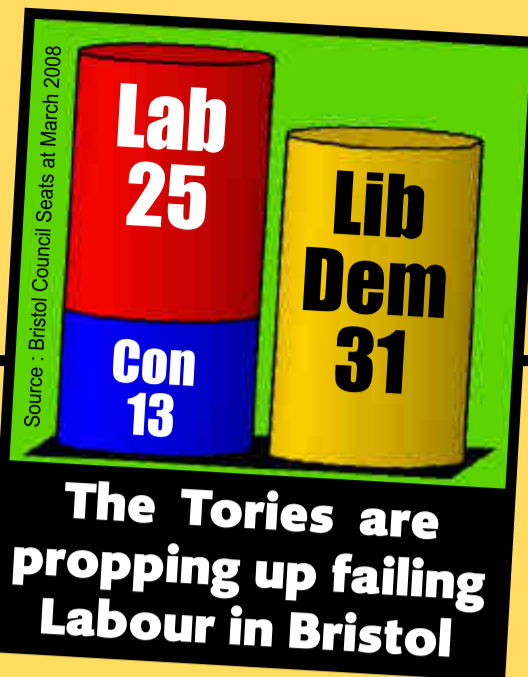


Budget Special FOCUS



Spring 2008



The Tories are propping up failing Labour in Bristol

Labour and Tories stitch up city budget...

AFTER FEBRUARY'S COUNCIL BUDGET meeting, residents have been left in no doubt that Bristol's unholy Labour-Conservative pact is still going strong!

The Lib Dems had proposed budget changes totalling £1.5 million which would have put more money into tackling some of the city's most serious problems and protecting our environment.

However, it quickly became obvious that a secret pre-meeting deal had been done between the other parties. Labour agreed to support the Conservatives in channelling £300,000 into pet projects in their election target areas. In exchange, the Tories helped Labour to vote down the Lib Dem suggestions.

Bizarrely the city's lone Green councillor sided with the others and voted down money for street trees and community gardening!

In a disgraceful travesty of democracy, Labour and Conservatives councillors voted to block one of the Lib Dem amendments from even being discussed! They then repeatedly voted together to end debates early before Lib Dem councillors were able to speak.

Councillor Steve Comer, Bristol Lib Dem Leader, said, "People should look at the lists of measures and decide themselves which ideas are best for the city as a whole. I think many will be shocked to discover that a vote for the Tories is pointless as their councillors will all vote Labour anyway."

"Residents should remember at the next election that there are now only two parties to choose from in Bristol - the Labour/Tory pact and the Liberal Democrats."

Labour and Conservatives voted FOR :

1. A toxic incinerator
2. Top-heavy Council management
3. A £110,000 cut in the library budget
4. Seats, doggie bins and plant watering, but only in their key election areas!
5. More charges for waste disposal

Labour and Conservatives voted AGAINST :

1. More street trees and better open spaces
2. Action to reduce repeat offender crime
3. £140,000 back into libraries
4. Action on domestic violence and prostitution
5. Support for eco-travel



Incinerator fight burns on!



The Lib Dems and environmental groups are opposing the Labour and Conservative plan for a dirty, polluting and inefficient incinerator in Bristol

THE LIB DEMS HAVE VOWED to step up their campaign against a mass-burn incinerator in Bristol.

They had tried to see the project cancelled at February's budget meeting by pulling £540,000 set aside for consultants' fees. Sadly, Labour and the Conservatives voted together to start the incinerator burning.

The Lib Dems want to see the city going for the alternative new 'pyrolysis' technology instead. This is much cleaner than an incinerator and has the added bonus of producing significant energy from waste while reducing landfill. It is also cheaper and already running successfully in places like Sweden and Japan.

Bristol Lib Dem waste spokesperson, **Cllr Gary Hopkins**, says, "Labour and the Tories are trying to sign the city up for an environmental disaster. An incinerator will damage efforts to reduce waste and improve recycling. It will also see lorries from all over the region bring their waste to Bristol. **We Lib Dems say NO!**"

Funding for city's social problems lost

LIB DEM ATTEMPTS to increase funding for action on crime and social issues have been shot by Labour and the Conservatives.

An extra £600,000 was to be spent on measures to deal with some of the most serious problems in Bristol. This included clamping down on career criminals who have been responsible for a 45% increase in burglary this year. It also included funding to address issues around prostitution and more money for youth work.

Lockleaze's **Cllr Emma Bagley** is angry about the loss of money to reduce domestic violence in the city: "We wanted to follow the example of other cities that have cut offending by having advisors to work with families and schemes to tackle those who are violent."

"Thanks to the other two parties, this will now be spent on watering flowers instead."

Emma concludes, "You just couldn't make it up!"



Lib Dems... listening to local people

Brown: Flying in the face of common sense!



Stephen Williams MP (left) campaigning for a tougher Climate Change Bill with "Gordon Brown" and Friends of the Earth. You can watch him submitting his petition at www.stephenwilliams.org.uk.

Lib Dems push for aviation to be included in Climate Change Bill

BRISTOL WEST MP, STEPHEN WILLIAMS, has added his voice to calls for air travel to be covered in the current Climate Change Bill.

The Labour government, which seems intent to promote unbridled expansion in air travel has deliberately excluded it. Stephen says, "When we know that aircraft emissions make a significant contribution to greenhouse gases, it is bizarre to exclude it from measures designed to tackle climate change."

The Lib Dems want to increase taxes on air travel and other polluting behaviours in order to cut the basic rate of income tax to just 16p. Bristol Lib Dems are also opposing the expansion plans for Bristol Airport.

Stephen has been a strong supporter of the Climate Change Bill and has been pushing for stronger carbon cutting measures to be included. He recently presented a petition to the government on behalf of Bristol residents.

Stephen says, "This is our big chance to make progress in the run up to the end of the Kyoto deal in 2012. Britain needs to do much much better – our carbon emissions have actually risen under Labour."

Bath Path bus plan down, but not out

THE BRISTOL-BATH RAILWAY PATH has been granted a temporary reprieve after a series of U-turns by Labour and their Conservative allies.

However, the path, which is used by thousands of cyclists and walkers, has not been saved permanently, contrary to some reports in the press.

At a fractious meeting of Council, a petition of nearly 10,000 signatures was presented and over a hundred supporters packed the public gallery. The Lib Dems had worked with campaigners to produce a strong resolution which would have seen the plan abandoned altogether. However, Labour and the Tories voted together AGAIN to water it down at the last minute, keeping the door open for buses.

Stephen Williams MP, who opposed the cycle path plans, said, "I wanted the Council to rule this route out completely. Instead we have a back-of-an-envelope fudge which means the path is still under threat. I am glad that council officers are thinking radically about solutions for the city's transport crisis, but this is clearly not a viable way forwards."



Stephen Williams MP, Cllr Neil Harrison and other Lib Dem councillors demonstrate their opposition to buses on the Bristol-Bath railway path. You can see Stephen's full statement at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrUAhel8aDg

More Post Offices under Gordon's axe

YET ANOTHER ROUND OF POST OFFICE CLOSURES have been announced by the Labour Government.

A total of over 2,000 are scheduled for closure in the coming months, including several across Bristol. Those to be axed include Alma Vale Road and Derby Road, both of which are used by Cotham residents.

Lib Dem MP Stephen Williams says, "Labour is just letting our Post Office network go to wrack and ruin. However, it is also important to remember that it was the last Conservative government that started this closure programme back in the mid 1990s."



Lib Dem Stephen Williams MP has been fighting to save Bristol's Post Offices from Gordon Brown's axe, including this one just off Gloucester Road

Green Party votes against street trees

IN A STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS, the Green Party have voted against Lib Dem plans for investment in Bristol's street trees and community gardening.

At the annual budget meeting, the Lib Dems proposed an extra £200,000 to radically increase the number of trees lining our streets, especially in areas like Cotham where there is very little scope for parkland planting. This would have been paid for by cutting council bureaucracy.

Cllr Neil Harrison, who spoke at the meeting in support of the proposal says, "I don't for one minute think that the Green Party are actually against more trees. However, when the chips were down, they seem to have voted tactically to support their Labour friends rather than backing the environment."



You can see Neil's speech at www.tinyurl.com/5voxfl - it's 3h 14mins in.

Rewriting history

A number of residents have been in touch to complain about inaccuracies after a leaflet from the Labour Party was delivered in parts of Cotham.

They firstly try to claim credit for improvements to the Severn Beach Line rail service, when these were actually put in place by the previous Lib Dem administration.

Then they try to claim credit for the new Redland Green School, despite the fact that the Labour council group actively opposed the school for many years.

But most breathtakingly, they try to claim credit for increasing the international aid budget, but fails to mention that much of this is being spent on rebuilding Iraq after Blair and Brown's illegal and misguided war!

No incinerator!

A broad-based campaign has been launched against Labour and Tory plans for a dirty mass-burn incinerator in Bristol.

www.bambi-network.org.uk



Your Cotham Liberal Democrat team...



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I call upon Bristol City Council to cancel plans for a mass burn incinerator, and to adopt more sustainable solutions for dealing with the city's unrecyclable waste.

Name :
Address :

Please return to Cotham Lib Dems,
FREEPOST NAT4305, Bristol, BS2 8FA.