

Cabot News

Serving Kingsdown, Cotham, Brandon Hill, Redcliffe, Spike Island and the City Centre

Edited by Mark Wright

Summer 2015

Over forty years of service!



Alex and Stephen say "Thank you"

As you may have heard, Alex Woodman and Stephen Williams were unsuccessful in their bids to be re-elected for a third term as your councillor and MP. In Cabot, Alex lost to Ani Stafford-Townsend, the Green Party candidate; and in Bristol West, Stephen lost to Thangam Debbonaire, the Labour candidate.

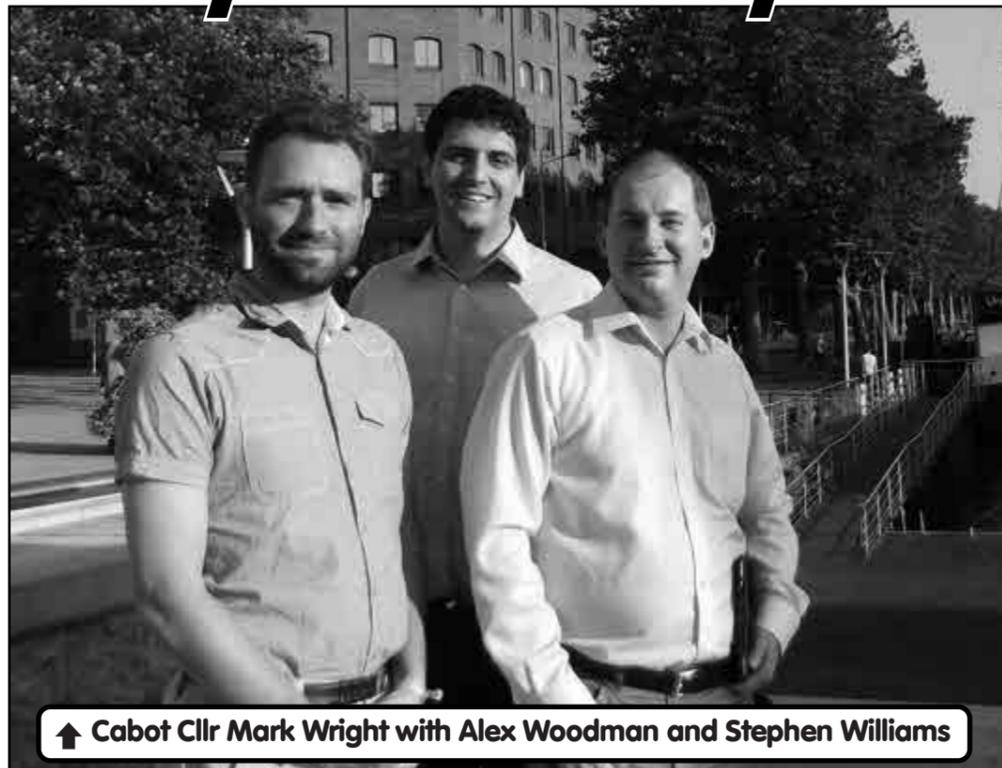
Alex says, "It has been a real privilege to serve as your councillor and I wish Ani the best in her new role. I have always told people that I think Cabot ward is the best and most interesting area of the city to represent, and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you for the past eight years. In particular, if you were one of the 1,527 people who cast their vote for me on Thursday, I want to thank you for your support; and if you voted for one of the other parties' candidates, then I am sorry that we were not able to win you over on this occasion."

Stephen says, "It was a pleasure and a privilege to serve for ten years as the MP for Bristol West. I am of course disappointed not to be able to carry on representing you in Parliament. I am grateful for all the messages of commiseration, making it clear my defeat was not a reflection of my personal record but as a result of a combination of national reasons. I was blown away by an electoral hurricane that removed all but eight Liberal Democrat MPs."

"While many people did not like the Liberal Democrats forming a coalition government with the Conservatives, I still believe it was the right decision for the country and Bristol. While in government I and my colleagues were able to lift the poorest paid out of income tax, and thanks to the Pupil Premium schools like St Michael on the Mount and Colston's Primary have better resources to improve the results of children from poor families."

Cllr Mark Wright added, "I am absolutely gutted about the results. Alex and Stephen put their heart into the job of being a councillor and MP. Alex was a great ward partner and we worked together well for 8 years. I'm also worried at the prospect of an unrestrained Conservative majority government. Anybody who doubts that the Lib Dems have had a moderating effect on the Conservatives over the past five years is about to learn what a full Conservative government is really like. Losing both Alex and Stephen, leaves just me in the Cabot Lib Dem Team... for now."

"But we Lib Dems are not dead, and we will rebuild in the UK and in Bristol. Already we have had an unprecedented surge of membership - up by a third since the election. We will continue serving the local community as we have done over the years. **If you want to help, in any way, please let us know by emailing us or using the contact form on the back page.**"



↑ Cabot Cllr Mark Wright with Alex Woodman and Stephen Williams

Bristol libraries under threat

In March, residents across Bristol reacted with shock to a proposal to close 7 local libraries by Green Party councillor Daniella Radice, who is in charge of the library service under the Mayor. Since then, opposition to the closures has been strong. While most Cabot residents are lucky enough to have the Central Library as their nearest, some will be affected by the proposed closure of Redland and Clifton libraries.

The Mayor has now said that no closures will go ahead before May (which just happens to be when the next elections are!) Though this is just a stay of execution, it does give time to find alternative ways of keeping the libraries open. For now, Lib Dems will be working with all councillors to find ways of keeping the libraries open.

Mark says: "Of course the Internet has reduced lots of demand for books, but when Lib Dems were running the libraries we understood the continuing great importance they have as community hubs and general learning centres. We built two new libraries, and saved money when needed by co-locating them with other services and also by innovative changes like self-serve book check-outs. There is no need for closures."

MetroBus works in Redcliffe

Works to improve Redcliffe roundabout for MetroBus started in May. The improvements include:

- Widening the footway on the south west side of the roundabout to create more space for pedestrians and cyclists, and resurfacing the road by the roundabout.
- Improving pedestrian crossing on Redcliffe Bridge and Redcliffe Way.
- Reducing the size of the roundabout to improve capacity and prevent large vehicles from over-running the central island.

The works last till the end of July. You can get more info about the build from this site: www.metrobusbuild.info

The Council is also surveying Bathurst Basin to help design the new bridge there. The new bridge will improve capacity and provide a new shared footpath/cycleway. The shared path will create a continuous route along the Avon New Cut to the Chocolate Path. The existing bridge will carry east bound traffic. The new bridge will carry west bound traffic lane and the new shared space footway/cycleway.



The site of the new Bathurst basin bridge by the old swing-bridge

Newsletters all year round, not just at election time

Working all year round, not just for elections

Kingsdown RPZ review

As a result of the most recent review (consulted on waaaay back in October 2014!) it was decided to proceed to statutory consultation with regard to a number of amendments to the scheme. These can be summarised as follows:

- An increase in the free parking available in pay & display parking places from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to support community facilities.
- The introduction of a new permit pricing structure.
- The provision of increased flexibility for organisations by enabling them to apply for any combination of business and customer permits.
- The extension of the scheme boundary to include Belgrave Road, Elmdale Road, Priory Road, Tyndall's Park Road and West Park and some properties on Stokes Croft.
- The conversion of Woodland Road between its junction with Cotham Hill and Tyndall's Park Road to a dual permits street, which enables Cotham permit holders to park in the permit holders' only bays.

The consultation led 4 minor adjustments to the parking in individual streets. Cabot councillor Mark Wright says "I am extremely frustrated by the delays in implementing the proposed changes to the Kingsdown and Cotham RPZs, and starting the roll out of the Spike Island RPZ. In both cases, we had expected the work to be completed by now, and it has been delayed by a shortage of capacity in the highways department whilst they are also working on numerous other RPZs around the city. Cotham councillor Anthony Negus and I warned that this would likely be the case, and that the Council should not attempt to roll out so many schemes at the same time."



↑ Cotham Cllr Anthony Negus (L) and Cabot Cllr Mark Wright (R) and have worked together on RPZ issues in Cotham/Kingsdown, like this spot

Boundary review says Cabot ward WILL be abolished!

The independent Boundary Commission has now completed its review of Bristol, and sadly they did not listen to substantial local submissions arguing for a better divide of the city centre area, and will go ahead with their proposed changes that abolish the ward of Cabot and create two new wards in its place: "Central", and "Hotwells and Harbourside". The Commission's report for Bristol is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/nuszdeu>

In summary, Kingsdown will move into Cotham ward, while Brandon Hill and Harbourside will become the new single-councillor "Hotwells and Harbourside" ward, and the rest of old Cabot ward will become two-councillor "Central" ward. Park St and the harbour will be the boundary between the two new wards.

The changes proposed for Bristol must now be implemented by Parliament, and will be implemented for the local elections in 2016. Mark Wright and Ani Stafford-Townsend will continue to be the councillors for the existing Cabot ward until the whole council and mayoral elections in May 2016.

Speed table at Tyndall's Park Road/Woodland

Cabot News reported well over a year ago that there would be pedestrian crossing measures at the Tyndall's Park Road/Woodland Road junction, after Mark secured extra funding from the University to help with costs. This has taken much longer to deliver than we would have liked, but it is finally out to statutory consultation. The proposed road hump will encourage motorists to reduce speed as they approach the junction and to maintain a lower speed as they pass through it.



Other Local News in Brief...

Carriageworks update

Since the Planning Committee in early April (chaired by former Cabot Cllr Alex Woodman) where they failed to get planning permission, Fifth Capital have been working up revised proposals. More info here: <http://tinyurl.com/o3ta3px>

New Zebra crossing on Jacobs Wells Road

The Jacobs Wells Community Hub is a new community/residents group on the side of Brandon Hill. They have just launched a petition for a new Zebra crossing on Jacobs Wells Road: <http://tinyurl.com/nn4nnff>

Contact your local Cabot Lib Dems

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Help the liberal fight-back! Contact us: ↓ or ➡

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