

FOCUS

AUTUMN 2020



on BRISLINGTON WEST

WITH CLLR JOS CLARK AND CANDIDATE ANDREW VARNEY

Sandy Park Round-up

NEW GREENGROCER – NEW MILK SCHEME – NEW PLANTERS

Thanks to everyone who is shopping locally and supporting our local businesses there's been a lot to see on Sandy Park Road!



SPRING HAVE INSTALLED FIVE NEW PLANTERS!

JOHN PEER DEVELOPMENT

Sadly, the derelict former John Peer factory site on the Bath Road is likely to remain an eyesore for a little while longer.

Unfortunately, planning officers were unhappy with several aspects of the proposed development by Sovereign Housing, including the heating system, the design of some of the blocks and the outdoor communal areas, and were recommending refusal. The Planning Committee decided to defer the decision and ask the applicant to amend the plan before coming back for a decision at a later date.

We'll keep you posted.

Following our consultation on the future of Sandy Park Road in 2016, in which a huge number of residents expressed a desire for a local greengrocer's, we are not surprised the new greengrocer's has been so well-received. We were delighted to attend their official opening and wish the owners, Kelly and Javied, the best of luck.



The Deli on Sandy Park has started selling milk in reusable glass bottles. Last year, the Friends of Wick Road Library proposed a similar scheme for the library, which was sadly rejected, so we are pleased to see the Deli is now offering this service. Is it just us, or does milk taste better in glass bottles?

The SPRING group (Sandy Park Road Improvement Neighbourhood Group), which we helped set up in 2017, has installed five more planters. This is all part of our efforts to make our premier shopping street a more



attractive place, which will hopefully encourage more people to support local shops.

We were first to announce the sad news that Lloyds Pharmacy is closing down, with Friday 30 October being their last day.



The nearest branch will be in Knowle by the Broadwalk Shopping Centre.

Local councillor Jos Clark said, "Unfortunately, due to cuts in funding from central government, many smaller pharmacies are now loss-making and we are likely to see more closures in the future."

ANDREW – QUESTIONS THE CHIEF CONSTABLE!

We wrote recently about the dramatic increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Arnos Vale Cemetery during lockdown, including stealing wood from the wood store, lighting bonfires, damaging tables and seating, and vandalising the community garden on a number of occasions. This was incredibly dispiriting for staff and volunteers at the cemetery and very expensive to repair.

So this week, Andrew was invited onto BBC Radio Bristol to talk to Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, and Chief Constable, Andy Marsh, about the problem. Andy agreed to investigate

further and after the show, we were contacted by a couple of officers to discuss the current situation. The good news is, two groups of people have been identified as being responsible for most of the problems and following an official warning, the issue seems to have gone away.

Going forward, the police have agreed to work more closely with the cemetery, including getting more sets of keys so they can patrol the site after hours if necessary.

If you witness any criminal damage at Arnos Vale Cemetery, please call the police on 101.

COMMUNITY: LITTER PICK SUCCESS



We recently held another one of our regular community litter picks. Meeting near Wick Road Library, we tidied up Wick Road, Sandy Park Road, Sand Hill and the litter-strewn lane heading down to Sainsbury's. Andrew said, 'Due to new guidelines on public gatherings, we had a small but dedicated team of litter pickers and managed to fill several bags'.

We will organise another litter pick soon.



SUMMER SURVEY FEEDBACK

During the summer we distributed 5,200 surveys to registered voters in Brislington West ward. Thank you to everyone who completed them. As promised, here are some of the initial findings:

26% of respondents are concerned about **parking** in Brislington West. Unfortunately, on many streets there are simply more cars than spaces available, and this is only going to get worse as the local population increases. We want to reduce car dependency by having better public transport and active travel routes.

18% mentioned the problem of **litter and dog mess**. We hold regular litter picks and have conducted several anti-dog fouling campaigns, which have certainly helped in some places. Let us know if we can help in your area.



We have also been in contact with Bristol Waste about the amount of **rubbish** that is sometimes left on the road after the bins have been emptied. They agreed that on occasion this has been a problem and ask that residents contact them if a road has been left untidy.

30% of respondents feel strongly about the poor state of **public transport**. The bus service in the area is irregular and erratic, does not go where people want it to, and even travelling short distances across the ward can take an unreasonable length of time because of timetabling inconsistencies and poor onward connections. We support taking back control of our buses through a franchising scheme so that we can determine the routes, fares and timetables for the benefit of Bristolians not shareholders.

17% of respondents are worried about our **library**, which, like Jubilee Pool, has been threatened with closure again and again in recent years. These public services are vital for the wellbeing of our local community and we will continue to fight for them.



An overwhelming 80% of respondents support our campaign to use the former **Brislington Railway Line** as an active travel corridor. Regional Mayor candidate Stephen Williams supports residents and he is calling for "a safe, off-road, walking and cycling route which will encourage more people to travel sustainably, with all the positive benefits that will bring in terms of quality of life, reducing congestion, easing pollution and protecting local wildlife." Unfortunately, the Labour-controlled council want to turn this space into another road, meaning more traffic, more congestion and more pollution. We will continue to fight their plans.

Finally, 72% of people said they wanted to **scrap the role of the directly elected Bristol Mayor**. The current system is undemocratic, with the Mayor taking power away from local people and their councillors and centralising it behind closed doors at City Hall. What's more, the Mayor regularly ignores the wishes of local people. We will scrap the post of Bristol mayor and return power and decision making to local communities and their representatives.

If you haven't already, there's still time to complete the survey, which is now available online. We'd love to hear your views. https://www.bristolibdems.org/brislington_west

LABOUR THREAT TO JUBILEE POOL

The threat to close our much-loved and well-used local pool for the third time in eight years was the main issue at September's Full Council, with both a public petition, signed by thousands of local residents, and an opposition motion up for debate.

Andrew told the Mayor to 'stop playing the blame game, and take responsibility for his own poor decision-making, which has seen tens of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money wasted on vanity projects over the last four years, while vital public services, such as libraries and swimming pools, have been neglected'.

The Mayor responded by playing the blame game!

Jubilee Pool is used by five schools, eleven clubs, three disabled organisations and residents from numerous care homes. It is a sustainable pool, with many swimmers arriving on foot, by bicycle or by bus. Due to

the therapeutic nature of its warm water, Jubilee Pool is specifically recommended by the NHS Central Bristol Chronic Pain Clinic. There are many socio-economic benefits too, with studies showing regular swimming leads to improved health outcomes, saving the NHS millions of pounds.

The Mayor claimed there was 'a lack of demand at Jubilee Pool' but any regular user will tell you before lockdown, people were often turned away as the pool was so busy.

The opposition motion called on the Mayor to allocate funding for Jubilee Pool to continue to operate in a Covid secure way and to re-open it during the consultation period. However, this was rejected in an amendment by Labour councillors, which means the pool will remain closed during the extended consultation period.

The worry is, the longer the pool is closed, the more difficult it will be to reopen. Is that Labour's plan?

AMBITIOUS FOR BRISTOL



Bristol Mayoral Candidate **MARY PAGE** has 3 KEY PRIORITIES FOR OUR CITY:



- ♦ Improve our environment, protect trees and access to parks, and clean up our air
- ♦ Prioritise Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and fund Adult Social Care
- ♦ Stop financial waste and give people the choice to **Scrap the Bristol Mayor**



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Sign up for our eFocus

Cllr. Jos Clark and Andrew Varney regularly keep residents abreast of local and city-wide news via our quarterly e-newsletter "Focus on Brislington West". Sign up here: www.bristolibdems.org/efocus

Contact Us

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CAN YOU HELP JOS & ANDREW?

Brislington West Focus is written, produced, delivered and paid for by Cllr Jos Clark, Andrew Varney and local volunteers. If you can help please contact Jos! cldr.jos.clark@bristol.gov.uk

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.
Covid Secure - This leaflet was produced in accordance with government guidelines. Social distancing and masks were used where appropriate. Some photos taken prior to lockdown.



Don't forget...

If you haven't already, please sign the petition: http://savejubileepool-ldbristol.nationbuilder.com/sign_the_petition

Complete the Council consultation, deadline extended to 8 November, stating why this local facility is important and why it should be saved: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/public-health/jubilee-pool/>

