' disabilities find it easier to stay at home rather than run the risk of an 'accident'. This surely can't be right?

MOTORWAY SERVICES: Are they all what they're cracked up to be? The latest survey by Transport Focus <https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research-publications/publications/motorway-services-user-survey-2018/> indicates most of the travelling public are satisfied but the needs of **HGV drivers** are often neglected. Those of us currently working have a legal right to a toilet but this particular group of working people too often find themselves faced with poorly maintained facilities when away from home – if facilities are available at all. Not all routes for **HGV drivers** are on motorways!

CHANGING PLACES FACILITIES: These are toilets for disabled people who need additional assistance in the form of a hoist and other helpful apparatus. Whilst these facilities are gradually increasing carers continue to have to change pads of those they are looking after - adults and children - as the need arises and this is usually in the *back of a car* or on a *toilet floor*. This is undignified, unhygienic and can cause physical damage to the carer. In the 21st century this is totally unacceptable. An article recently [The Guardian 080818] described how a person has *undergone surgery* to insert a permanent catheter to enable her to go out and about and join in activities with her friends without worrying about having to be changed or to go home early because she needed the toilet. The lack of proper toilet facilities is contributing to people of *all* ages being excluded from taking part in day to day activities.

THE GREAT BRITISH PUBLIC TOILET MAP [GBPTM] <https://www.facebook.com/The-Great-British-Public-Toilet-Map-1508125289446413/> Did you know such a map exists? The GBPTM is a partner in the USE OUR LOOS Campaign. Do check it out and let us know what you think. Have you used it? Did you find it helpful?

TOILET CONSORTIUM Recent discussions with the *Focus Group* on improvements to the Can't Wait Card have resulted in some draft ideas which will be distributed shortly to the *Focus Group* for comment. Other documents concerned with formalising the Toilet Consortium will be distributed to all Toilet Consortium members very soon.

The next issue of the TOILETS FOR ALL newsletter will be September 2018

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