

on Cotham Ward FOCUS

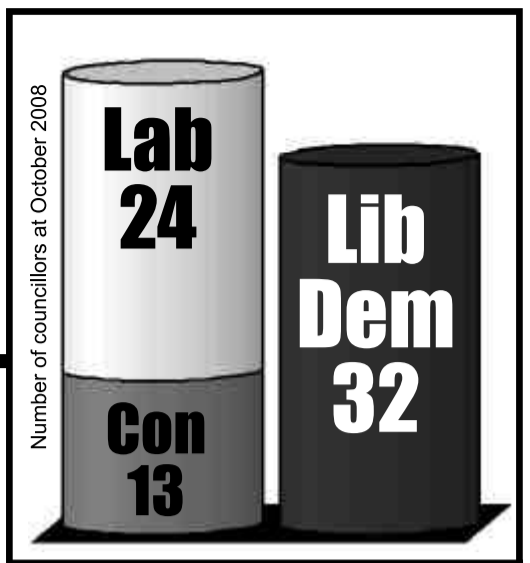


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Labour and the Tories just stick together in Bristol

Victory on residents' parking consultation

FOLLOWING A LENGTHY CAMPAIGN by Cotham councillor Neil Harrison and others, there is to be a new consultation on the planned Residents' Parking Zones (RPZs).

At a special Council meeting on the 5th January, it was agreed to continue the process of piloting two RPZs where the majority of people appear to want them. However, a number of conditions were imposed... including the need to re-consult with people in the proposed Zones and the surrounding areas.

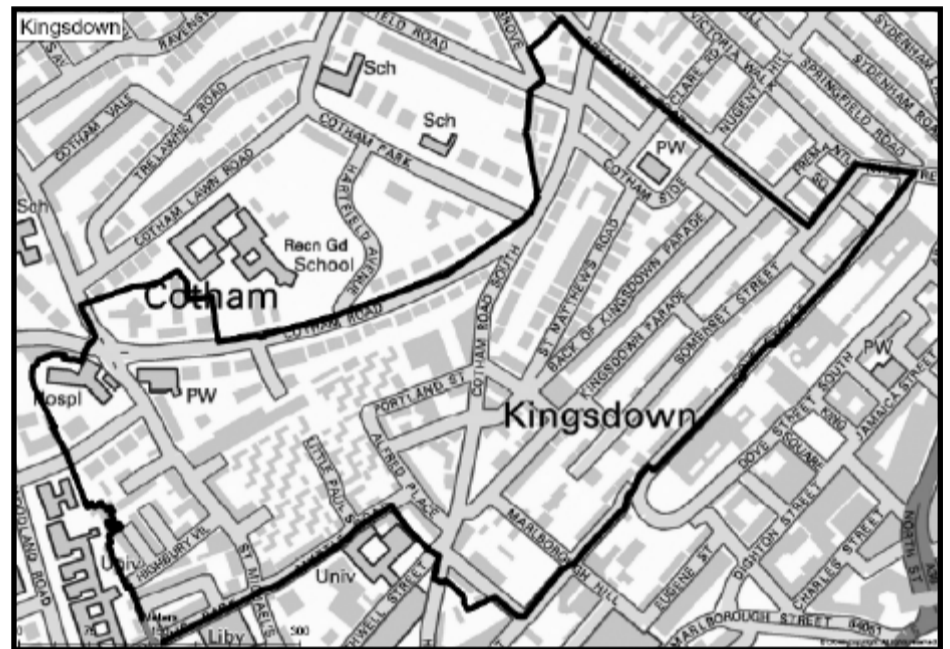
Neil says, "As I have said many times, the original consultation by the Labour Council was a **complete shambles**. What they have now agreed to do is to repeat the exercise in a more sensible way, involving residents, businesses, community groups and the local councillors. Opinion has become unhelpfully polarised."

"In addition, they are now going to have to be clear about what 'pilot' means and how they will judge whether the schemes are successful or not - if they go ahead."

The boundaries of the proposed Kingsdown RPZ would need to be reviewed as a result of the new consultation. The original area (shown right) is clearly unworkable and needs to be looked at again.

Neil says, "If this were to go ahead, there is a clear danger of knock-on effects for people living in Cotham near the RPZ. The other concession that I managed to get was that money would be set aside to minimise additional problems for people living near to an RPZ. This might include better enforcement to stop unsafe corner parking."

Neil and Roger will be watching developments over the coming months closely and will make sure that local residents know what is happening.



● The proposed boundaries of the Kingsdown RPZ were clearly unworkable and a new consultation will now be done to see whether the pilots should go ahead and where they should be.

Bristol worst for Police numbers

And the Chief Constable of Avon & Somerset Police agrees!
see : <http://tinyurl.com/cne6tx>



● Stephen Williams MP is demanding to know why Bristol doesn't get its fair share of Police and why Labour is refusing to do anything about it!

RESEARCH BY BRISTOL WEST Lib Dem MP Stephen Williams has unearthed that Bristol has the lowest Police coverage of any major city.

Stephen says, "Labour rhetoric is about being tough on crime, but the reality in Bristol is quite different. The city isn't getting its fair share of Police resources and they don't seem to be doing anything about it."

Bristol Lib Dem crime spokesman Cllr Gary Hopkins says, "The Police Authority has made it clear that it is £12 million a year short on the funding it should get. This is the equivalent to an extra 300 police officers."

"The Authority wrote to Labour Leader Helen Holland last year to ask for her help, but doesn't seem to have had any sensible response."

The Lib Dems would ditch Labour's pointless and wasteful ID cards system and invest the money in more police officers and new crime-fighting technology instead.

Stephen Williams MP says, "Labour have tried to deflect attention by quibbling over which years to look at. The fact of the matter is that Bristol now has fewer police officers per resident than any other comparable city. These aren't my figures - these are official Home Office figures."

"Labour have shown that they are doing no better on crime than the Tories before them. Under the last Tory government, Police numbers were cut and we saw violent crimes go up massively. The Lib Dems want more police, especially in Bristol."

Officers per 100,000 people	
Lib Dem Liverpool	331
Lib Dem Newcastle	285
Lib Dem Sheffield	248
Labour Bristol	218

Source : official Home Office figures for March 2008. Figures relate to wider Police areas in which cities are located (e.g. Bristol = Avon & Somerset, Sheffield = South Yorkshire, Liverpool = Merseyside).

Action needed on Hampton Rd speeding



COTHAM RESIDENT Anthony Negus (left) is campaigning to stop dangerous speeding on Hampton Road.

Anthony says, "Cars often come off the roundabout by Cotham Parish Church and accelerate down the hill."

"There are lots of pedestrians - including pupils from the schools - and cars coming out of side roads. It's only a matter of time until something dreadful happens."

Anthony is collecting a petition for a vehicle-activated sign, like the one on Cotham Road, which lights up when a speeding car approaches. These work well to reduce speeds and avoid accidents.

MEANWHILE, Councillor Neil Harrison has met with traffic engineers to look at other problems around the area.

Neil says, "I have asked for the Hampton Park/Road junction to be looked at as it gets clogged in rush hour."

"I am also asking for speeds to be looked at on the roads off Chandos Road and on Hampton Park following concerns from residents, as well as looking at pedestrian safety around Colston's Primary School."



Check out Neil's Cotham blog : <http://cotham.blogspot.com>

Lib Dems... listening to local people

Stop 'plane' with our future!!

Lib Dems vote against Heathrow expansion - but all Bristol Labour MPs back new runway!

BRISTOL WEST MP STEPHEN WILLIAMS has joined ALL of the Lib Dem MPs in voting AGAINST a third runway at Heathrow.

The vast majority of Labour MPs, including all four in Bristol, supported the expansion which will radically increase the amount of air traffic passing through the UK. The vote was narrowly passed, despite opposition from the Lib Dems and most Tory MPs.

Stephen says, "If we are serious about climate change, we need to be reducing our reliance of air transport, not increasing it. **Dirty Brown strikes again!**"

"Instead of expanding airports, my Lib Dem colleagues and I are pushing plans to upgrade Britain's high-speed rail network, using an increased tax on internal flights. Lib Dem plans for a 'green tax switch' is the right thing to do for the environment."

"What I really want to see is the electrification of the London-Bristol line. This would cut emissions, reduce running costs and lead to lower fares. It could also reduce journey times, especially if the aging signalling system around Temple Meads was upgraded."



● Stephen Williams MP campaigning with 'Gordon Brown' and Friends of the Earth last year against aircraft emissions

Neighbourhood Partnership off to a good start



● Neil is delighted that replacement street trees are on the way

THE NEW Redland, Cotham and Bishopston Neighbourhood Partnership is already making progress, Neil reports.

The city is now covered by a network of these Partnerships, which act as a focus for residents, community groups, councillors and public services to improve the local area. Open forum meetings are held every three months.

The second meeting was held on 5th February. It agreed two pilot projects proposed by the steering group to (a) replace lost street trees and (b) help or persuade residents dispose of their waste properly.

Neil says, "I'm delighted that we have been able to get some ideas off the ground already, based on the ideas generated by local people. There are also lots of longer-term ideas which we can look at in the coming months."

The next open forum meeting is on 22nd April at Redland Green School at 7pm - all residents are welcome!

Rapid Transit moving at last

PLANS FOR BRISTOL'S FIRST Rapid Transit system might actually come to pass this time, Roger reports.

Over decades, the Labour Council failed to deliver Bristol with a long-promised tram system. Earmarked money from the sale of Bristol Airport was frittered away with nothing to show for it.

The latest plan, which has support from the Lib Dems, is for a Bus Rapid Transit route between **Temple Meads** and **Ashton Vale**. The buses would be 'guided' for much of the route and would have their own track. This means they would be fast and reliable. They can also go on normal roads where necessary.

Roger, who sits on the Council's transport committee, says, "We just need the Labour Council to get on with it! They had to ditch their last plan to run buses on the Bristol-Bath cycle path after opposition from the Lib Dems and environmental groups. This plan is much more sensible."

"It's a real frustration that the Government won't support new tram schemes at the moment - buses it'll have to be!"



● The Lib Dems are frustrated that the Labour government will only support buses and not trams

Twenty is plenty, agree Lib Dems!



BRISTOL LIB DEMS are backing new Council plans for 20mph speed limits in residential areas.

Neil says, "This is something that Lib Dem councils have been leading the way on across the country. Portsmouth just completed the process and it seems to be having a positive impact on road safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians."

Two pilot areas have been identified and are being consulted on: one around **Easton/Ashley** and one in **Southville/Bedminster**.

Neil says, "My only regret is that, true to form, Labour took decisions about the pilots behind closed doors, so I didn't get a chance to argue that Cotham should be included. This is their way - no consultation."

Snippets

● Redland Hill mobile mast

Orange's application for new mobile phone mast on Redland Hill has been rejected. Neil opposed the application, while Cotham resident Anthony Negus collected a petition from people living nearby. Neil will be keeping his eye out in case they reapply.

● 'Strip' licensing update

A number of bars on the Whiteladies Road 'Strip' (around Clifton Down shopping centre) have put in applications for later opening or expanded premises. Neil has been working with local residents to oppose these and minimise the negative impact through noise and other anti-social behaviour. He has also discussed with the Police some existing bars and clubs who seem to be acting outside their licenses or allowing their customers to cause a nuisance - bigger update in next issue!

● Cotham Gardens facelift

The first phase of the improvements to the Cotham Gardens children's play area has been completed - ahead of time! New equipment has been installed, but there is still work to do on sorting the drains and improving a few other aspects of the park... more news to follow!

● Kingsley Road traffic

Thanks to work by the Lib Dems, traffic is now flowing more easily from Kingsley Road onto Zetland Road. New road markings have helped to stream the cars more sensibly and seem to be working well.

● Chopping back bushes

Neil and Roger have been getting unruly bushes blocking pavements cut back - please let us know of any others that need a haircut!

Your Cotham Liberal Democrat team...



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