



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

November 2013
NEWSLETTER 5

BTA Conference: Great variety of topics and excellent opportunities for networking. I talked about the difficulties that lorry drivers experience accessing toilets and handwashing facilities at many of the companies they visit. Other presentations included: an innovative toilet product; infection control using ozone, an app instead of cash to access a loo; remote management of toilets; Changing Places toilets; the introduction of the forthcoming UK Toilet Map.



The theme for the BTA in 2014 is 'Health and Wellbeing'. Very appropriate I think!

UK Toilet Map: This is a venture between Changing Places and the British Toilet Association due to be launched in the New Year. The emphasis will be on accurate information with regular updates. It should become a valuable resource for *everyone*



Welcome support!: The Director of one company present at the BTA conference offered to investigate the facilities on offer at a couple of companies in his area on our behalf. Needless to say the offer has been accepted with grateful thanks.



Retail Centre Service Yards: Follow up. Thanks to the Truckers' responses, guidance has been issued to the architects' practice that a driver's toilet should be included in service yards wherever possible. The British Council of Shopping Centres will also be informed of this issue, so hopefully their next edition of their service yard design guide will include toilet provision. Thank you for your comments which have made a great contribution. Any further thoughts / comments are still very welcome.



Value the Social: More contact with architects! This was a mini half day conference on 21 November to discuss social inclusion and architecture. With mainly architects present, there were 4 speakers whose subjects were: (1) the effects of architecture on society; (2) problems of recession and looking for other opportunities; (3) architecture as part of the social agenda; (4) how to work with a wide range of people. Although it was a discussion of ideas rather than specifics, it was worth attending and gave food for thought. I mentioned toilets to a number of people present and for once no-one giggled or made the usual jokes but seemed genuinely interested in the issues. Perhaps having more contact with architects should be on our agenda.



Unite Highway: An article on Truckers' Toilets UK is on page 3 [!!!] of the autumn issue of Unite the Union's magazine, 'Unite Highway'. In addition the editor reports that an approach made through the National Car Council to Jaguar Land Rover in Solihull has resulted in the company agreeing to install brand new facilities for transporter drivers. The editor says *'Now we have achieved this success, let's see every site with proper drivers welfare facilities'*. Please continue to update TTUK on the situation at the companies you visit and especially on the new facilities at Solihull.



Good news? Well, sort of: An article in the Sunday Express 17 November headed 'Is this the end of the public loo' included a comment by Hilary Benn MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which he mentioned the importance of public toilets. He didn't mention mobile workers specifically but



he did conclude the article with '*Communities Secretary Eric Pickles's unfair and disproportionate cuts to local government pose a threat to public health and hygiene*'. Now that is important! And I will follow this up on behalf of TTUK.

More sort of good news? Still in the realm of MPs I received an acknowledgement [30/9] from MP Grant Shapps' assistant re: my letter about facilities for lorry drivers, to say that the letter about '*this worrying issue*' had been passed to the Transport Minister [Stephen Hammond]. On 4 November I received a letter via Grant Shapps' office [after a chase up by me] from Mike Penning MP, Minister for Disabled People [!]. Mr Penning mentioned the forthcoming publication of the revision of the HSE's Workplace Approved Code of Practice and then writes: *In addition to this advice there is guidance for lone workers and those responsible for organising transport delivery available on the HSE's website. The latter area forms part of web pages on workplace transport and the HSE has plans to review these. This will provide a good opportunity to clarify advice on visiting drivers.*

The letter continues:.....*the HSE has specific guidance.....an employers guide [HSG136] which recommends that a safe area may be needed for visiting drivers to protect them from the risks associated with loading /unloading vehicles. This also suggests that visiting drivers are given access to welfare facilities.* [I don't like the word 'suggests' not forceful enough!] The letter concludes: *The HSE is aware of the need to clarify the guidance on providing access to welfare facilities for visiting drivers and this will be considered alongside looking at the consultation responses. The revised guidance is due to be published in early 2014.*

[I have just received an email re: the results of the consultation and I'll report on this in the December newsletter and on TTUK.]

Women's Design Survey: Message from Manchester Women's Design Group: We are *constructing* a guide for women in the development and construction industry to help them overcome any barriers they might face, and give them some tips on how to survive in a man's world. Please help us to help women in the future by answering some questions on your experiences; follow the link to our questionnaire http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Mcr_WDG - we will be collecting responses up until the end of December 2013. Thank you for helping us out and please forward this onto any other women who may have something to share!

My comment: Whilst toilet access may not be specifically mentioned in the above survey please mention it. This is an opportunity to introduce the topic and state any problems you encounter.

UCLoo Festival: see the December issue of the newsletter

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Next issue of **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be December

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association <www.britloos.co.uk>