



Cabot

October 2002

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

News

Serving The City Centre, Cotham, Kingsdown, Redcliffe and Spike Island

OLD GAOL SITE - *Up-date*

As Cabot News reported earlier in the year, the seven acre 'Old Gaol' site, behind the Industrial Museum is being put up for sale by its owners, the Strategic Rail Authority. The site is earmarked for mixed use. The northern section of the site is reserved for a Light Rail line either to Portishead or the Long Ashton Park and Ride. There is a temporary arrangement with NCP for a car park and there are other business leases on the site including Grahams. UWE have expressed an interest in part of the site for their Arts and Media Faculty.

Liberal Democrats believe in genuine consultation with local residents over local issues – which is why your councillors, Anne White and Roy Tallis, initiated a series of public meetings with local residents to consider how local people could have a voice in the future of the site. Anne and Roy delivered a questionnaire to 300 households in the Spike Island/Redcliffe areas: there were 72 replies. Roy said, "The response shows the strong public interest in this last major brownfield site in Harbourside." At the second of the two well-attended public meetings, a steering group was up with the task of establishing a community forum. More details to follow

The replies to the questionnaire showed that nearly a third of respondents preferred no housing whilst 1 in 5 supported some social or low cost housing. Anne says, "Many different ideas have come forward but it is clear that people would like to see local facilities. Over a third wanted a swimming pool or similar leisure facility." If you want more details, please contact Lib Dem Councillor Anne White.



Anne White surveys part of the Old Gaol site



Roy Tallis and Anne White with Lib Dem Council Group Leader, Barbara Janke

LABOUR COUNCIL LACK VISION - *It's Official!*

The Audit Commission, a highly respected Government watchdog, has been looking at Labour's overall management of Bristol. The report is packed with criticism: "**weak leadership**", "**cumbersome decision making**", "**no clear direction**" and "**lack of direction and focus**". Especially concerning is the conclusion that, "**the links between money spent and performance are weak**". Lib Dem Councillor Anne White says, "This report is absolutely damning. The Audit Commission is sending a clear and deliberate message to Bristolians - local people are not getting the quality of civic leadership they deserve. Despite this criticism, the Labour Council refused to reduce bureaucracy and instead increased the Council Tax by 7% and still had to cut essential services".

Lib Dem Councillor Roy Tallis adds, "Performance Indicators show that the Labour Council failed to improve in over half the areas measured by Central Government. The Lib Dem proposal for increasing efficiency and improving services by £2million was blocked by Labour and the Conservatives. This is evidence of party politics at its worst. Where a proposal is for the clear benefit of the citizens of Bristol, it should be judged on its merit not by which party suggested the idea".

KINGSDOWN RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME

Statutory consultation is to begin on a proposed controlled parking area in Kingsdown. Contact the Parking Hotline on 9222198 for details. The Council want to deter commuters from using local streets for free parking. Under the scheme, households would be asked to pay £50 for first car and £125 for a second. Households would be given 100 hours per year for visitors. Businesses will have to pay £350.

Anne says, "the business plan shows a significant potential profit and under current legislation, it would not necessarily be earmarked for the local area. We still believe that residents should not be penalised for City centre living where many residents own a car even if they do not use it regularly. A simple administration fee could be charged if residents want a scheme."

Anne and Roy wish to represent the views of both residences and businesses and, in order to do so, they would be grateful if you would let them know what you feel about the proposals.



Anne White and Roy Tallis in Kingsdown Parade

Liberal Democrats - Working for You

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEES

Lib Dems won a victory at the last City Council meeting when the ruling Labour Group agreed to a pilot scheme of neighbourhood committees. In effect, this was admitting that the new style of decision-making imposed by national government, was not working. At the moment, decisions are taken by a select group of eight Labour Councillors in a Cabinet whilst the remaining Councillors of all parties are only able to 'scrutinise' their decision making.

Whilst the neighbourhood committees under the Labour scheme will have no real power, the Lib Dems' full proposal is for these committees to be set up across the city, reflecting the views and wishes of entire communities. Local Councillors will make decisions in conjunction with local people and will have some devolved financial and budgetary powers.

Anne White says "We will cut bureaucracy and make it easier for the public to contact the Council." The Labour Government introduced the Local Government Act 2002 and thought the Cabinet system would improve the running of Councils but a report by a select committee has admitted that they have failed.

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

Broadmead Plans - A planning application has been made for the expansion eastwards towards the M32. See the display at Brunel House and send us your comments

Litter/waste Anne and Roy continue to liaise with residents suffering from rubbish and mess as a consequence of Bristol nightlife. You will have seen the posters which are fixed illegally to lamp posts, bus stops and empty buildings. Lib Dems proposed extra money for litter hit squads but this was voted down by the Labour group at Full Council.

Spike Island/ Redcliffe/Jacob Wells Road/Roseberry Terrace/John Carrs Terrace

Residents in all these areas have contacted us about parking issues. We are keen to hear from you as to what you would like to see. With more new dwellings in the area, the pressure on parking has increased and residents are understandably frustrated by the current free for all situation for residents, commuters and term-time student cars.

HOSPITAL REVIEW UP-DATE

In our last Cabot News we informed you of the consultation process over the future of our hospitals. What has emerged is that the clinicians appear to want a one-stop super-hospital but Bristol residents prefer more local facilities. There will have to be a compromise and the debate continues. We are told that a recommendation will be made over the next two months. Roy and Anne feel that, although this is an issue of concern to the city and beyond, Cabot residents experience both the advantages and disadvantages of having the hospitals on their doorsteps so that your views are of particular interest.

CABOT WARD WEBSITE

Cabot is a very busy Ward. Lots of issues are brought to the attention of your Councillors and they do their best to deal efficiently with these. In order to improve communication with residents, Roy and Anne have launched a website which will contain details of current issues, contact phone numbers within the Council, dates of meetings and discussion of wider political and community interest. The website address is:

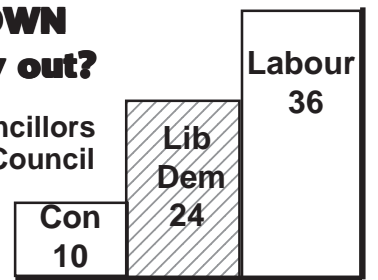
www.cabotward.org.uk



Anne and Roy outside the new Children's Hospital earlier this year.

LABOUR DOWN - and nearly out?

Number of Councillors on Bristol City Council by political party



Following this May's local elections, the overall majority of the Labour Group on the City Council fell from **ten** to only **two**.

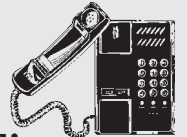


Roy Tallis and Anne White at Broadmead

CUMBERLAND ROAD BRIDGES

The unsightly single line and weight restriction measures on both bridges along Cumberland Road were introduced as a *temporary* solution whilst strengthening and other work took place. "This is yet another instance of the Council, with the best of intentions, failing to deliver on a promise because of unforeseen circumstances", Roy says. "The real issue, it transpires, is the ownership of the bridges". Roy will be asking questions at the next Full Council in an attempt to get to the bottom of this fiasco.

How to Contact Your Local Team



Councillor Roy Tallis

Tel: 929 4464

Email: Roy_Tallis@bristol-city.gov.uk

Councillor Anne White

Tel: 903 1946

Email: Anne_White@bristol-city.gov.uk

Please send us your views . . .



Please return to Roy and Anne,
Cabot Liberal Democrats,
FREEPOST (BS 6549)
Bristol BS7 9ZZ

I would like to help by:

- Delivering Cabot News along my road
- Displaying a poster during elections
- Joining Cabot Liberal Democrats

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