

Andrew Brown and Natalie Jester

ARENA DECISION DEFERRED

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At a planning committee meeting on Wednesday 2 March, Councillors voted to defer the planning applications for the Arena development, which could delay progress by several months.

Councillors on all sides were particularly concerned about the lack of a plan outlining how Arena visitors would get to the venue, and how Park and Ride arrangements would work.

This came the day after the Mayor approved an additional £28 million of expenditure on the Arena site but kicked out proposals for an 8 storey car park on the site of Kwik Fit after widespread objections, including from Andrew and Natalie.

The deferral was supported by Tory and most Labour members on the committee, and came before Lib Dem attempts to impose a number of conditions on the developers could be considered.

These included proposals for the Arena to fund RPZs for local residents - in line with our petition - as well as supporting Green Party moves to double provision for cycle parking.

Commenting, Andrew said: "Natalie and I are keen to see the Arena built, and for local residents to benefit from improved infrastructure. Now that the process has been delayed, we hope local residents' concerns can be fully addressed."

Kay Barnard, Lib Dem candidate for Mayor added "If elected I would review the Arena and associated developments to see how these can benefit local residents as well as the wider city.

"In particular, I want to see improvements for pedestrians and cyclists between Temple Meads and Totterdown, and changes to the Three Lamps Junction to allow north bound traffic to turn right from Wells Road onto Bath Road."



Local campaigners, Andrew Brown and Natalie Jester, discuss petition responses

655 people, mostly in Totterdown and Knowle, signed our petition calling for the Arena to fund Residents Parking Zones to protect residents from parking by arena visitors. In addition, 591 people signed to say they wanted a right hand turn at Three Lamps Junction.

WHaM launches its vision with a bang!

Over 100 local residents packed into the Windmill Hill Community Centre on 17th February for a presentation of the Windmill Hill and Malago Community Planning Group's alternative vision for the land around the Malago Road, at the foot of Windmill Hill (pictured above).

Developers Urbis - who already have planning permission for a 16-storey block at St Catherine's Place - are exploring options for the area, with initial plans including a number of high rise blocks of up to 11 floors.

WHaM have been working on proposals for a sustainable, high density, low-rise scheme - and intend on negotiating with Urbis as well as making representations to the Council.

Contact whamalago@gmail.com to find out more.



St Catherine's Place - site of new 16 storey development

Complete our Survey

Andrew, Natalie and the team have been out knocking on doors and talking to residents.

Andrew says "It's always great to speak to people and hear their concerns and priorities for our community. That's why we put together our survey and are out regularly speaking to as many people as possible"

Complete the survey online at <http://www.tinyurl.com/WindmillHillSurvey>

Keep up to date with the team

Find us on Facebook and Twitter:

 www.facebook.com/WindmillHillFocusTeam

 www.twitter.com/WHFocusTeam

Or contact Andrew and Natalie directly:

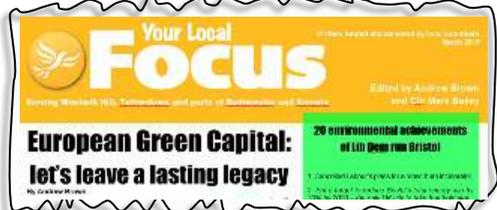
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Working hard all year round - not just election time

A Green Capital legacy?

Back in March last year, Focus called for Bristol's year as European Green Capital to leave a lasting legacy:



Bristol Lib Dems launched (with cross-party support) what became the successful bid for Green Capital 2015. Our aim was a lasting change of attitude, investment in practical ways of better living and an increase in the city's sustainability. Should we be happy with what has been achieved?

Well, there has been some positive investment in educating schoolchildren on the importance of greener ways of living.

There have also been many conferences and much discussion of the key issues and best practice in tackling climate change and sustainable living.

Best practice means little when many key indicators are moving in the wrong direction: waste recycling rates have fallen badly and air quality is not improving.

We can't help feeling that in many ways, the year has been a missed opportunity, with too much focus on the temporary and aesthetic and not enough on changing behaviours and advancing new green technologies.

Although Green Capital year is over, it's not too late to secure a legacy - but the Mayor and Council must take the lead and work with community groups, small businesses and technology innovators across the city.



By Dr Kay Barnard, Lib Dem candidate for Bristol Mayor.

Bristol's European Green Capital year is over with millions of pounds of taxpayers funds having been invested in making it happen. It is currently not clear, beyond the broadest of headings, how this public money was spent.

Former Lib Dem MP, Stephen Williams, secured £7 million of money from the UK Government to spend on Green Capital projects. This was on top of £1m invested by the Council, and various private sponsorships of the event.

The Bristol Liberal Democrats are calling on the Mayor to publish detailed accounts of Bristol 2015 Ltd, the council-owned company set up to manage Bristol's year as Green Capital.

Transparency is a key principle of democracy. Without knowing how the council spends your money, how can we hold it to account? Those responsible for spending public funds should act in an open and transparent manner. I want to see how taxpayers' hard-earned money has been spent over the last year.

It is great to see people across the parties and outside politics join our campaign and add their voices to the demands for openness. I would urge all residents to sign our petition now.

The petition can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hasb5c2>



Kay Barnard with Andrew Brown and Lib Dems from across South Bristol

Get on with it! That's the message that Bristol Lib Dems have about the proposed Household Recycling centre on Hartcliffe Way. Originally planned by the Lib Dems, there has been no progress since the Mayor took office.

Andrew says: "With recycling rates falling in recent years, it is vital that the Council take a lead in providing recycling facilities and encouraging their use. For many across South Bristol and Windmill Hill ward, the recycling centre on Hartcliffe Way will be much easier to reach in comparison to other existing sites. Decreasing the waste going to landfill should be part of Bristol's Green Capital legacy."

Cameron fires Referendum Starting Gun

After several months of negotiations, the Government has negotiated a number of changes to our relationship with the European Union, and the long anticipated EU Referendum will take place on June 23rd.

Andrew, Natalie and the Bristol Liberal Democrats will be working with people from across the political spectrum to promote the benefits of remaining in.

To get involved with the cross-party campaign, visit www.strongerin.co.uk - and to find out more about the reasons Lib Dems support remaining in the EU, visit <http://www.libdems.org.uk/europe>



Victory For CHOICE FOR BRISTOL

Liberal Democrats have been successful in getting a change to the law to allow Bristol the same rights as any other English cities.

Under the change, accepted by Government after former Bristol Council Leader Barbara Janke piloted an amendment through the House of Lords, Bristolians could now have a future referendum to decide on whether or not having a mayor is the best system for the city.

Commenting, Natalie said: "Quite apart from what people think about the current mayoral system, it was clearly wrong that other cities had the ability to change systems and Bristol didn't."

Any future referendum couldn't be held until 2022 at the earliest, meaning the current system will be in place for at least six more years before any potential change.

All change for Windmill Hill ward

In May, people across Bristol will be electing their Mayor and a new council. Here in Windmill Hill ward, both your existing councillors are standing down.

Andrew and Natalie would like to thank Sam and Deb for their work over the past couple of years and wish them well for the future.

Sam Mongon, who beat Andrew by 7 votes in 2014 and Deb Joffe, who won last year, have both decided not to seek election again.

Andrew says: "Having stood against both retiring councillors, I know the work involved and have a lot of respect for what they have done over the past couple of years."