

Guildford: Pop-up urinal set to solve a 'wee' problem By Vita Millers, 30/7/2008

'DISAPPEARING' urinals are due to be built in Guildford town centre, in a bid to crack down on men urinating in public after a night out.

This week the borough council was given the go-ahead to spend £54,000 installing a toilet unit, known as a Urilift, in North Street near Friary Passage. It will be the first of its kind to be used in Surrey.

The two-metre high, stainless steel construction containing three urinals, will be stored underground during the day. It will pop up at 10pm and drop down again at approximately 3am every day.

The only 24-hour public toilets currently in the town centre, are in Bedford Road car park, but as they are not close to the North Street taxi rank, it is believed the shortage of loos contributes to the public urination.

Urinating on the streets

A council spokesman said: "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. In response to the problem, Surrey Police launched a "waterbus" in 2004, which is a portable water tank fully equipped with buckets, brooms and disinfectant. People caught urinating indiscriminately can choose either to clean up after themselves or face possible arrest. The scheme was relaunched this summer. Last week a man refused to clean up his mess and was issued with a £80 fine.

A spokesman for Surrey Police said: "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 Close, last November. Last December, a man threatened to beat up bouncers outside a Guildford nightclub, before urinating in an alleyway.

