



Edited by Andrew Brown

# Arena parking 'update' - still no answers from the mayor

Liberal Democrat campaigners and councillors continue to seek answers on how the Arena will accommodate the transport needs of people attending concerts and events.

With the opening scheduled just two years from now, details of how public transport links will be improved to cope with up to 12,000 visitors have yet to be published - along with details of how the city will deal with parking for those who wish to drive.

**Unlike any other major project of this kind, there is no parking on site.**

Local residents we speak to are concerned that this will mean people (who could be coming from areas with poor transport links such as parts of Somerset and Wiltshire or the Welsh valleys) will seek out free parking on the streets of Totterdown and Lower Knowle

At Full Council in July, Labour, Tories and Lib Dems all backed a motion calling for parking issues to be reconsidered - whilst the Green Party was split.

## Petition

A new petition, calling for the Arena to pay for the costs of implementing Residents' Parking Zones to prevent people parking in the streets of Totterdown and Lower Knowle has now been launched.

Former councillor, Mark Bailey, said: "I'm delighted that Andrew and the team are continuing to campaign on this issue, which was something I questioned the mayor on many times."

You can sign it online at:

[www.bristolarenapetitions.co.uk](http://www.bristolarenapetitions.co.uk)



## Our Priorities for Bristol - Our Priorities for you.

### Fairer Council Tax

We will make Council Tax fairer for all the citizens of Bristol - retaining help for the poorest and spreading the burden.

### A Cleaner, Greener City

We will increase recycling rates (which have been falling) open a South Bristol Recycling Centre and increase green energy generation.

### Better Transport For All

We will make our buses run better, make cycling easier, increase Park & Rides and improve our roads and pavements for all users.

### A City Of Sport & Culture

We will promote Bristol's creative culture and invest in its venues. We will build the Bristol East Pool and improve sports facilities across the city.

### Power To People

We will devolve more power to local areas, increase and improve scrutiny of the Mayor's decisions and improve democracy in Bristol.

### Better Housing

We will reduce rough sleeping and work to house the homeless, improve care for the elderly and improve standards in the rental sector.

## An opportunity to improve the Three Lamps Junction



The Three Lamps.

As well as top class international acts, jobs and the promise of further developments, the Arena will also bring chances to make changes to improve the lives of Bristolians - with changes to the transport infrastructure being part of this.

This will include improved pedestrian and cycling routes into the city (and hopefully an end to the current crowded pavement/cycle lane over the railway next to the Arena site).

Another potential improvement that could be made as part of the wider transport plan, is to allow traffic to turn right at the bottom of Wells Road onto Bath Road. This will save traffic travelling from or through Totterdown towards Brislington from having to travel all the way down to the Bath Bridge roundabout before doubling back: adding to pollution and congestion as well as lengthening journeys.

Sign our petition requesting this change: [www.bristolarenapetitions.co.uk](http://www.bristolarenapetitions.co.uk)

## Our new Labour MP abstains on Welfare Bill!

Residents across our area were shocked recently when our brand new Labour MP Karin Smyth **abstained** on the Tory government's Welfare Bill, effectively giving it a free ride as it passed its "Second Reading" in Parliament.

The Bill contains a number of measures aimed at reducing the Social Security budget by £12bn over the course of the next few years. These include reducing the cap on what households can receive, restricting benefits to under 21s, freezing a number of benefits and cutting others.

Local campaigner, Andrew Brown, said "Many of these measures were ones opposed by the Liberal Democrats

in government - at a time when Labour opposed every budget and reform proposal.

"It is particularly galling, therefore, that they didn't oppose the first major welfare reforms brought forward by a Tory Government.

"We opposed the Tories plans for these £12bn cuts during the election campaign and I was pleased to see our new leader, Tim Farron, lead our MPs in voting against.

"It's a shame that our new MP wasn't one of the handful of Labour members who did vote against too."

# Working hard all year round - not just election time

# CHOICE FOR BRISTOL: New petition calls for equality for the city

When Bristol voted to have a Mayor, the government took away our right to change the way we are governed in future. We became the only city in England with a mayor, but without the right to change that in future.

Other cities have held referendums to abolish their mayors: some have changed system and some haven't - *but the citizens have had the chance to decide for themselves.*

Last year, our petition to the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government gained thousands of signatures from people all across the City. A motion calling for this power gained support from all parties - and the mayor - at December's meeting of Full Council.

In July, the former Lib Dem Leader of Bristol City Council, Baroness Barbara Janke, was successful in getting an amendment in the

government's Cities Bill that would give Bristol the same rights as other places with mayors.

The next step is for the amendment to be adopted by the House of Commons - that's why we have set up a new petition asking the new Secretary of State to accept the amendment and ensure that this inequality is corrected.

You can find the petition at

[www.choiceforbristol.com](http://www.choiceforbristol.com)

Please read and sign it there - or let us know if you would like a paper copy.



Andrew on a visit to Marksbury Road Library

## Marksbury Road Library

Following a campaign run by local residents against proposals brought forward by the Mayor and his Green Party Assistant, Daniella Radice, Marksbury Road Library has been saved along with six other Libraries that had been earmarked for closure.

Instead, the council is to look at a series of other savings - including reduced opening hours - as well as ways in which more regular use can be made of the library buildings.

Andrew, who had submitted his own statement in support of Marksbury Road to the Mayor's cabinet in March, said that he was delighted that the previously announced delay to any closure was now permanent.

## Road Surfaces/Line Painting

Many local residents are annoyed about recent resurfacing works on St. John's Lane and Wells Road.

The process, known as "surface dressing" involves gravel being deposited on a layer of tar & left to become embedded in the surface.

Andrew is concerned about the short notice given when worked commenced - and the timescale for painting new lines on the road.

He has raised this with the Council and will question the mayor if the new lines have still not been painted by the next Council Meeting.

## Get in Touch

We are happy to hear from you with ideas for campaigns, offers of help or queries.

The best way to get in touch is to email Andrew, but you can also call him or send him a letter - or use the slip below.

[andrewcbrownuk@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcbrownuk@gmail.com)

07595 733961

27 Park St, Totterdown, BS4 3BL

## Windmill Hill Ward Boundary Changes

Following a two-stage consultation process, the new boundaries for Bristol's Council Wards have been released by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

These come into effect next year, when the whole Council will be up for election along with the position of Mayor.

For Windmill Hill Ward, there are a handful of changes: Lynton Road and the streets off it, along with the odd-numbered side of Marksbury Road will move into Filwood Ward: this is the last Windmill Hill Focus that we'll deliver in those areas.

The ward will be expanded to include all of the even-numbered side of Marksbury Road, Malago Park, Bedminster Road as far as the library, as well as Shepton Walk, Honeywick Close, St. Dunstan's Road, Clinton Road and Francis Road. Welcome to these new residents!

# Let us know what you think of Focus

Did you find this edition of Focus informative?

Yes  No

Are there any local issues you think we should have mentioned? (Elaborate in comment box)

Yes  No

Focus can only be produced and delivered with the help of volunteers. Could you spare an hour or two every couple of months or so to help distribute it?

Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Comment Box - let us know what's on your mind.

**Return to: Windmill Hill Liberal Democrats, Freepost RSKZ-STLK-BUYU, Bristol BS7 8ND - No Stamp Required**