

## **All dressed up and 'Nowhere to Go'.**

The Borough of Gravesham's website tells us that there are 101,720 people living in our area. Of those about 22% are over 60 .

So that's about 22,378 shoppers over 60 who might like to come to the town centre to spend their pennies .

It is a fact that people over 60 tend to have more money ..and are more likely to need to go to the loo as a matter of urgency. About 12,000 of them are women. There are more women than men and they live longer .  
(Incidentally, folklore says they like shopping more than men .)

At any one time, as many as 6,000 of them would rather like to find a loo quickly ....because statistics show that 30-50% of women over 60 have bladder problems .

(Stick with it .There is a point to all these lavatorial statistics...)

And now for another quote from the Gravesham website :

“ Gravesham has an ageing population” (Note : unlike those populations elsewhere which get younger ?) “and future services for elderly residents are likely to present significant challenges”.

One way the town has met these significant challenges has been to close the largest, most noticeable and most convenient Public Convenience in the town centre many years ago. Then they sold them off.

And when – unsurprisingly – the buyer was not able to ‘make a go’ of an underground lavatory as a nightclub or business premises, they took them back into public ownership. And just left them closed.

And what is the current Masterplan to meet the ‘significant challenge’ of thousands of shoppers needing the loo ? To spend £90,000 of our money filling in the loos and concreting them over. Brilliant.

There is, of course, no shortage of loos in the Civic Centre . But thousands of us mere ageing peasants are stamping our feet out there in the cold looking anxiously for a loo . And we have nowhere to ‘go’ !

In fact, it is precisely because they know they will not be able to go, many older residents of Gravesham – who as we all know have more disposable income to spend than younger people – no longer come to the town. Shortsighted economic thinking, really.

And another thing : why should people - of any age - have to sidle hurriedly into MacDonalds or a pub for relief ? And why should those businesses be providing that essential service to non-customers ?

Urban Gravesham urges every reader to support our ‘ **Nowhere to Go**’ campaign and to sign our online petition to restore and reopen the beautiful Town Centre loos.

There are plenty of older people in Gravesend who remember the old loos with great affection : all the lovely brass polished with love and care by the lady attendant. She even put out potted plants for elegance. Everything was spotless and hygienic. The loos were a joy to use and as showpiece. Surely people would enjoy this charming relic of a more elegant, bygone age ? It could be a museum of a sort. Lord’s Cricket Ground has kept its Victorian loos as a thing of pride and beauty. So has St. James’ Palace.

Please pay a visit to [www.urbangravesham.org.uk](http://www.urbangravesham.org.uk) . We represent the ordinary man and woman on the street who cares about the way our town is going. (Or unable to go.)

You won’t have to spend a penny but please sign our online petition to save our magnificent, classic old loos.

(And please get involved with our campaigns to save Gravesend from the ‘Heritage Quarter’, the ‘Transport Quarter’ ... and generally giving No Quarter to the opinions of local residents .Recently over 6000 of you signed a petition about town centre parking.)

Gravesend needs its town centre loo back. Let your voice be heard . As statistics show, it is a matter of urgency.

And Gravesham Council ....please let’s not bog this up whilst throwing a street’s worth of council tax down the drain at the same time ....?

End of message . Sorry – must dash !