

## Sub Committee's

### Loos Sub Committee

In November 1999 the issue of toilets was raised by Charles Sammonds. Charles was concerned about the state of the toilets in the Town, their closures and lack of maintenance. The forum had decided on several themes suitable for them to investigate and the Loos Sub committee was brought to life with Charles Sammonds as Chairman of the Sub Committee.

In January 2000 it was decided by seven of the Loo group to investigate the toilets by way of an inspection of facilities within half a mile or so of the centre of town using an agreed proforma and criteria approved by the main forum. The list supplied by the council of facilities was seriously out of date and some toilets listed were closed and others were a considerable way out of the centre of town.

In March 2000 an approved group of 7 Forum members selected 21 toilets in the Town centre to investigate and grade. Charles drew up a proforma whereby each toilet would be assessed by ten criteria.

In April 2000 the findings were summarised and a report was presented to the Forum on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. Contact was made with Pat Byrne, the councillor responsible for environmental issues. Pat attended a meeting of the group to discuss its findings. A meeting was also held with officers to discuss the report.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May a final appraisal grading, with comments was tabled.

After a while no action seemed to be being taken and then in 2001 Charles Sammonds attended three different meetings of the newly formed MPDP's and raised the matter there. Each Chairman promised action from the officers. The worst loos, Queen's Building at the Bus Station, were refurbished in 2001/2, although considerably better are still not up to a standard expected of a City's toilets. The council established a contract with private enterprise. The first toilet from this is an automatic one in Garrick Street, outside Littlewoods.

In December 2001 it was agreed that the Loo group would repeat the investigation of the toilets. At this point Charles gave notice he would be resigning from the group. At this point no replacement for Charles has been found and the group have not met recently. The exercise of repeating the investigation is therefore on hold. It is still the intention of the forum that the council be urged to provide City Centre toilets appropriate to its new status. The forum believes that there should be one *Superloo* in or near to Queen's square, with adequate facilities for all, including disabled people. It should have a caretaker/maintenance person 24 hours a day to deter vandalism and antisocial behaviour and also to collect any charge that may be necessary.

