

FOCUS

ON CABOT WARD



ELECTION SPECIAL

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Just 4,426 votes in it!



The Tories trailed in THIRD in Bristol West last time and are THIRD on Bristol City Council

Lib Dems chart course for a better Bristol!



● Your local Liberal Democrat candidates are Mark Wright (right - council candidate) and Stephen Williams (centre - prospective MP). Cllr Anne White will also continue as your councillor. The Liberal Democrats are offering a REAL ALTERNATIVE to Tony Blair's government and the tired and troubled Labour-run Bristol City Council.

WITH THE ELECTIONS imminent and a series of strong poll ratings, the Lib Dems are being tipped to win more votes and more seats than ever before. Locally, this means winning the parliamentary seat of Bristol West and overtaking Labour on Bristol City Council.

5th MAY - TWO ELECTIONS AND TWO VOTES

■ Stephen Williams as your MP

Stephen has lived in Bristol West for 20 years and is a Bristol University graduate. He served as a city councillor for Cabot for six years and led the Lib Dem group. Since 1998 he has campaigned for improved pensions, preventative healthcare and a new secondary school. He is also a director of the Watershed arts centre. In 2001, he pushed the Conservative candidate into third place and **Bristol West is now the second most likely Labour seat in England to switch to the Lib Dems.**

Political pundits are predicting a close contest between Stephen Williams and sitting Labour MP Valerie Davey, who has developed a reputation for sitting on the fence on key issues like the Iraq War and university fees. Stephen opposed both.

■ Mark Wright as your local councillor

Mark's association with Cabot Ward began as a child when he was educated at QEH School. He then moved on to Bristol University, where he studied for a degree and then a PhD. Since then he has worked in IT in the city centre. Mark and his wife Lena lived on the harbourside for seven years, until just recently moving to Cotham. **The Lib Dems won in Cabot in 2003 when Cllr Anne White was elected.** They just need to win three more seats to overtake tired and troubled Labour on the council.

Mark Wright is a proven local campaigner on issues such as :

- Petitioning the council to extend the Baltic Wharf bus service
- Making court submissions to oppose a late-night pub licence in Kingsdown
- Pressuring the council over dangerous pavements
- Ensuring maintenance contractors carry out their council-funded work

Investing in education



STEPHEN WILLIAMS and the Liberal Democrats want to invest £1.5 billion in early years education. This money is currently locked up in Labour's Child Trust Fund pre-election bribe.

Stephen also wants to see university tuition fees ditched : "Our Labour MP promised repeatedly in 2001 that we wouldn't get a **tax on learning**, but Labour have betrayed students and their parents by tripling fees to £3,000 a year."

Mark Wright adds, "The Lib Dems would ditch all student fees, like we have done in Scotland. We don't believe students should pay to learn."

Schools failing under Labour

Stephen and the local Lib Dems have campaigned for a new secondary school in north Bristol since 1998. Despite what her leaflets might say, everyone knows that Valerie Davey only started supporting the project on the eve of the 2001 election! Before then Labour dismissed out of hand calls from parents and the Lib Dems for a new school.

Under Labour, Bristol's secondary schools are almost at rock bottom of the league tables. "They really need some leadership, stability and support from the Council," Mark explains. "But we all know they won't get that from Labour!"

- Cut infant classes to 20 pupils
- Cut junior classes to 25 pupils
- Create 3,500 Early Years Centres
- Axe university tuition fees
- Raise standards in Bristol schools
- Ensure the success of the new Redland school

Action on Spike Island buses



A PETITION OF OVER 130 signatures of Spike Island residents calling on the Council to extend their subsidised bus service has been submitted to the March Cabinet meeting by local campaigner Mark Wright.

Despite being almost in the city centre, Spike Island is served by only one bus - the 500 "Baltic Wharf Loop" - which doesn't run in the evenings or on Sundays.

Mark Wright said "Spike Island residents love the number 500 bus, but the limited service effectively confines those without cars to their homes. If you're shopping in Broadmead on Saturday and you miss the last bus at 6pm, you've got to get a taxi home - **it's ridiculous!**"

● Stephen Williams and Mark Wright collecting signatures in Spike Island - sorting out Bristol's transport problem is a key Lib Dem priority

Liberal Democrats - working for you all year round!

Liberal Democrats... the REAL ALTERNATIVE in Bristol

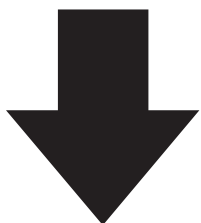
Don't say we didn't warn you!

Labour's revaluation could mean a 20% Council Tax hike for YOU...

HAVE YOUR LABOUR CANDIDATES told you about their plans for Council Tax revaluation? We didn't think so! On 1st April, all properties in England will have had their value reassessed for the first time since 1991. Council Tax bills will rise in 2007.

Revaluation has already happened in Wales. In Cardiff, around a third of homes were raised by one or two Council Tax bands - the proportion was much higher in the up-and-coming areas. Each extra band means up to a **20% tax rise**. Why has Labour waited until after the General Election to revalue?

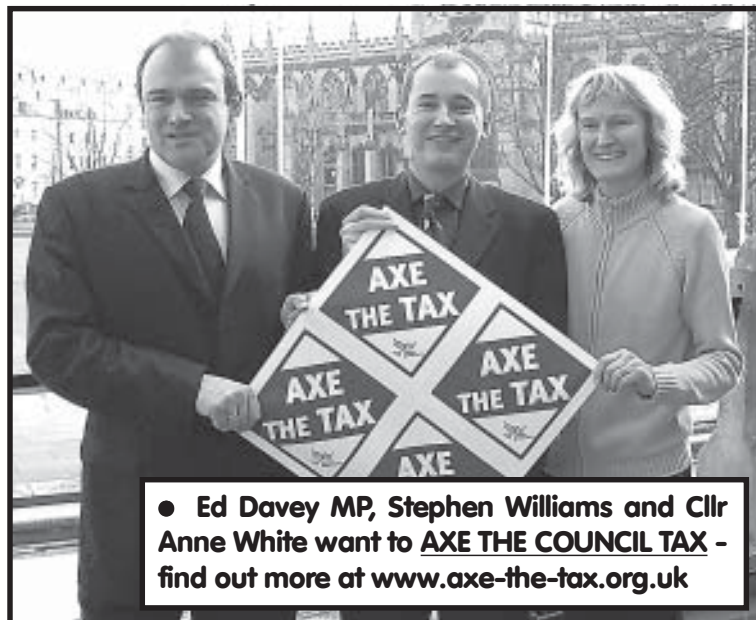
How will you be affected?



Tories stealth tax bombshell

It has emerged that, as well as revaluing, the Conservatives are planning to cut £2 billion in grants from government to local authorities. This will lead to roughly a **10% stealth Council Tax rise** over the next three years.

The Lib Dems want to axe the unfair Council Tax completely. Under Lib Dem plans, a new Local Income Tax would be charged at around 3.75%. Mark Wright says, "We believe that tax should be based on people's ability to pay. Pensioners get particularly badly hit at the moment. The Conservatives introduced the Council Tax in 1992, but why do they keep on defending it?"



● Ed Davey MP, Stephen Williams and Cllr Anne White want to **AXE THE COUNCIL TAX** - find out more at www.axe-the-tax.org.uk

A single person with an annual income of £25,000 renting a Band C flat in Kingsdown :

They currently pay **£1,098** in Council Tax

Under **Labour** plans with a one band revaluation, they would pay **£1,235**

Under **Tory** plans for revaluation and a 10% rise, they would pay **£1,359**

Under **Lib Dem** plans for Local Income Tax, they would pay just **£754**

SAVE £344

Husband and wife with a joint annual income of £50,000 owning a Band E flat on Baltic Wharf :

They currently pay **£1,510** in Council Tax

Under **Labour** plans with a one band revaluation, they would pay **£1,784**

Under **Tory** plans for revaluation and a 10% rise, they would pay **£1,962**

Under **Lib Dem** plans for Local Income Tax, they would pay **£1,510**

NO CHANGE

70% of people would pay the same or less under Local Income Tax. Only the top 10% of earners would pay more than £10 a week extra.

TAX FACTS! The truth about Lib Dem plans

- The typical family would save **£450** a year
- **70%** of households would pay the same tax or less
- **3 million** pensioners would save more than **£500** a year
- People on the lowest incomes would pay nothing
- **£300 million** saved on administration and collection
- Endorsed by independent taxation experts



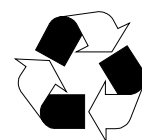
● **THUMBS DOWN!** "No more ugly mistakes like this building in Bristol's city centre," says Cabot council candidate Mark Wright

Height matters in the City Centre

Mark Wright is concerned about cramming new developments into the city centre. He has campaigned recently against tall buildings in inappropriate areas like the Harbourside and the Old City.

Mark says, "We need to learn from past planning mistakes in the City Centre. The Council has been too willing to give into pressure from developers seeking to maximise their profits by cramming in over-tall and over-dense buildings. **We need to ensure that redevelopment is sustainable in the long-run and won't be regretted by future generations.**"

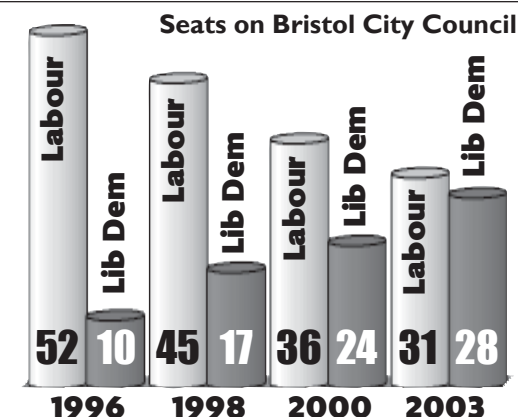
A prime example is Wapping Wharf, where the development is exceeding the Council's own guidelines for residential density. Mark has repeatedly called for a reduction in building height.



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Three things to remember :

- 1** Labour lead by **JUST 4,426 VOTES** in Bristol West. The Lib Dems need a swing of less than 4% to win. The Tories came **THIRD** here last time.
- 2** Bristol West's Labour MP has misled voters about her opposition to the Iraq War and university fees... she **DID NOT VOTE** on either crucial issue!
- 3** Stephen Williams and Mark Wright are the **LOCAL CHOICE** in Bristol West and Cabot and have a record of working hard.



NEARLY THERE! The Lib Dems are growing fast in Bristol and only need another three seats from Labour to overtake them

Help our Winning Team

The Liberal Democrats are working hard for Cabot and Bristol. If you would like to help our winning team, please complete this form :

- I can display a poster at election time
- I can deliver a few leaflets in my area
- I can stuff envelopes at home
- I can help out on election day (5th May)
- I can make a donation

I enclose a cheque payable to "Liberal Democrats" for: £25 £15 £6 Other

Paying more than £6 entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats. Tick here if you are donating, but **DO NOT** want to become a member

Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Return to : Bristol West Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST NAT4305, Kingsdown, Bristol, BS2 8FA
CAMPAIGN HOTLINE : 0117 942 3494

To become your next MP in Bristol West...

Stephen WILLIAMS



To join Cllr Anne White and complete your local Cabot team...

Mark WRIGHT

