

FOCUS

Our Children deserve better

On Friday 20th July a group of us joined parents and staff at Twerton Infants School to protest about the significant funding cuts that are having a direct impact on our young people. At a vital time in their life, as they embark on their educational journey, pupils are losing out because of cuts in funding to our schools being made by the Conservatives.



Councillor Tim Ball said "This Conservative Council and it's government has played games with the prospects of our Children who deserve better. The Council have failed to put children first and have purely fed their own self righteous egos".

This month it is also extremely sad to see the closure of Bath Community Academy (BCA) by the Cabot Federation. In 2011 after the community stood up and fought hard, the Liberal Democrats were able to reverse the

decision of the local Conservatives to close Culverhay and ensure secondary education continued on the Rush Hill Site.

Unfortunately, Cabot did not invest or promote the school as we had hoped and now the Conservatives have achieved what they wanted and this school has closed.

This is forcing our children to travel a lot further for their education, breaking up friendship groups with some still waiting to find out where they are actually going in September.

We still feel this is an extremely short sighted decision and increases pressures on other already over crowded schools across Bath.



Coming Soon

The Hillcrest Field play area will soon be getting two picnic benches and an outdoor table tennis table. Cllr Romero added "I have also asked Parks to put in self shutting gates. This is a popular play area and we do not want dogs inside the area reserved for young people to play and enjoy themselves in safety in."

Survey Response

Thank you to the many residents who returned our survey. The main issues are lack of housing for Bath people and the growth of HMO and AirBnB accommodation taking houses out of the Family stock.

Councillor Tim Ball said “The results from the survey show that the Conservatives are out of touch with our communities and have failed to listen”.

We are working with the Council, Curo and our MP to tighten up laws and regulations to prevent Family housing being turned into HMOs and AirBnB Housing. If we win the Council next year we will insist that schemes built on Council land adhere to the Council housing policy. This is in marked contrast to the Conservatives who are putting forward a plan in the centre of Bath with between 70 and 200 housing units with NO affordable currently specified.



The other issues were flytipping and not cutting the grass. We have been lobbying the Conservative Cabinet hard over the incompetent way they introduced policy change to waste collection and care of our open spaces. On flytipping we are pleased that the Cabinet is going to adopt a more rigorous approach to flytipping with on the spot fines. The problem with this though is how will they spot the offenders. Sarah Moore said “We want to see this happening in all parts of Bath. If this turns out just to be a cosmetic solution applied only in the city centre we will not be pleased. This should have been thought about by the Conservatives before

they introduced their poorly planned change to waste collection and the imposition of too many small bins on householders who asked for the bigger bin.”

With reference to the grass cutting Councillor Paul Crossley said “at the last Council meeting both myself and Councillor Tim Ball issued stinging rebukes to the Conservatives about this policy. The statements can be heard in full on the Council WebCam site.”

Paul added “Whilst I am pleased the Conservatives are reviewing this policy cut, I was particularly saddened by the flippant remark made by the Council Leader that if this was the most serious issue I could raise then he wasn’t doing too badly. WRONG - this is just one manifestation of how you take our beautiful city for granted and only wish to milk it dry.”

Stadiums For Bath

With schemes being worked up for a new stadium at Twerton Park and also at the REC by the football and rugby clubs these are indeed interesting times. Please let us know your views on both schemes. The Rugby one can be viewed on www.stadiumforbath.com and the Football one can be seen here <http://www.bathcityfc.com/twerton-park-redevelopment/>.

Sarah Moore said in relation to Twerton Park “whilst I want to see Bath City move up through the leagues I do have concerns as to how this redevelopment is based on a revamp of the High Street and a large amount of student accommodation. Twerton has taken its fair share of student housing along the Lower Bristol Road. We think that what we urgently need is more housing for young Bath residents and families that they can afford to buy or rent.”

We would be interested to hear your views on these proposals.

Liberal Democrat Election Success

In the recent Kingsmead by-election we are delighted to report that Liberal Democrat Sue Craig won the seat from the Conservatives. Dine Romero said “the consistent message we got from residents were that they were fed up with litter and long grass that the Conservative administration has foisted on the City.

Sue Craig will be a strong advocate for a clean and green city. We love our city in contrast to the Conservatives who seem not to care about our public realm and open spaces. Flytipping and long grass is also a major issue here.”

RESULT

Over the last two years this now completes a very impressive sweep of victories in by-elections in Bath & North East Somerset which are: Kingsmead Liberal Democrat Gain from Conservatives; Walcot Liberal Democrat defend; Abbey saw the Liberal Democrats vote share increase to move into a strong second; Newbridge Liberal Democrat gain from Conservatives and in two Keynsham Town by-elections held in the same boundaries as the B&NES Council the Liberal Democrats gained two seats from Conservatives in Keynsham East and Keynsham North.

The next full local elections are scheduled for May 2019.



All change on the Buses



The rerouting of the Number 5 service is gathering mixed comment from around its route - both positive and negative. In Southdown we have expressed concerns about the new Layover stop on The Hollow and have asked First to review this. In our opinion it is creating a traffic hazard on this busy road. We have also had an assurance from First that when a bus is stopped at a layover stop the engine MUST be turned off. Please let us know if this is not happening at any of the layovers.

The Number 20 has also now been changed after being put out to tender by the Council, First have taken over this route and have made changes without even consulting the public. First have also introduced a new route for the U2 which will travel through Twerton, Whiteway & Southdown on it's way up to the University, but will not go into the City Centre.

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Please get in touch if you want to know more about these changes and how they could affect you. We are monitoring these changes so please let us know what you think of the new routes.

YOUR TEAM

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HAVE YOUR SAY

Can we help you? Your comments:

Can you help us?

- I can deliver 'Focus' in my area
- I can display a poster at election
- I would like to become a member of the Lib Dems

About You

Name Address

Phone no E-mail

Return to:
Freepost, BathNES Lib Dems

If you tick this box, the Liberal Democrats locally and nationally may, in addition to providing the service requested, use the information provided, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in the future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.