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At the moment I am not a disabled person, ~~but~~ if any of the public toilets in Oxford are closed, then effectively that will make me become disabled - and many others like me.

I suffer from irritable bowel syndrome and also Ulcerative - colitis. This means I have very little warning of any bowel movements and I therefore need to be fairly near a toilet whenever I leave my home. I, as do many others like me, need toilets - strategically placed around the city - in fact wherever I go.

I have to make sure that this is the case, otherwise I cannot leave my home, I become trapped - as are many disabled people - ~~though~~ <sup>in my case</sup> even a wheelchair would not be an answer to my problem.

If I had an accidental Bowel movement, I could not catch a bus home, and probably would not be allowed in a taxi, the humiliation and embarrassment would just be too awful to contemplate - as would having to walk home. It is also humiliating to have to stand before you now to explain my predicament, but I have come to the conclusion that unless

I do, nobody is ever really going to understand just how awful it is for people like me not to have access to a public toilet, whenever it is necessary.

I am sure, that all of the public toilets around the city (including the one in St. Giles!) were built original because there was an absolute need for them; ~~and~~ that need has not changed. <sup>also</sup> I fear that once they are written off by the Council then they will never be open or replaced again.

I know the idea of the Council is that the shops and pubs should open their toilets for the public. <sup>(I note you never suggest university buildings such as the Students Union in Cornmarket St or Newn Hall St.)</sup> But let me assure you from my own experience, there are already queues in toilets in <sup>the</sup> stores - we not only need them, but all the public toilets as well! When this idea was first 'floated' last year, British Home Stores, who had until then always had their toilets open to the public; ~~but~~ once hearing of the idea, they made it a rule that the public first had to purchase / pay for something before

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being given the code number to open the toilet door - in my case, and with my medical condition I would not have enough warning or time to first purchase an item, queue at the check-out desk to pay, and then queue for the toilet - it would take far too long.

Also, what happens after the shops have closed? Do we have to use toilets in bars and night-clubs, ploughing our way thro' a load of possibly drunken people!?

Surely, if anything, public toilets are a very basic human right of any civilized society?

It is not just people with a medical complaint like mine who would suffer if any toilet is closed. Children who are being 'dotty-trained' cannot hold on until they get to the other side of the city, menstruating young women; the elderly, men and women suffering from Crohn's disease; pregnant women, and loads of other people with all sorts of other bladder and bowel problems need a toilet nearby, if they are going to be able to move freely about the city.

It is all very well planning plush toilets for the tourists in Gloucester Green, but surely ~~the~~ we, the citizens, and tax-payers of the city, who live, work, and play here ~~are~~ should have public amenities and our needs answered first? I personally don't care if the toilets are not particularly plush or even if people suffering drug addictions are using them to sleep in, the most important thing to me is not to be left publicly embarrassed through not having a toilet nearby to use when I need one. I also would not mind paying 20p for the use of one provided I could get into it quickly. Even in a country as poor as India, they provide <sup>Public</sup> toilets - even if ~~it's~~ <sup>they are sometimes</sup> just a hole in the ground with a ladle and a bucket full of water to 'flush' them; it is acceptable and prevents one from an 'accident' and public humiliation!

How to pay for the provision and upkeep of <sup>Public</sup> toilets? Well, why not sell the "family silver" stored here in the Town Hall? Don't they belong to the people of Oxford?? I doubt it would

be missed by any of us - except maybe the Mayo's chain and the Mace. ~~But~~ Silver and gold seems to be at good prices at the moment - and I'm sure many of the portraits and other paintings would fetch a good price at auction! (I am sure that some rich pervert would love to buy the one which depicts the Raping of The Sabine women - what other kind of person would want to gaze upon it, let alone own it!?)

These things are what the conservative party would call "Capital" or "heritage", whereas most of us ordinary folk to not have such words in our vocabulary, the nearest thing to it we have, is to be able to take a wedding ring to the local pawn shop to pay for the next electricity bill or rent so that our children can have a roof over their heads. Or has the Labour Party <sup>members</sup> become so affluent that they have forgotten that they originally stood for ordinary working class people?!

To me it's immoral to store up these valuables which belong to "The people", when "The People" could be helped so much if the items were sold and the profit fed back into the community and <sup>help to</sup> providing <sup>simple</sup> such things as public toilets for everyone's use. I wouldn't be at all surprised if many of these treasures belonging to "The People" are stored away in Banks or vaults and never see the light of day let alone be seen by "The People". They are therefore useless to "The People" unless they are sold and the money used for something of use to them all!

Finally, ~~the prob~~ of anything, the public need more toilets not less. Please avoid the council one and for all bury ~~the~~ forever the idea of closing any one of them!

Thankyou.

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