



'Thank you' from the Cotham Team

Unfortunately, at the May 7th General Election, Ian Townsend was unsuccessful in being elected as your local councillor, losing out to the Green Party candidate.

Ian said, "While the general election was only a few months ago, it feels like an age. It was a difficult night for the party, nationally in Bristol West and locally in Cotham and other wards. The results were obviously very disappointing.



Some may not have supported the coalition, but Britain was better for the influence of the party. As your local candidate for Cotham, I believe I would have been a strong voice for you on ward and city-wide issues and I would like to thank all the 1,722 people who supported me with their vote on 7 May. I congratulate your new councillor, Dani Glazzard, and hope she will continue the hard work Cotham has come to expect from its Lib Dem team.

While it was a busy 8 months getting out and about in the ward and a very busy run-up to the election itself, I have really enjoyed meeting local residents and understanding the issues – like untidy streets, speeding, library services and parking issues – that matter to you.

I also want to thank all those in the ward and beyond who helped out in the election campaign, our local deliverers, those who went canvassing door to door so we could stay in touch with local issues, and those who also helped out on election day.

The silver lining of the election has been the huge increase in membership nationally and locally. With fresh elections in May 2016 for mayor and all 70 of Bristol's councillors, this is fantastic news.

If you want to join the Lib Dem fight-back and a strong liberal and progressive voice for Bristol in 2016, please consider joining the party, or helping out in any way you can – no amount of help you can give is too small!"

Councillor Anthony Negus said, "Ian Townsend and I worked very well together in Cotham over the last year and I am obviously disappointed not to have him working alongside me as a councillor."

Despite coming second in the council elections in May for the first time in many years, with Labour and the Conservatives trailing, I and my Liberal Democrat colleagues in Bristol remain committed to all of you in Cotham and will be campaigning hard over the coming months to regain the support we have valued, and I hope earned, for so long. **I remain your LibDem councillor in this area and normal service has not been interrupted.** It is a great honour and pleasure to serve the community in which I have lived and been involved for over 35 years.

I remain committed to a major role in assuring the best future for Redland Library and our waste services where regular readers will have been following my campaigns in Focus. I support our increasingly effective BCR Neighbourhood Partnership as much as possible and I am Cotham's tree champion, committed to initiatives to keep this area leafy, sustainable and a great place to live. I have a passion for working with others to improve where we live and how we live alongside each other. I spent my working life as an Architect, much of it on conservation work, and have very high ideals. But being a local champion and councillor has taught me the need to listen and understand often different points of view and to steer a path, not necessarily the one I would have chosen, to a deliverable outcome. Getting things done, pragmatism, is essential.



Cllr Negus with local activist Miles Taylor

Thanks to everyone (just shy of 100%!) who responded to Ian and I and the rest of our team with kindness and good will. We are all so lucky to live in a great area of a wonderful city. If anyone has any problems or concerns, or want to find out more about what I am trying to do, please do not hesitate to contact me and the team using the details overleaf.

Changes to Waste Management

Waste management and street cleaning have featured a lot in Focus as Anthony has been trying to get the council to hold the operators to their contract. With some years to run, Kier and BCC have mutually agreed to end the waste contract and this is now being managed temporarily by the city, for at least one year, until it can be re-tendered.

Anthony says "The ambitious waste and recycling system which the LibDem Administration introduced some years ago had a promising start that saw our recycling rates and environmental disposal soar above the national average and massively reduced our dependency on landfill, saving the city millions of pounds and paving the way for the LibDem bid for Bristol to be European Green Capital. The original contractor was taken over by Kier and the city has fallen back since 2012 to below average recycling rates which are rising nationally. As our population rises so this rate falls in Bristol for which, in green capital year, the Mayor and the responsible Green Party Asst. Mayor should be ashamed. The Lib Dems set up green capital to be about sustainability for future years, not as an opportunity for unearned electoral benefit".

Few of the initiatives built-in to the original contract have been developed. Now the service, back in-house, can be reviewed and this has started under the eye of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission. Already a list of 26 new and lapsed priorities has been drawn up by the LibDem group leader following the series of meetings Anthony had with waste officers, as reported. Alternative solutions for flats, communal bin and recycling areas that are properly landscaped and emptied very regularly, and better enforcement should by now have been explored, along with best practice from other cities.

Anthony adds "This service must once again be given the attention it has lacked since 2012 with the mayor and his team passing over essentials in the city. The mayor has just turned down the much-needed recycling centre in South Bristol, despite LibDems getting it into the Budget in 2012. This is vital to minimise waste before disposal and to reduce fly-tipping."

A farewell from Stephen Williams

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."

Lib Dems... working hard all year round!

Cotham ward boundaries set to change

Following a multi-year review, involving consultations with the public, political parties and interest groups, the Boundary Commission has completed its review of Bristol, and there are some changes coming to your area ahead of the May 2016 elections.



Boundary changes are coming to your area

The present Cotham ward is being re-shaped, sadly moving away from Whiteladies Road but taking up parts of Kingsdown. The new boundaries stretch from Hampton Road/Elgin Park and St. Michaels Hill in the west, Redland Hill and Redland Road to the north, Cheltenham Road to the east and Dove Street, Alfred Hill, Alfred Place and Mertyl Road in the south. If you have received this Focus leaflet, you are a resident of the present and new 'Cotham' ward. These changes have brought some of Cabot ward into Cotham and some of Cotham ward will become a part of Clifton Down, which has a strong LibDem presence.



The changes have been brought in to ensure that each councillor is responsible for a similar number of households, allowing them to serve you effectively. For those of you receiving this Focus, Anthony Negus (Cotham) remains your Lib Dem councillor, and he and local campaigner Miles Taylor will be fighting hard for you and your vote next May. As the changes are implemented, your local Lib Dem team will keep you informed on how they affect you.

Redland Library saved

The news that Redland Library is not to close has been greeted with relief by local residents. Anthony says "This has been a long campaign starting in the spring with the blow that Redland was one of seven libraries under threat, despite it being one of the most heavily used in the city. It has some maintenance problems and was not needed to achieve the suggested 1.5 mile journey to any library city-wide. I investigated the issues and set up meetings to gather support. Residents and the Friends of Redland Library (FoRL) put in a lot of valuable work. I sought solutions to the building's problems and wrote a detailed submission on a number of options for its creative future. My first question after the announcement was why was the council addressing 7, rather than all 28 libraries?"

That is now the answer with staffed hours to be reduced across the city and a series of options about taking the service forward to be brought to Cabinet in September.

"We now have to ensure that we get the best out of our library service, and this much-loved building when staffed and with card-access and volunteers. The hard work by local people really starts here. There is an opportunity to get much more from this facility, and, with scope for investment we could make it more suitable for wider community use as well". If you want to help, please send your details to Anthony who will pass them on to FoRL.

The Liberal Democrats fought hard to protect libraries when were the Administration, before the mayoral system. We refurbished six libraries across the city, opened a new one in Whitchurch, built the new Junction 3 library and started the Bishopston library project. Our determination remains to make this one of the best library services in the country.

Neighbourhood Partnership Community Fair

BCR NP Community Fair: Little Grants Big Ideas



The Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership warmly invites you to get involved in our Community Fair. The BCR NP is hosting this event on Saturday 19th September from 12.30 - 4.30 pm at the church of St Michael and All Angels, on Pigsty Hill, Gloucester Road BS7 8NT.

Come along and tell us about your ideas for projects to improve where we live, with the possibility of small grants to help make them real

Scrutinising Bristol's decisions

Anthony is Chair of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee this year, trying to ensure that good decisions are properly made in the council. With Waste, Libraries, and Neighbourhood Partnerships, Parks, some aspects of Public Health and Licensing and crossover with other committees, it is going to be a busy and important committee.

Anthony says "When a cabinet member, one of my responsibilities was for all aspects of Housing, from causes of homelessness to initiating the building of the first new council houses for 30 years and raising standards within the private rented sector. So I have focused on setting up a Housing Inquiry Day to look at how we can monitor and maximise our performance in achieving the city's ambitions across all departments. Finding somewhere to live in this city, across the board, is one of its worst issues and I intend to ensure we flush out any weaknesses in our system, and learn from others, here and abroad.

Supermarkets

City taxpayers, all of you, pick up the cost of dealing with issues from other sectors. Sometimes these are simply not properly enforced. It is a nonsense that BCC is getting so much money from parking and traffic fines, but is reducing resources on similar efforts to improve behaviour on waste, which costs us dearly.

"So I have written to all the major supermarkets, as a start," says Anthony, "to ask their intentions about specific parts of their operations like food waste, packaging (specially that which it is difficult for BBC to dispose), labelling and modes/times of delivery and home shopping distribution. I also want to find out how responsive they might be to local initiatives. We have to find new ways of 'greening', even competitively, and that might also start a conversation that leads to savings for the City, and all of us"

My problem, opinion, query or suggestion is :

NAME

TEL

A D D R E S S

Please return to: Cotham Lib Dems, FREEPOST RSKZ-STLK-BUYA, Bristol, BS7

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats may use the information to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. You can opt out of

- I want to help make a difference in Cotham by...
- Voting for the Lib Dem
 - Delivering leaflets
 - Making a donation
 - Joining the Lib Dems
 - Helping in other ways



Get in touch...

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