

on Cotham Ward **FOCUS**



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Sham or shambles? Labour bodge residents' parking consultation

LOCAL RESIDENTS will recently have received a questionnaire from the Council about Residents' Parking Zones (RPZs).

Councillor Neil Harrison says, "This consultation has been a complete mess. The information which the Labour-run Council sent out was simplistic and gave people the impression that it was a done-deal."

"Even worse was the questionnaire which asked practically nothing of relevance. For example, you weren't even allowed to comment on the details of the scheme unless you said you were against it."

"Roger and I are worried that the process will have put people off what is basically a good idea."

"I can't work out whether this was Labour trying to stitch things up or whether they are simply clueless about how to engage properly with people - is it a sham or a shambles?"



● There are parts of Cotham where parking and road safety are a real problem. Roger and Neil have been looking around Chandos Road in particular

Neil & Roger's position on residents' parking

- We support the basic concept of RPZs as a possible solution to parking and other traffic related problems in the city. They already work well in many other cities.
- We strongly believe in the right of neighbourhoods to determine whether an RPZ will be successful in their area – we will support those communities who want an RPZ, as well as supporting those that do not to oppose parking restrictions.
- We strongly believe that a one-size-fits-all approach is wrong. There are highly localised factors which dictate the nature of parking use and problems. The idea that a single approach can address all these situations effectively is naïve.
- We believe that a 24/7 parking restriction is entirely unnecessary and heavy-handed. In most places, only a few hours of restriction per day would be needed.
- We believe that it is possible to have localised RPZ schemes with different systems for those areas which want them. We do not accept Labour's patronising argument that car users would be unable to distinguish between different systems in the city.
- We strongly believe that RPZs should not be used to make 'profit' for the Council - the cost of permits should only meet the cost of enforcement and no more.

Lib Dems... listening to local people

Lib Dems... the real alternative to Labour in Bristol

Changes afoot on Blackboy Hill

RADICAL CHANGES are planned to the road junction at the top of Blackboy Hill.

As part of the plans for a new so-called 'Showcase' bus route on Whiteladies Road, it is proposed that the junction should be remodelled. This will include a new traffic light system, a dedicated bus lane and a new cycle lane.

Full plans have only just become available and Roger and Neil are in the process of finding out more. You can see the plans via a link on Neil's Cotham blog (address at the bottom of the page).

Neil says, "I am slightly sceptical at this stage - the plans look very complex and might create a system which is prone to going wrong. I know that some cyclists are worried about what is planned too. I am also concerned about pedestrian crossings and want to make sure that we aren't losing any trees."

"However, the 'Showcase' bus route is a welcome addition, with improved shelters, real-time information and faster journey times. The Lib Dems approved this when we ran the Council and as a regular local bus user myself, I'm looking forward to the improvements."

In a related move, two new 'WATCHMAN' traffic cameras are proposed to be mounted by pedestrian crossings on Whiteladies Road after a spate of serious accidents. You can see more information and comment on the proposals at : www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council-and-democracy/consultations



Cotham School set for rebuild ...but don't forget the sustainability!

AS PART OF THE ON-GOING PROGRAMME of rebuilding Bristol's secondary schools, Cotham School is going to get a **substantial face-lift and increase its intake.**

The plans include the demolition of the old design & technology block and the construction of a new wing sweeping down from the main building to Cotham Road, where a new pupil entrance will be constructed. The wing will provide new state-of-the-art facilities for art, design & technology and science.

The application for planning permission will be submitted by the developers (Skanska) shortly. It is anticipated that work will start in January 2009.

Neil says, "I have been pushing the developers along to ensure that there is proper public consultation about the plans. Things got off to a poor start, but there have now been a number of public meetings for the local community. I am keen to avoid some of the mistakes made with the new Redland Green School."

"In particular, I have pushed for Sustainable Redland to have an input into the design of the new buildings to ensure that they offer the best options for energy efficiency. I am worried that the developers seem not to be as interested in this agenda as some of us would like - I will be pushing again!"

NO INCINERATOR!

The campaign against Labour and Conservative plans to build a dirty and unnecessary mass-burn incinerator in Bristol is continuing.

Roger, Neil and the Lib Dems are pushing for Bristol to take advantage of new pyrolysis technology instead.



As well as being cleaner, it produces a significant amount of electricity from waste too!

Sign the petition :
<http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/petition.php?id=180>

Your Cotham Liberal Democrat team...



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