



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

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NEWSLETTER 3-3

Stafford Business Park: It seems that Stafford's Street Scene team have to clean up Prime Point Business Park off the A34 several times a week [expressandstar 16/8] and this is adding over £7000 to annual costs. The reason for the problem? No toilet



facilities! The ideal solution apparently is to use the Sainsbury's lorry park provided by the borough council. The article doesn't state how close this is to the Business Park Nor whether the lorry park can accommodate more vehicles. *TTUK* has been in touch with Councillor Sutherland who is mentioned in the article. He is quoted as saying that 'toilet facilities are a basic requirement' and is trying to resolve the situation. He is in discussion with local businesses and it was a subject on the agenda at a parish council meeting. *TTUK* has followed up asking if there was an outcome of this issue and is awaiting a reply.

Laybys, Loos and Lorry Drivers: We all know the problems but we need to consider some solutions. *TTUK* has compiled a document – *Laybys, Loos and Lorry Drivers* – to outline a number of ideas suggested by lorry drivers. Some may not be suitable, some would be costly, others would take time to implement and get people on board. Nevertheless these ideas can be narrowed down to two particular areas (1) overnight parking with facilities and (2) toilet access during the day. If anyone would like a copy please contact Gill Kemp at the email address at the end of this newsletter. It is not intended to be a 'static' document and further thoughts are coming forward.



Duty of care [1]: One section in *Laybys, Loos and Lorry Drivers* highlights the welfare of lorry drivers mentioned in the Guidance documents provided by the Health & Safety Executive. Recent editions of these documents now clarify much of the previous confusion. There is a need now to highlight these aspects of drivers' welfare – politely but firmly - and encourage appropriate action. *TTUK* will be considering the most appropriate ways of doing this.



CLARIFICATION

Duty of care [2]: *The Cleanzine* [3/9] also features an article on Duty of Care to employee health. Apparently 'Fewer than half of businesses believe they have a duty of care to employee health, according to a recently released report from Morgan Redwood' This has dropped from 95% in 2009 in spite of an awareness of the importance of work/life balance! Could this be one of the reasons for the driver shortage?



MP on board?: Andrew Jones, MP has contacted the HSE to ask if more could be done to enable drivers to use toilets at the companies they visit [*Lid not closed on loos issue Truck & Driver September 2015*]. He says it is 'common sense and courtesy' that drivers should be allowed to use a toilet at the premises they visit. At the same time he understands the reluctance of some companies to do this in view of the state in which some toilets are left. He has promised to let *TTUK* know of the outcome of his discussions. The article also mentions the good relationship between *TTUK* and the RHA which are both working towards improving toilet access for lorry drivers



RHA: TTUK and the RHA have had telephone discussions on the next step and there are some positive actions in the pipeline. Watch this space – and make a regular visit to www.facebook.com/TTUKcampaign to keep updated!

Driver Rest Facilities and Lorry Parking: This is an excellent document which forms part of the Department for Transport's *Local Authority Freight Management Guide* dated January 2007, Reprinted November 2010 HMSO Suggestions to meet various needs and reduce inappropriate parking have been divided into 3 categories: basic, intermediate and premium. Difficulties resulting from councils selling off land or allowing a change of use are also mentioned as are site selection criteria. The whole *Freight Management Guide* provides advice on positive ways to address issues and develop partnerships. The importance of communication and ways to formulate an action plan are also included. The information is there and the document should be highlighted to local authorities particularly in areas where problems are causing difficulties within communities [thanks to Sam for bringing it to TTUK's attention]



Resilience: the key to women's advancement in transport and logistics: This event on 8 September run by the *everywoman Academy* www.everywoman.com was attended by one of our supporters who mentioned the lack of facilities for lorry drivers and the efforts of TTUK to address this issue to the HR manager of a logistics company – and it seems they've heard about TTUK already! Word is spreading.... Needless to say TTUK has written to the Academy to spread the word just that little bit further!.[thanks Annemarie]



Attitudes to toilets: Ulvaston District Council is expected to pay £105,000 to convert public toilets into council offices and a meeting room [North-West Evening Mail 26 August]. Not surprisingly this has divided opinion amongst town councillors to the extent that some key position holders have resigned. However the Mayor has said that there has been a democratic process. The request for planning agreement states that 'the loss of a town centre public toilets is not deemed "detrimental" to Ulverston'. TTUK does not know whether these toilets are accessible to lorry drivers but it's the attitude that seems to say that a new home for the council is more important than the loos it would replace that raises TTUK's hackles. The lack of consideration given to toilet access is something that TTUK comes across all too often.



Nowhere to go! Once again taxi drivers are forced to find 'alternative' toilets, this time in Sunderland [Sunderland Echo 10/8]. Like lorry drivers they work 24/7 but there are no toilet facilities available that take their working hours into account either. Toilets in the area close from 5.30 pm or 7pm and re-open at 7 am. The early closures are due to 'safety' issues related to violence and toilet damage. This means that once again mobile workers are forced to choose alternative unhygienic methods – and get blamed for doing so. A shopping centre and the proximity of pubs and restaurants are deemed suitable alternatives. When will councils realise that needing the loo is not a choice? Not having access to a toilet is a health issue!!



Bedford Bus Station: A similar situation to that in Sunderland has arisen in Bedford [Bedford Today 10/9]. It seems that the toilets in the vicinity close at 5.45 pm when the car park stays open until 8pm! Apparently alternative facilities are not signposted. The reason for early closures is that previous experience has resulted in drug abuse and anti social behaviour. *TTUK* emailed a booklet titled *Publicly Available Toilets: Problem Reduction Guide* to Councillor Rigby who is trying to extend the toilet opening hours. The booklet offers suggestions to reduce the problems encountered in and around public toilets but is useful for other toilet facilities as well. *TTUK* has received a very positive response and the booklet will be shared amongst colleagues in the borough.



Something to consider? Former public toilets in Larkhall are being converted into a small shop – and one unisex public toilet which the owners will maintain. [Bath Chronicle 2/9]. Whilst the toilet will only be open from 9pm to 5pm from Monday to Saturday [no-one needs the toilet in the area on a Sunday it seems!] *TTUK* thinks it might be an idea worth exploring for lorry drivers – and other mobile workers – if suitable parking could be found.



New Zealand leaps ahead! New toilets in Millers Acre carpark are being considered because the numbers of people who come via the buses especially in the summer all come at once and everyone getting off them all have the same idea – to visit the loos! [Nelson Mail 20/8] Car parks are ideal places for toilets and these are near a store and a café. Could this idea be developed further in the UK for lorry parks? Having additional managed sites with food and proper rest facilities on routes other than motorways not only helps compliance with driving hours regulations but contributes to the health and wellbeing of drivers as mentioned in *Driver Rest Facilities and Lorry Parking* stated previously. Business opportunity anyone?



Colostomy Association www.colostomyassociation.org.uk/
This organisation supports those living with and managing a colostomy and offers practical and emotional advice. Lots of information on their website

The IBS Network www.theibsnetwork.org is petitioning all political parties and the National Medical Director to recognise that it's not 'just' Irritable Bowel Syndrome [IBS]. The petition is included in the flyer below. Do sign <http://www.theibsnetwork.org/flyers/Relief-15-09/index.php>

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Next issue of the **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be October 2015
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