



Lib Dem leader Ed Davey with Regional Mayor candidate Stephen Williams. Ed has secured the promise of an Inquiry into Covid19.

# LIB DEMS SECURE COVID-19 INQUIRY

**THE GOVERNMENT'S CHAOTIC HANDLING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WILL NOW BE INVESTIGATED BY AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY, FOLLOWING A CAMPAIGN BY LIB DEM MPS.**

**Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey secured the inquiry at Prime Minister's Questions, in a response from Boris Johnson.**

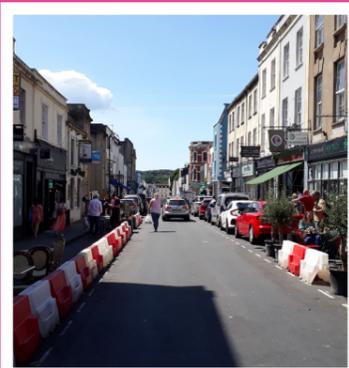
Meanwhile, thousands of individuals and organisations, including age UK and professional bodies, have sent in contributions to the cross-party parliamentary inquiry led by Lib Dem MP Layla Moran.

Even the prime minister agrees that the government's response to the pandemic could have been different.

Now is the opportunity to look into the government's mixed messaging, their treatment of care homes, and the introduction of lockdown to see what lessons need to be learned to prevent a second wave of infection.

**The prime minister has not yet set a date for the inquiry, but the Liberal Democrats will hold him to his promise.**

## PAVEMENTS WIDENED ON PRINCESS VICTORIA STREET



In the last few months, pedestrians have benefitted from wider pavements along Princess Victoria Street. The wider pavements aided in social distancing, but some traders were unhappy with the loss of parking spaces.

These changes have now been mostly reversed, reinstating most parking spaces whilst allowing some outdoor trading. This interim scheme will run whilst a focus group is established to discuss the future of traffic management in the village.

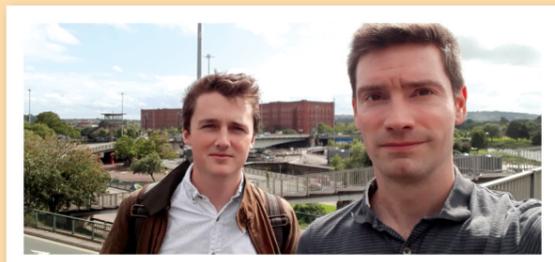
"As Britain re-opens, we have an opportunity to create a more sustainable society," says Clifton Liberal Democrat Nicholas Coombes. "Prioritising pedestrians is the right thing to do, but this has been done in a way that balances the needs of traders, shoppers and those with reduced mobility. These last few months have been a useful experiment, but the council must now consult fully before anything is made permanent."

## WHSMITH SITE UPDATE



The proposals for new shops and offices on the old WhSmith site on Clifton Down Road were approved by the planning committee in January, despite objections from Historic England. By June, the Council and developer had signed off the permission and discharged the first conditions applied to it. The developer intends to start demolition of the buildings and clearance of the site this summer 2020.

## CUMBERLAND BASIN



**The Labour Mayor's plans for the Cumberland Basin drew strong criticism from local people earlier this year.**

He was forced to concede further consultation, to take place after the local elections, then due in May. However, all council engagement is currently paused for public safety. In response to questions from the Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group, the Mayor has recently re-committed to undertaking the public engagement when it is safe to do so.

## COUNCIL CUTS ITS LOSSES ON BRISTOL ENERGY

**Bristol's Labour mayor and cabinet have decided to sell Bristol Energy, the Council's loss making energy company.**

Bristol Energy has received almost £40,000,000 from Bristol taxpayers, to prop up a commercial venture that continues to lose money. Originally envisioned as a way to generate clean electricity in Bristol, under Labour the company is just a failing retail energy company. Most of the customers are not local, despite having their bills effectively subsidised by Bristol residents.

It has been clear for some time that Bristol Energy was in trouble, despite repeated bailouts from the Council. The Liberal Democrats have led calls for an independent inquiry into the company's finances. Labour councillors have used their majority on Bristol City Council to block this.

After years of stonewalling and secrecy, the mayor has finally caved and decided to cut the city's losses. Without public access to the finances, it is impossible to know if this is the right decision. However, it is almost certain that Bristol residents will have lost tens of millions of pounds from this fiasco.

Despite substantial easing, social distancing is still in force to tackle the pandemic. Now special care is needed to stay safe.

The latest government advice can be found here:  
[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Local coronavirus info on all subjects from the Council can be found here:  
[www.bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Contact Number 0117 922 2000  
We are Bristol 0800 694 0184

## UTILITY EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

## HELPLINE NUMBERS

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

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

Bristol Waste [hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk](mailto:hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk)

## WE ARE BRISTOL HELPLINE

Bristol City Council have launched their own city-wide helpline, 'We Are Bristol' alongside a volunteer network 'Can Do Bristol' to help people with shopping, collecting prescriptions, and befriending support.  
**We Are Bristol free phone helpline: 0800 694 0184**

## Sign up for our eNewsletter

The Clifton Lib Dems regularly keep residents abreast of local and city-wide news via our newsletter.

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

[www.bristolibdems.org/efocus](http://www.bristolibdems.org/efocus)

[www.fb.com/cliftonandclifftondownlibdems](https://www.facebook.com/cliftonandclifftondownlibdems)

[www.twitter.com/Clifton\\_LibDems](https://www.twitter.com/Clifton_LibDems)

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# SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR THE WEST OF ENGLAND REGION

**Stephen Williams is the Liberal Democrat candidate for Regional Mayor of the West of England. He will deliver a revolution in public transport if elected next May.**

"We've all had to adapt our lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many more of us are now cycling around Bristol and I

want to make sure everyone feels safe and confident when riding," said Stephen Williams.

"The climate emergency is still very real, so as part of 'building back better' we must improve our air quality with clean fuel buses and new train services. I would like to see direct train services from Clifton Down to Bath and better connections to the jobs at Filton."

As a former MP, Minister for local government, and Avon County Councillor, Stephen Williams is the best qualified of the candidates. The Lib Dems recent council election success across the region also makes him the strongest challenger to the Tory incumbent.



Nicholas Coombes and Stephen Williams visiting Clifton Down Station



Mayoral Candidate **MARY PAGE** is

## AMBITIOUS FOR BRISTOL

Create a council which serves your needs:

- ◆ Sort our terrible transport, using franchising for better bus fares
- ◆ Prioritise Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and Adult Social Care funding
- ◆ Improve our environment, protecting trees and parks, and clean up our air
- ◆ Provide homes not just houses, with additional support for the homeless
- ◆ Stop financial waste and give people the choice to Scrap the Mayor

[mary.page@bristolibdems.org](mailto:mary.page@bristolibdems.org)



[www.bristolibdems.org/MaryPage](http://www.bristolibdems.org/MaryPage)

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING ON RESIDENTS TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES BOUNCE BACK AFTER LOCKDOWN

Clifton Lib Dems have launched a 'shop local' campaign encouraging people to protect businesses and save local jobs by buying from local shops and suppliers whenever possible.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Nicholas Coombes said: "Local businesses that so many of us rely on are at serious risk after months of lockdown, threatening jobs and the local economy.

"The British Chamber of Commerce has warned that almost one million small businesses across the country could be at risk of collapsing due to the economic impact of having been closed.

"Once we lose these businesses, there's no coming back. Local high streets were already under huge pressure before lockdown and the next few months are going to be



Local Lib Dem campaigner Nicholas Coombes is backing local businesses.

extremely challenging. If we want the variety and personal touch that comes with local shops, we need to do our bit to help.

"Now, more than ever, we need to get behind our local businesses, show our support and help save jobs and livelihoods. That's why I'm urging people to think local when they go shopping."

**SHOP LOCAL**  
↓  
**PROTECT LOCAL BUSINESSES**  
↓  
**SAVE LOCAL JOBS**

Liberal Democrats