

FOCUS

SUMMER 2020



on BRISLINGTON WEST

WITH CLLR JOS CLARK AND CAMPAIGNER ANDREW VARNEY

BRISLINGTON HEROES!



JOS AND ANDREW WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET OUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBOURHOOD SPIDERMAN!

SPIDERMAN...

This remarkable young man has been completing regular runs across the ward, not only giving children and adults a much needed

boost, but also raising a huge amount of money for the Wallace and Gromit Appeal, which supports Bristol Children's hospital.

... OF COURSE, NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

Jos and Andrew recently met up with several shopkeepers on Sandy Park Road who have remained open throughout the pandemic and have gone the extra mile on behalf of their customers.



For example, **Sheryl at Sher's Sandwich Shop**. As well as running her busy shop, she and her team have also delivered around 800 treat bags to NHS and other key-workers across the city.



Another hero is Andrew at BrisCycle.

He was obliged to relocate his shop during the pandemic, but since then has never been busier. He has even taken on two new members of staff to cope with the extra demand for his services.



Georgio at the popular Deli was forced to close the café side of his business at the start of the pandemic

but used the extra space in the shop to increase the range of products available. This was especially useful when the supermarkets were running out of essentials such as bread, flour, rice and pasta.

The wonderful **Sandy Park Butchers** and the lovely people in **Costcutter** also deserve a mention for going above and beyond.

In fact, there are so many more Brislington heroes, and Jos and Andrew hope to pay tribute to them in the future. **Please get in touch if you'd like to nominate someone.**

LABOUR HAVE LEFT BRISLINGTON WEST

Brislington West Liberal Democrat Councillor, Jos Clark, and Councillor Candidate, Andrew Varney would like to extend their best wishes to Labour Cllr. Harriet Bradley, who announced her resignation last week due to ill health. Both Jos and Andrew hope Harriet can now get the time she needs to make a speedy recovery. Jos said, 'I have worked with Harriet in Brislington West for the last four years. Although Harriet didn't live in the ward, I believe she had the interests of the residents at heart and I would like to thank her on behalf of local people'. Andrew added, 'I was very grateful for Harriet's support for my long-standing campaign to stop the destructive Callington Road Link, despite going against the wishes of the Mayor and the Bristol Labour group'.

Cllr. Harriet Bradley's resignation now leaves a vacant seat in Brislington West. We believe that local people deserve full representation on the council but due to the coronavirus pandemic, all elections are currently suspended this year. However, should the guidelines change, the Brislington Lib Dems are ready to stand Andrew Varney as their local candidate. Andrew has been part of the Brislington Lib Dem team for the last four years, ably assisting Cllr. Jos Clark. Andrew said, 'it has been an immense privilege working together with Jos since her election. During that time we have fought many campaigns together including saving Jubilee Pool, preventing the closure of Wick Road Library, winning funding for environmental improvements on Sandy Park Road, and so much more'. Jos added, 'As a hardworking community activist, Andrew has demonstrated his commitment to the people of Brislington West time after time. As a local councillor for the ward, I know he could achieve even more'.

CARING COMMUNITY

Back in early March, Jos and Andrew set up an online form for people needing help during the Coronavirus Lockdown. They were also looking for volunteers and were delighted with the overwhelming response as dozens of people got in touch.

Andrew said, 'It has been such a pleasure coordinating all the volunteers and matching them with people needing help'. Jos added, 'So far we've organised support with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, arranging telephone 'buddies' and even laundry help.'

Of course this lockdown period has been overwhelmingly negative, often affecting people's lives and livelihoods in a terrible way, but there have been some positives, including the renewed sense of community spirit.

Jos said, 'When all this is over, I am really hopeful the strong community spirit will remain and we will continue to look out for one another.' If you would like some support during this difficult period, whatever it may be, please get in touch.



CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT



Phoning Brislington

Jos and Andrew have been telephoning elderly and vulnerable residents right across Brislington West over the last few months.

Jos said, 'We were worried some of the most vulnerable people in our ward might not have internet access or might be reticent about completing an online form.'

So far Jos and Andrew have made well over 2,000 phone calls. Andrew added, 'The great news is, most people seem to have a good support network already in place, with family, friends and helpful neighbours.' However, as a result of these calls, Jos and Andrew have been able to ensure over two dozen people have got the help they needed.

Jos said, 'As a councillor, phoning elderly and vulnerable residents in my ward has been one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. To know that I have been able to help someone in need is the best feeling'.



We Are Bristol

Bristol City Council launched their own city-wide helpline, 'We Are Bristol' alongside a volunteer network 'Can Do Bristol'.

Jos and Andrew wanted to publicise this as widely as possible but were concerned that the most vulnerable residents might not have access to the internet. So they got together with all the councillors in Brislington West and East, along with community campaigners and local groups and came up with the idea of a leaflet which could be delivered to every address in Brislington.

Andrew said, 'The whole process was incredibly speedy and our volunteers were amazing. We managed to print, distribute and deliver the leaflet in a matter of days. It's great to know we live in a part of the city with such a strong community spirit'.

We Are Bristol free phone helpline: 0800 694 0184.



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Contact Number	0117 922 2000
Adult Social Care	0117 922 2700
Bins, Recycling & Streets	0117 922 2100
Children & Family Services	0117 903 6444
Council Housing	0117 922 2200
Highways	0117 922 2100
Homelessness Prevention	0117 352 6800
Housing Benefit	0117 922 2300
Pest, Pollution & Anti-Social Behaviour	0117 922 2500
Planning and Buildings	0117 922 3000
Roads, Pavements and Streets	0117 922 2100

UTILITY EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Gas	0800 111 999
Bristol Water	0345 600 1019
Electricity Power Emergency	105

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	101
Ambulance, Fire & Rescue, and Police Emergency	112 or 999
NHS Direct	111

HELPLINE NUMBERS

Childline	0800 11 11
Samaritans	116 123
Mind (Mental Health Charity)	0208 215 2243
Refuge (24h Domestic Abuse Hotline)	0808 2000 247

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk.

Sign up for our eFocus

Cllr. Jos Clark and Andrew Varney regularly keep residents abreast of local and city-wide news via our quarterly newsletter, 'Focus on Brislington West'.

If you would like to receive it by email, please register using this link:

www.bristolibdems.org/efocus

- www.facebook.com/BrislingtonLibDems
- www.twitter.com/BrisLibDems

SPACES FOR PEOPLE



Jos, Andrew and the Bristol Liberal Democrats launched a petition demanding the temporary widening of pavements and creation of 'pop-up' cycle lanes in order to aid social distancing, improve safety for key workers and anyone taking daily exercise during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Andrew said, "In many UK cities and around the world, temporary active travel improvements are happening but they were not taking place here. We were pleased the mayor finally put forward proposals for 'pop-up lanes' but were disappointed that once again Brislington was largely overlooked."

Mary Page, Lib Dem candidate for Mayor said "Mayor Rees chose to concentrate on the city centre and Clifton, ignoring your needs. Prior to lockdown, people in Brislington suffered from illegal levels of pollution and unacceptable congestion, and it would be a lost opportunity if we returned to any 'old normal'. Clean air must be a right for all, not a privilege for some."

You can keep the pressure on the mayor by signing our petition:

www.bristolibdems.org/spaces_for_people

LORD MAYOR IN LOCKDOWN

Most Lord Mayors of Bristol get to serve for just one year, but Jos has been asked to stay on for a second year. Her role is currently very different as pretty much everything is happening 'virtually' using video conferencing apps, including chairing Full Council meetings and attending numerous events with local groups and organisations.



Jos said, 'I was absolutely delighted and honoured to be asked to serve the city of Bristol for another year. The people of Bristol have been through so much over these past few months and I hope to use my year to help people who have suffered, and to be part of the healing process'.

For the time being, most events Jos attends will be 'virtual', but she remains hopeful that by the end of year she will be able to start meeting wonderful people and attending fantastic events in person again. If you would like the Lord Mayor to attend one of your events, get in touch via the Lord Mayor's page on the Bristol City Council website.