

Cabot News

Serving Kingsdown, Cotham, Brandon Hill, Redcliffe, Spike Island and the City Centre

Edited by Mark Wright & Anne White

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AUTUMN 2005



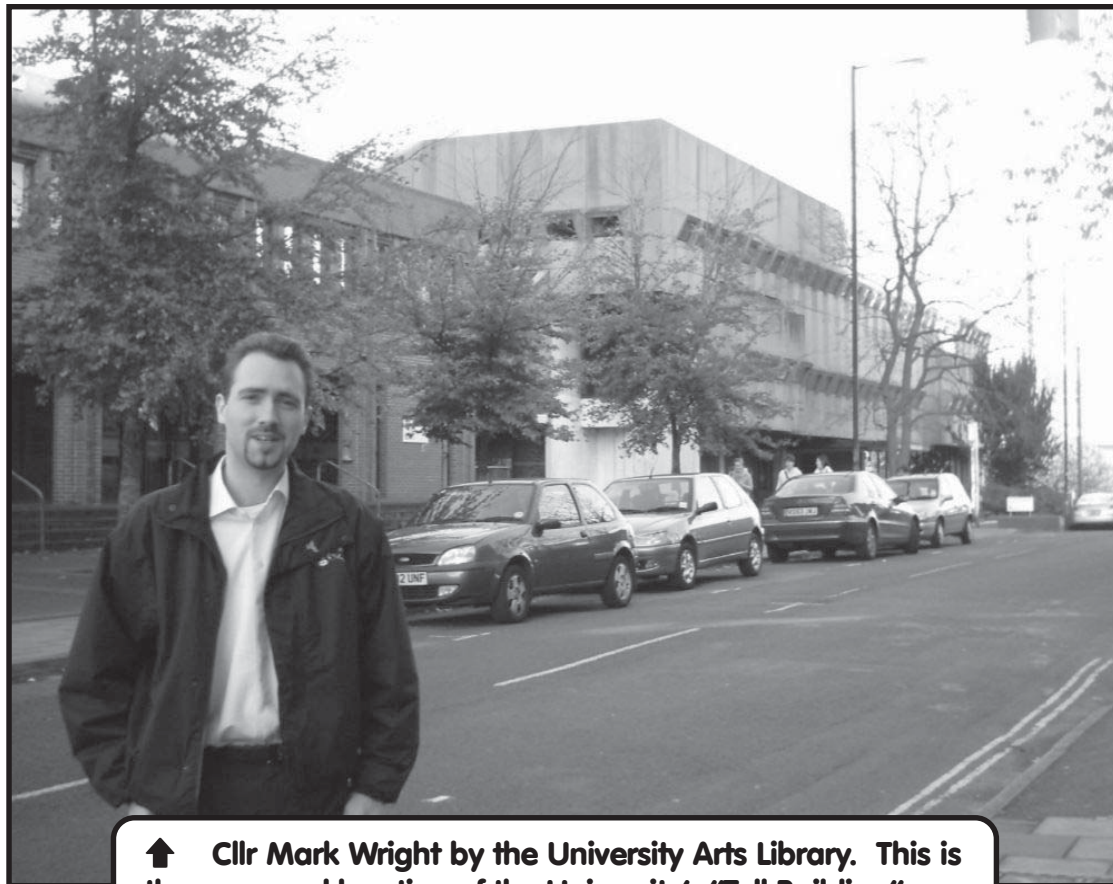
University Master Plan Unveiled

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL is to unveil its 'Masterplan' - a blue-print for the large-scale redevelopment of the university precinct area over the next decade. The university intends to invest hundreds of millions of pounds over the coming years in substantial redevelopment of the St Michael's Hill and Tyndall Avenue areas; this will form the basis of the university's ambitions to become an institution of international standards. **Local councillor and UoB graduate Mark Wright** says most of what is in the plan is great news for the area and for Bristol, and that the new developments will help open the precinct to the public in a beneficial way.

However, the plans are not without controversy. As reported in the Autumn 2004 issue of Cabot News, the Council's Tall Buildings policy document included an unexpected proposition that Kingsdown ridge was a possible location for an 'Iconic tall building'. The university have now included a tall building in their plans. Cllr Mark Wright commented, "As I said back in 2004, any such building would have to be nothing less than brilliant for it to stand any chance of winning over locals. Bristol's record on tall buildings is woeful, and the university will have its work cut out to reassure residents."

Mark also voiced worries about another aspect of the Masterplan: "The university has expressed a wish to bulldoze St Michaels Park and Osbourne Villas. We think this is totally unacceptable. Those are two attractive Victorian streets in a decent state of repair and in a conservation area - they are part of the character of the area and should not be lost. Fortunately it seems that at the moment the Council agrees with us that they should not be demolished. We are watching the situation closely."

The Masterplan was due to go out to public consultation for 6 weeks from the beginning of November, but at the time of press that has been delayed slightly. It is important that residents with strong views on the plans respond to the public consultation, or their view will not be heard. When the consultation starts the plans can be seen at Brunel House, and there will also be an exhibition there and at Senate House. The full plans will also be available on the Council's website.



↑ Cllr Mark Wright by the University Arts Library. This is the proposed location of the University's "Tall Building"

Caring at Christmas...

Every year at Christmas time, charities step up their campaigns to help relieve the less well off in society. This year **Cabot Liberal Democrats** are supporting "Caring at Christmas", a Bristol charity that runs a special shelter for homeless people at Christmas living rough on the streets.

Caring at Christmas provide warm clothes and food, and try to make Christmas a special time even for people who live on the streets. If you want to help by donating clothes or food, give them a call on 924 4444.

Recycling Action by Bristol Lib Dems

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS have overseen a 50% rise in the amount of household recycling since they took control of the Council in May. Bristol was previously one of the least green cities in the UK but is now heading up the league and has ambitions to go even higher. Cllr Gary Hopkins, Executive member for Sustainable Environment and Neighbourhoods, said, "We are introducing new technology to treble the number of plastic recycling sites in the city to 21. And despite being hampered by the internal contract which was agreed before we came to power, negotiations are under way to introduce kitchen and garden waste and cardboard doorstep collections."

Cabot's councillors are pressing for a recycling point somewhere nearer to Cabot residents who live in the Kingsdown/Whiteladies areas, and Cabot News will bring you the locations as soon as they are known.

Currently the nearest plastic recycling points to Cabot are:

Oldfield Place car park, Hotwells Road

Asda, Bedminster

Tesco, Eastville

Waitrose, Henleaze

The Household Waste Recycling Centre, St Philips



↑ Cabot Councillors Mark Wright and Anne White using the new kitchen waste recycler

Lib Dems... the only realistic alternative to Labour

Liberal Democrats - Action for Bristol

Cabot House Progress, at Long Last!

After many years, the redevelopment of this building looks set to take shape within two years, subject to planning approval. The Council has sold the redundant office building and land adjacent, including the road called Brandon Street.

Demolition of the old office building is unlikely to take place until formal approval to close the road and a planning agreement are passed. The Council failed to secure an earlier scheme for the whole site and so decided to split the site.

The plan is a mixed use development with offices, some residential flats and a restaurant. However, some residents have expressed concern that the remaining car park on St Georges Road is not being redeveloped at the same time.

Cllr Anne White says "We are pleased that a viable scheme is being produced. The existing car park will be significantly upgraded with better layout, lighting and landscaping, and a new public space will be created at the Frogmore Lane end. However, I want to see all of this site redeveloped and am confident that proposals will come forward once development has been secured for Cabot House."



↑ Cabot Councillor Anne White in front of the long-time derelict building Cabot House - soon to be demolished.

Museum of Bristol Plans Revisited and Revised

THE COUNCIL RECENTLY CONSULTED ON THE PLANS FOR A NEW MUSEUM OF BRISTOL AT THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM SITE. The original plans were met with vocal opposition, and in view of the results of the consultation and the proposed cost of the scheme, the Cabinet have issued a revised brief to the architects which they hope address the majority of concerns.

The scheme will cost over £18 million and the Council is totally reliant on a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £11 million - the Council have yet to determine whether the HLF trustees will accept the new proposals. This project has been planned and discussed with residents for 10 years since its original inception in 1995 when a small all-party working group was set up. Unlike the former Labour council, the Liberal Democrats want to deliver projects which have the support of the Bristol public but also which are financially deliverable and sustainable in the long term.

Economic Development and Regeneration Executive member, Councillor Anne White, says: "Labour have failed to invest adequately in infrastructure for over 30 years and we have a back-log of repairs and maintenance of over £100 million. Hence the Council must use its capital resources carefully. Subject to HLF approval we are confident that the Industrial Museum can be revitalised to tell the Story of Bristol and yet not been a burden on future Council tax payers. This is our aim."

Late Licenses

The new licensing Act comes into force on 24th November, and most pubs, clubs and bars in Cabot have successfully applied for extensions to their opening hours from that date.

The Act has been described by several senior civil-servants as "the worst thought out piece of legislation in many years", and has become legendary in the Council for being vague and full of holes. Government imposed deadlines on applications meant that over a thousand applications rushed into the Council over

just a few months - swamping the Council, and overwhelming local councillors and residents who struggled to organise opposition to some applications.

The Act will also have a negative financial impact on the Council, as it does not allow as much money to be recouped via licenses as before. **Cabot councillor Mark Wright** says "The Government says this new act will allow local residents and the Council to reign in badly-behaved venues. I very much hope this is the case, and we will see in the coming months whether this act has the teeth it needs if it is to do its job."

Local Action!

The residents in Sydney Row have been experiencing problems with the refuse bins of Spike Island Art Centre. Now, painted lines will be put down to try to stop the problem.

Meals on Wheels Saved

Bristol Lib Dems have honoured their election pledge to save the hot meals service for vulnerable residents who need it. The Liberal Democrats believe that the service offers a lifeline for residents who want to remain independent in their own homes. The new Lib Dem Cabinet has moved quickly to reorganize the service and have even brought in a new meals provider to work alongside the Council.

Lib Dem Executive member for Housing and Adult Social Services, Cllr John Kiely, adds "We inherited a sorry shambles from Labour who ran up huge bills in our social services dept and then wanted to cut this vital lifeline to some of the most vulnerable to pay for their mismanagement." The new service will deliver around 500 much needed meals every week and the Council have been asked to look for new users to help support this service.

Contacting your local Cabot Lib Dem Team...

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My problem, query or suggestion is :



I think ...

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E-MAIL

Please return to: Cabot Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST NAT4305, Bristol, BS2 8FA

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats may use the information to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. You can opt out of this by ticking this box:

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