



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Cabot

News

February
2003

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

DIRTY TRICKS & CLEAN STREETS?

■ Last summer, did you notice that the grass was cut less often and litter rarely removed from our parks? How can the Council let this happen, you might ask. Surely they could force their contractor to do the job properly? Reasonable points, but unfortunately the Labour run Council gave the contract to their own company, rather than one from the private sector. Then they let them drop the level of service set out in the contract. As if that wasn't enough, the Council then used council tax payers' money to bail out the company.

First, in 2001, the Council made a generous "investment" of £370,000. Then in 2002, Bristol Contract Services (BCS) complained that they were making losses on their contract! The Labour Council took pity and decided to lower the standards by £100,000 AND pay a hand out of £100,000. This masqueraded as a "contract stabilisation package". The money was found by raiding the already-stretched Leisure Services budget, meaning less money for parks, sport and the museum.

Cllr Anne White says, "How can the Council expect genuine third party companies to bid in future with this bending of the rules? We must also question the Labour Council's ability to properly assess contracts and not just accept a much lower bid without in-depth research into why! One has to ask: did BCS purposefully underbid?!"

■ Many residents have contacted Anne about the litter, graffiti, unemptied street bins all over the ward. These services are the responsibility of SITA. Standards have reached an all time low. Anne remarks "I was astonished to find that SITA have recently been granted a new 7-year contract for rubbish collection and street cleaning at a value of over £8 million. Yet almost immediately SITA failed to perform and have had a substantial figure withheld from payment as a penalty".



Anne finds an emptied litter bin!

How can this contract have been vetted properly? Unlike BCS, the Council have not been able to "make a financial contribution" so instead the Council announces its own initiative, *Clean and Green* with a sum of £200,000!

We are told that this new campaign is to do extra cleaning but the streets now need a deep clean due to months of neglect. SITA have been given until the end of March! LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR STREETS AND WHETHER THEY ARE CLEANED AND BINS EMPTIED.

We have asked for neighbourhoods in Cabot ward to decide if they want to be declared a litter free zone. This would entail residents, businesses and the Council working together and for offenders who drop litter or leave rubbish on the streets for days to be fined. If you want to find out more about how your area can be a litter free zone - Give Anne White a ring or fill in the coupon on the back of this Cabot News.



Anne White on Brandon Hill

The Liberal Democrats believe that people should not be "enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity". We believe that everyone is unique, has something to contribute and all people should be enabled to fulfil their potential. To find out more, visit our national and local websites.

www.libdems.org.uk
www.bristolwest-libdems.org.uk

Liberal Democrats - Working for You



Stephen Williams and Anne White being watched in Dove Street

SPY IN THE SKY!

Dove Street flats residents are justly angry at the proposals to charge each household £5.50 per week for the privilege of CCTV even though a fifth of the cameras are focussed on the streets which benefit anyone who happens to be in the vicinity. Cllr Anne White writes: "Yet again we have an example of total lack of strategy and coordination by the Labour Council. It appears that proper business plans were not made and capital funding bids put to central Government without a thought to the running costs."

"Different CCTV packages have been put in place across the City - the Kingsdown flats are monitored at Brunel House. Others have their own monitoring and a concierge system. The cost to residents in the Kingsdown flats alone will be £100,000 each year. In other parts of the City, tenants don't pay! I am sure that, if CCTV across the City was properly co-ordinated and the contract put out to the market place, we could have a better service for a lower cost".



BENEFIT CHAOS

Your local councillors, Anne White and Roy Tallis have received numerous calls and letters from distressed residents who have waited and are still waiting for their housing benefit claim to be resolved. Questions asked in Full Council by the Lib Dems revealed that Council rent arrears had increased by nearly £1.5 million over the previous year due to the inadequate arrangements when the benefits system was centralised.

Residents have been caused a great deal of distress and it is particularly hard for those claimants in private sector dwellings. "We have been promised that more staff have been recruited but this should have been foreseen. If anyone still has a claim outstanding, please let Anne or Roy know and we will take up your case. When people have contacted us we have been able to get a faster response from the Housing department!"



Anne at the former Clifton Area Housing Office

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Councillor Roy Tallis

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Stephen Williams

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GET FIT IN 2003! A great new way to get exercise and support your local Councillors at the same time. Why not become a Cabot News deliverer - the average 'walk' takes less than 45 minutes and will help you work off those extra pounds. Return the form below.

Clean Sweep Cabot Campaign

Dear Anne,

I would like something done about....

Name:

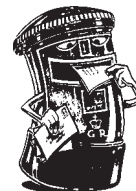
Address:

Tel:

Email:

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Please return to
Cllr Anne White,
42 Logan Road
Bristol BS7 8DR

I would like more information about the Liberal Democrats

I would like to join Bristol West Lib Dems (min. joining fee £5)

I can help deliver Cabot News in my area

Liberal Democrats working all the year round