

## Solutions for a cleaner and safer night time economy



### Nighttime economy vs clean streets

A lively nighttime economy is positive for a city. On the other hand, one of the **top 3 concerns** resulting from a lively nighttime economy is related to street urination. (Source: Civic Trust)



**Public urination** is a world wide growing problem as many cities have closed (had to close) down their toilets whilst alcohol consumption at night is continuously growing. Retailers and local residents have to put up with the (odors) nuisance that indiscriminate urination produces. Buildings get damaged. And whoever confronts an offender about his behavior risks provoking an aggressive reaction.



Studies conclude and authorities know: "**Cleaner streets are safer streets**". And so they provide garbage bins to keep the street clean, remove graffiti, etc. As with littering, increasing fines is not the solution when there are no adequate facilities provided. The same goes for street urination. Because, street urination is just one matter of keeping the streets clean from (invisible) waste produced by visitors.



### The problem

The authorities are faced with the fact that spending more money on standard toilet facilities is no solution to street urination. As studies carried out by Local Authorities conclude: sanitation requirements for nighttime are different from the daytime. Because

- The people, their behaviour and needs are different,
- The pattern of usage is different,
- The urination hot spots are located differently and their number is significant

In addition cities are confronted with increasing costs for late night operation of public toilets and for maintenance. As a consequence they close such toilets for the evening.

### The solution

To solve this problem a dual approach is practiced by a growing number cities. For daytime they use public and community toilets to provide a service to visitors, at nighttime they use pop-up urinals on hotspots to solve the problem of urination created by revelers.





### UriLift

UriLift is the inventor of retractable urinals. These unique stand-alone stainless steel toilets and urinals are safely stowed underground during daytime and are in action only when needed.

- The unique designs can handle up to **150 users per hour**
- Average vandalism related cost are **less than £100** per unit per year.
- If well located in entertainment areas **a few hundred litres of human fluids** will be kept of the street per weekend

### Cost Saving

The total costs of ownership of an UriLift are significantly less than of conventional toilets and temporary units. And the level of solving the urination problem is significantly higher, 7 days a week. UriLift has a proven record of cost effective, durable, high quality and effective solutions for street urination for the benefit of Local Authorities, Shop Owners, Citizens, Pubs and Police.

### Short decision-making process

Retailers and local residents hardly ever object to the UriLift, because it is only above ground during the busiest times. That makes the choice of location much less complicated. A fast-track construction procedure is possible. The UriLift can be installed quickly without causing any significant nuisance to local residents.

### Customers

More than 100 UriLifts are installed, amongst others in London Borough of Westminster, Lambeth, Reading, Colchester, Taunton, Newquay, Belfast, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and many more.

## Ref projects UK, statements made by council's representatives

**London Borough of Westminster, 2002, 3 units**  
**Location: Viller Street, Cambridge Circus**



"We have been very pleased with the UriLifts. The **immediate areas** where they are installed **are now far cleaner, and local traders and residents are delighted**. There seems little doubt that these units could offer major benefits in many other town and city areas."



**Reading, 2003, 2 units**  
**Location town hall, market**



"The UriLifts are unique and they remove planning permission. In Reading **we were able to install a unit 25 feet from Marks & Spencer's doorstep with full support from M&S and surrounding businesses** because the unit is not there during the nighttime. The units in Reading were the first installed in the country and attracted nationwide coverage from TV, radio and newspapers including live coverage on the BBC and ITV thereby promoting a positive image of Reading.

**London Borough of Lambeth, 2008, 5 units**  
**Location: Kennington Road and Saint Luke's Road (Clapham)**



Councillor Lib Peck, Cabinet member for environment:

"urinating in the street at night is antisocial and a constant source of complaint from residents and businesses. "We are committed to **improving public toilet access in Lambeth and the proposals for urinals are a key part of that,**" she added

Doug Perry, Head of Street Care,

Lambeth recognises the need to address antisocial urination and has already run a successful trial deploying mobile urinals in strategic hotspots at night. During the trial, **more than 500 people used removable pissoirs over one night in Voltaire Road, Clapham and 516 litres of urines were collected combining Friday nights over six weeks – urine that would have otherwise ended up on the streets.**

There are different ways of providing urinals. In Lambeth, the most cost-effective and innovative way is to install electronic pop-up urinals. These urinals do not require planning permission and do not disfigure the landscape.

**London Borough of Islington, 2009, 1 unit**

**Location: corner of St John Street and Cowcross Street / Fabric nightclub**

Its arrival follows six years of campaigning by club managers and complaints from residents about urine-covered streets. The self-cleaning, fully plumbed Dutch UriLift urinal is operated by remote control by Fabric's management. It will remain underground at the during the day but emerge in the evening for use between 7.30pm and 5am on club nights and at weekends.

The extent of the problem was revealed in a recent pilot scheme involving Fabric and Islington Council which provided portable urinals in and around Farringdon.

**Dan Coshan, Fabric's group operations director:**

"We've been in the area for 10 years. We fully understand that, with a venue this size, we have a lot of positive contributions to the area but with the numbers we and other bars attract we know there can be some negative impact. We're known for our queues. **If people are queuing for a long time and they need to go, they'll have to go and, unfortunately, if there's nowhere to go they will pick a doorway.** The new toilet can be used by three men at a time. "It's very simple. Men walk in, go and leave. It's tasteful, quite stylish and modern."



**Operations Management of Islington's Street Environment Services :**

The site is particularly suited for the Fabric queue, and by being visible, will be **far better known than the temporary urinals that Islington has been installing** on Friday and Saturday nights in the area.

**St George's ward Lib Dem councillor George Allan:**

"**This is a response to years of complaints by local people** about the sight, and consequences, of clubbers and drinkers urinating in the streets and various alleys off them, and recent efforts to get licensed premises to take more responsibility for their customers. It's quite normal to see drinkers outside pubs relieving themselves in the street, rather than using the facilities inside. The urinal will rise out of the pavement, and then disappear back after its work is done."

**Watford, 2007, 2 units**  
**Location High Street**



Borough Councillor Derek Scudder

"One of the problems we have in the town is people peeing in doorways. "We get quite a lot of complaints from shopkeepers about this. "It's just not very nice. "The evidence suggests it's primarily a male problem. **The police really don't want the public toilets open at night because of other problems.** "These urinals are reasonably discreet and offer a solution."

**Colchester, 2006, 1 unit 1**  
**Location High Street**



Cllr Christopher Arnold, Portfolio Holder for Street Services and Waste:

"We are determined to work with the police to eradicate the now-common practice of urination in town centre shop doorways by late-night revellers. The UriLift will help to quell this problem, offering men a public toilet facility after pubs and clubs close up for the night. **From now on, there will be absolutely no excuse for this disgusting behaviour.**

"I am conscious that not everyone can use the UriLift, so this week we've also let the first contract to start converting existing town centre toilets to 24 hour operation to meet all needs. However, **the UriLift will send a very clear message to all that we expect people to respect Colchester's town centre by keeping it clean.** Our CCTV cameras will be on the look out for anyone who continues to abuse it in any way. We will name-and-shame if we have to."

**Taunton Deane, 2007, 1 unit**  
**Location High Street**



Town Centre Manager Lucy Ball explained:

"We had to take action. In addition to late night drinking, **the existing public toilets are closed at night because they were being used for sleeping or drugs.** "Working with the police and local pub owners, we concluded that the UriLift, which is being installed right in the town centre where it is most needed, offered the best solution. Fortunately, local surveys indicated that this was also the best location for access to essential utilities."

**Guildford, 2008, 1 unit**  
**Location North Street near Friary Passage**

Council spokesman

"We intend to use the pop-up loo to tackle the problem of people urinating in shop doorways and on the streets of our town centre. "Guildford's retailers and the council's street cleaning crews spend a great deal of time washing and disinfecting areas that have been affected by this problem." The issue of men relieving themselves in public has been something Guildford authorities have been trying to tackle for number of years.

Spokesman for Surrey Police:

"We think that the UriLift will be a positive thing for the town centre. "If they're used properly, they will be of benefit to the community and generally people using the town at night." Town centre incidents of urinating include a man who was caught relieving himself through the letterbox of a house in Walnut Tree up bouncers outside a Guildford nightclub, before urinating in an alleyway.



**Belfast 2005, 1 unit  
Shaftsby Square**



Belfast City Council has installed the `UriLift' with the specific objective of addressing the anti-social problem of public urination by clubbers on their way home after drinking and dancing the night away. **With many public toilets forced to close for safety reasons**, these unique `pop'up' urinals have proven popular with civic authorities in the Netherlands and Denmark, among other countries. The `UriLift' is seen by an increasing number of public authorities across the United Kingdom and Europe as a unique, hygienic and affordable solution to the problem of public urination.

**Stroud, 2006, 1 unit  
King Street**



Lisa Samak, Technical Contracts Officer

"We have been trying to find a resolution to the lack of facilities in Stroud for a while as there are no 24-hour toilets in the town at the moment. **"We want to provide 24-hour facilities for people because urination in shop doorways is a problem in Stroud.** And if it is well received we're hoping that a female version could be installed at some point.

Karen Sands, manager of M&Co (formerly Mackays)

"Initially I was a little concerned about it being right outside our shop display - but that really won't be an issue as it is underground during the day. We regularly have people urinating in our doorway and even through our letterbox, so this will be a welcome feature in addressing the problem. **Traders in Stroud have had to suffer for much too long. I look forward to not having to deal with the mess in the future."**



The town of Colchester unveiled its first Urilift just a couple of months ago and has found that it is regularly used and has been well received by the public.

Councillor Cooper:

"I'm aware that people are already criticizing the Urilift even before it has been opened, but they need to be aware that we are not encouraging people to urinate in public - **we are in fact, discouraging them from urinating in people's doorways.** I suggest that the critics wait, and we all see how this solution has an impact on anti-social behaviour. If it addresses the problem as well as we think it will, we may see another one, including a variant for females - the Urigenic."

Unlike many councils who are closing public conveniences, Stroud District Council is committed to improving its toilet facilities, winning British toilet awards over the last two years for its fully refurbished, state of the art toilets in Berkeley, Stonehouse and Painswick. The council is committed to refurbishing its other toilets to the same standard.

### Easy to install



### Fully integrated in pavement



### Lady version

