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Have your say!

Can we help you? Your comments:

Can you help us?

- I can help by delivering a round of Focus in my area
- I can help by displaying a poster in my window or garden at election time
- I would like to become a member of the Liberal Democrats (www.libdems.org.uk/join)

About You

Name

Address

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Telephone

How do you prefer to be contacted: Post Email Telephone

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Twerton, Whiteway & Southdown

FOCUS



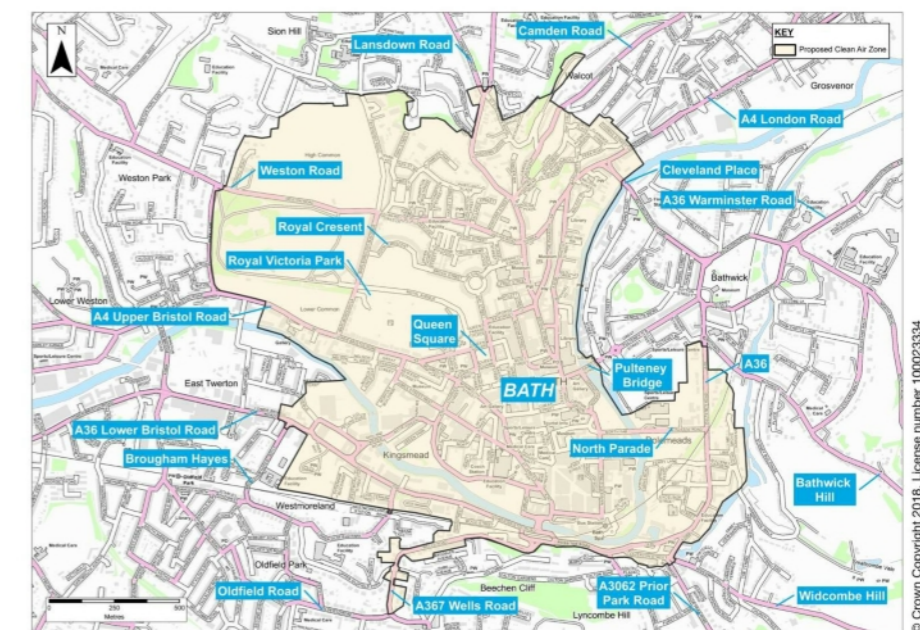
November 2018

Community newsletter from your local Liberal Democrat team
 Cllr Tim Ball • Sarah Moore • Cllr Paul Crossley • Cllr Dine Romero

Clean Air for Bath

More information at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

B&NES's Conservative Cabinet are proposing to introduce a Clean Air Zone in 2020 to help reduce the levels of NO₂ pollution caused by vehicle emissions within the city. We all want to breathe Clean Air but we have several concerns about these proposals. They discriminate against low income households, they create rat runs and they do not address the causes of congestion.



This map shows the proposed area the Clean Air Zone would cover and the Council are currently consulting with all residents. The Conservative Cabinet will make a decision on this in the Spring.

Bath Studio School - Latest update

The Bath Studio School is facing closure. It is outrageous that because of the Academy chain process introduced by the last Labour Government the voice of local people and democratic accountability has been lost. The Wellsway Multi Academy Trust, who run the school, have failed our children. We are concerned if this School closes its the end of secondary education in the West of Bath.

Sarah Moore, a parent of a pupil at the school said "This would be the second closure to affect families in the South of Bath. It shows the absolute failure of the Academy process and we need these schools returned to LEA control. B&NES used to be one of the best performing education authorities in the Country, now the

only stories we hear about our schools are closure and controversy."

Cllr Dine Romero said "if this closure does go ahead then Liberal Democrats will be making strong calls for a new education provision at the Rush Hill site to meet the needs of families from Twerton to Odd Down."



IN OUR AREA

New Post Office service working well



Handled with care

We are pleased that the new post office service at the Premier shop in Southdown Road is being well received. After years of service withdrawal in our area it is positive news to see a service running.

Cllr Paul Crossley said "I remember the campaign we had to try and convince the Post Office to remain in Mount Road and what a loss it was to the community when they withdrew. It is good to see the Post Office back in our area as they provide so many services for residents to use."

Down your street

Long Valley Road/Tanners Walk/Boyce Close -

We are pleased to be working closely with residents, LiveWest and Curo to make changes and improvements to this lovely area of Twerton and bring back a great community environment.

Brickfields - We have had a number of complaints from residents about the maintenance of this area. We are meeting with officials from the Council soon to discuss a range of problems and possible solutions to them. If you have any thoughts or views on the Brickfields.

Bath City Football Site - The club and developers have now published the draft proposals for the area and are asking for comments and feedback, please do make your views known via the Bath City Football Club website.

Priddy Close/Loxton Drive - We have asked Curo to remove the many flytips around the estate.

King George's Road - We have asked Curo to cut back tree growth that is obscuring footpath streetlighting.

Hillcrest Field - Anyone for Tennis?

Back in the Spring, BANES Council consulted with residents on the replacement equipment for this area. Mostly it has gone to plan, however the Table Tennis table has only just arrived and, as we go to press, we are still waiting for the benches.

Cllr Romero said "despite being agreed in the Spring and the budget being allocated, it is frustrating that this equipment has taken so long to arrive.

But we are pleased with the Table Tennis and hope everything will be in place soon. We have also had agreement that self-

shutting gates will be installed next year. And we will be planting some trees and shrubs by the fence. Hillcrest Field is a great space and these extras make it even better".



Road repairs/budget

In May 2018 Sarah Moore and Councillor Tim Ball met with the Cabinet Member for Highways to discuss the deteriorating conditions of the roads around Twerton. Although potholes are being filled, the underlying issues on a number of roads are not being addressed.

Sarah submitted a question to the Cabinet member in October to request the funding is put into the next budget to address roads that need more significant reconstruction work, namely North Way, Poolemead Road and the rear of Day Crescent.

We have also requested a number of roads across the Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown area are included for general resurfacing. This will hopefully be sufficient for those roads that have a lower volume of traffic.

Bus chaos

As many of you are aware the bus service through Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown has been severely disrupted over the past couple of months due to a number of issues, not least the incompetence of the Conservative Cabinet in scheduling so many road works for the same time all over the city

However, one of the big issues that has been experienced in this area is the lack of ability of our children being able to get to and from school. Many children have been left standing at bus stops whilst buses drive past full.

Cllr Romero recently met with the Chief Executive of First Bus in Bath to raise this issue and a number of other complaints about the service being provided to our area. The list of complaints also included not turning off the engines whilst layover at a stop, using the wrong stops to layover, costly fares, lack of publicity for group and discount tickets as well as punctuality and reliability.

Cllr Tim Ball said "we all want a successful bus service in Bath. Our roads are congested enough without adding more traffic caused through people not feeling confident with the bus service. We want to see more people using the bus not less."

First Bus have made further changes to their routes following complaints, however it remains to be seen whether these will be sufficient to ensure a regular, prompt service that everyone can access. They have also agreed to re-introduce a dedicated school bus service to and from Ralph Allen via The Bath Studio School.



Curo Walkabout

Sarah Moore and Councillors Tim Ball and Paul Crossley met recently with senior team members of Curo and local residents to walk around several areas across the South West of Bath to talk through a number of issues that are not being addressed.

Residents are fed up with constantly having to contact Curo with issues and not getting anything done. Councillor Tim Ball said "despite residents



having to pay ever increasing service charges, many do not know what they are actually getting for these charges. It is time Curo made their charges more transparent and actually listen to their long-standing customers to ensure problems are dealt with promptly."

Problems raised included conditions of gardens, flytipping, communal car parks, safety in blocks of flats as well as the parks and open spaces, especially maintenance of hedges, the poor lighting on all the estates and long delays in getting lighting fixed.

Curo have properties in a large area of Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown, however, maintenance of the outside space is divided between BANES and Curo.

Sarah Moore said "the maintenance of these areas is a big issue, if residents report a problem they are often told, that is not our responsibility. It is about time that Curo and BANES worked together, the residents should be able to report the problem to their landlord and the responsibility to establish ownership and resolution of the problem should be with the landlord, not left for the resident to chase around finding who is responsible."

Sarah and Tim have agreed a follow up meeting with Curo to ensure problems that were raised have been dealt with. However, if you have a problem, please to get in touch.