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Can we help you?

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

Email

Telephone

How do you prefer to be contacted: Post Email Telephone

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Twerton, Whiteway & Southdown

FOCUS



February 2019

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

Twerton & Southdown Community Speedwatch

A group of residents led by Sarah Moore has started a new Speed Watch group to cover roads around our area. The police have so far designated one road for us to monitor - Newton Road. Other roads we have asked to be inspected and for the group to be given the all clear to monitor include The Hollow, Southdown Road, Kelston View and Poolemead Road. If you would like to work with us on speed awareness please contact Sarah.



Sarah Moore said "We have now completed our training and the first two pilot runs in Newton Road. We will be out every week trying to improve road safety and slow traffic speeds down. Please come up to us and talk about the issues when you see us on watch. We will be in hi-viz jackets."

Excess traffic speed is a major cause in road traffic incidents, that is why so many communities across the country are trying to slow speeds down. Does it really matter if your journey takes an extra 30 seconds. Over the coming months we will be pushing to improve safe routes to schools so that more children walk to school.

Cllr Dine Romero commented "Whilst the current Conservative Council has seen fit to waste millions on futile and non-deliverable schemes across the whole area, we wish to prioritise fixing our poorly maintained roads and improving pavements."

Bath Studio School - Latest update

The fate of the Bath Studio School has still not been confirmed. Parents have learnt, despite being told a decision was to be made quickly, the Department for Education have still not issued their final decision.

This means that children at the school are no clearer on what the future holds. If they all decide to move onto other establishments for their further education and the decision is made to keep the school open then the numbers are likely to be even lower than they currently are.

Sarah Moore, a parent of a pupil at the school and Councillor Tim Ball who also has grandchildren at the school have been talking with Wera Hobhouse MP to ask her to raise this issue in Parliament and speak directly with the Minister for Education to get clarity on why the children in the South West of Bath are being constantly let down by the Conservatives. Wera said "This area of our city deserves better. The children here should not be forced to travel longer distances for education because of the failing education policies of the Conservatives".

IN OUR AREA

Pavement Obstructions

Over the past couple of months, we have spoken to a large number of residents across the whole of Southdown, Whiteway and Twerton. One of the main issues that has been raised with us is the blocking of pavements.

Whilst we understand the pressures in the area for parking, which we are looking at, more and more hedges are being left to grow a long way out over the pavement. This makes it very difficult for



residents with pushchairs, limited mobility or that have visual problems to safely move around.

Hedges should not grow outside of the garden edges as this restricts the amount of space on the footpath for people to use. Please can we ask, if you have a hedge, that you take the required actions to remove any sections

that are badly overhanging the footpaths.

Down your street

Mount Road - Parking bays and white lines have now been repainted, but we are still looking at additional parking options for the shop area.

Linley Close - We are following up on the lack of enforceable yellow lines on this road.

Mount View - We are looking at options to resolve parking outside the Church Hall on the grass verge area.

Rear Day Crescent - We have again asked for this area to be included in the budget for resurfacing.

Lymore Avenue - We are looking to get the resurfacing of this road put into the budget.

Poolemead Road - We have now had a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways to discuss possible locations for a crossing. We will update you on progress soon.

Haycombe Drive - We have requested a meeting with Highways to discuss options for fully resolving the road surface issues.

The Brickfields - More attention needed

The Brickfields is a very popular open space serving a number of different groups. However, there are a number of areas that need improving. The graffiti needs removing. The steps down to King George's Road need improving. Lots of the vegetation around the edges needs cutting back. We have also been asked about providing some lighting at the basketball court.



Cllr Paul Crossley said "This is a much loved area which is well used by a number of residents. We would value your feedback on ways it can be improved."

Parking on Verges

Across our area there is a growing problem of our verges being parked on and left in an unsightly mess. Cllrs Romero and Crossley have led the way in Bath in getting strong grid grass systems in place in heavily parked areas. This process accepts that there is a shortage of parking space but keeps a green and open aspect to our streets.



Cllr Dine Romero said "Using strong plastic grids to grow grass enables residents to park on the verges but for it still to look attractive and open when the cars are elsewhere. We think the Council needs to have a more robust approach to keeping our neighbourhoods looking tidy, clean and cared for."

Bath City Football Club

We have been told there will be a further consultation held by the developers and the Football Club towards the end February ahead of the planning application being submitted.

The Football Club has been a central part of Twerton for a very long time and they are keen to get as many views as possible from everyone that is affected by their proposed development.

Full details of the consultation and timescale for the application will be posted on Bath City Football Club's website and we would like to encourage as many of you to have your say as possible.

Whilst change is inevitable, we need to ensure what is put in place is the best possible solution for Twerton and it's residents as well as enabling the Football Club to remain. Can you answer this question with 1 being low and 5 being high.

Do you think the offer from Bath City meets the needs of the community?

You can reply using the **Can we help?** box on the back page, together with any other views you wish to make on this topic and we will pass this onto the Club.

Housing Issues

Following a campaign by our MP Wera Hobhouse, which she started back in October, the Crown Prosecution Service has published new guidance on the prosecution of 'Sex for Rent' crimes.

Responding to the victory, Wera Hobhouse said:

"This is a huge step forward in protecting vulnerable people. The new guidelines should give police and prosecutors the tools they need to bring to justice these predatory landlords taking advantage of the housing crisis.

Sex for rent is a vile crime which has risen as more and more people struggle to afford to put a roof over their heads. The perpetrators are preying on incredibly vulnerable individuals and I am glad Ministers have listened and worked with me to ensure more is done to put an end to it.

Well done Adge and Thank You

We do not often mention public servants by name in our Focus but I think on this occasion the whole community would like to congratulate Adge on his British Empire Medal (BEM) and wish him well on his retirement from the police and all the best for his future challenges.



To put it simply Adge, fondly called "The Legend that is", has served our community fantastically over the years.

Councillor Tim Ball said "As a local Councillor in this area since 1990 and having worked

with all the police officers that have served our area Adge stands out as the Tops. It has always been a pleasure to work with him because of his commitment, care and outstanding integrity. We will miss him."



Updating these guidelines is important not only to make clear that asking for sex in place of rent is illegal, but also to ensure police are more aware of this exploitation. I hope now to see more prosecutions of this crime, so that justice is done and we stamp out this vile practice once and for all."