

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green,
Bristol, BS1 5TR

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services

City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE

Tel: 0117 3526162

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 1 December 2023



Agenda

6. Public Petitions, Statements and Questions

Public forum items can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affects the city. Submissions will be treated in order of receipt and as many people shall be called upon as is possible within the time allowed within the meeting. Due to the cancellation of the November Full Council meeting, 45 minutes has been allocated for Public Forum at this meeting. **(Pages 3 - 116)**

Further rules can be found within our Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Please note that the following deadlines apply to this meeting:

- a. Public petitions and statements: Petitions and written statements must be received by 12 noon on Friday 8 December 2023 at latest. One written statement per member of the public is permitted.
- b. Public questions: Written public questions must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 6 December 2023 at latest. A maximum of 2 questions per member of the public is permitted. Questions should be addressed to the Mayor or relevant Cabinet Member.

Public forum items should be e-mailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Signed



Proper Officer
Friday, 1 December 2023



Public Forum

Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023



Agenda

1. Public Petitions Received

November Petitions		
Ref No	Name	Title
PP01	Bristol Allotment Forum	Hosepipe Ban

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2. Public Statements Received

November Statements		
Ref No	Name	Title
PS01	Suzanne Audrey	Appointment of Independent Persons
PS02	Jen Smith	Independent Inquiry into the facts, faults and failings surrounding 'Send surveillance
PS03	Donna Sealey	Support for Just Transition Declaration at Full Council
PS04	Karen Self	Golden Motion
PS05	Mike Oldreive	Appointment of Independent Persons for Coun Complaints
PS06	Suzanne Wilson	The Just Transition declaration
PS07	Sian Ellis-Thomas	Values & Ethic Committee
PS08	Abdul Malik Easton Easton Jamia Mosque	The ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing in G
PS09	Keep Bristol Moving	East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood.
PS10	Norman Zahn	15 Minute Cities
PS11	Lesley Powell	Code of Conduct Complaints
PS12	Bristol Allotment Forum	Allotment Hosepipe Bans
PS13	Sally Bowman	Golden Motion
PS14	Mubashar Chaudry	Show Solidarity with Innocent Civilians
PS15	Dan Ackroyd	Value and Ethics
PS16	David Redgewell	Transport

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PS17	Lori Streich	Golden Motion
PS18	Ellie Keen	Israeli Colours
PS19	Megs Smith	Electric Vehicles

December Statements		
Ref No	Name	Title
PS01	Rana Basharat Ali Khan	Urgent Appeal for Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza
PS02	Robin Hambleton SEND Alliance for St Christopher's	The Asset of Community Value (ACV) application St Christopher's School site
PS03	Rachael Fagan	Arts
PS04	Tina Legg	Call for a Ceasefire in Gaza.
PS05	Paul Constant	Cuts Proposed for The Watershed
PS06	Nigel Varley	Gilton House in Brislington
PS07	Cara Lavan	Funds from the Cultural Investment Programme
PS08	Keith Way	Planning Confidence
PS09	Cat Smith	Loss of Confidence in Bristol's Planning System
PS10	Danica Priest	Loss of confidence in Bristol's planning system
PS11	Mubashar Chaudhry	Cease Fire
PS12	Catherine Withers	Loss in Confidence in Bristol's planning departm
PS13	Anita Bennett	St. Christopher's School is an Asset of Communi Value
PS14	Mhairi Threfall	Childcare is infrastructure
PS15	Carrie Sage	Loss of confidence in Bristol's Planning System
PS16	Robert Dixon Bristol Rail Campaign	Lack of interest in ensuring opportunities for bu rail interchange at our local stations
PS17	Martin Garrett	Public Transport
PS18	Helen Hughes	East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood: cleaning th air, improving road safety, and Net Zero
PS19	Elena and Murray Cross	Loss of Confidence in Bristol's planning system
PS20	Kim Hicks	Proposed Cuts to Arts and Culture
PS21	Nikki Jones	Planning System

3. Public Questions Received

November Questions		
Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Lena Wright	RPZ Consultation
PQ02	Molly Sherlaw-Fryer	Food Sustainability Motion
PQ03	Dan Ackroyd	Arena Island
PQ04	Mike Oldreive	Independent Persons
PQ05	Jenny Harrison	Food Sustainability Motion
PQ06	Suzanne Audrey	Independent Persons
PQ07	Harry Simpson	Bus Services
PQ08	Jen Smith	Independent Persons
PQ09	Keith Farley	Independent Persons

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PQ10	Lesley Powell	Independent Persons
PQ11	Railfuture Severnside	Mass Transit and Transport Levy
PQ12	Bristol Disability Equalities Forum	Transport Accessibility
PQ13	Tim Hayes	Events at Lloyds Amphitheatre
PQ14	Veronica Wignall	Food Advertising
PQ15	Martin Rands	Avon Crescent
PQ16	Withdrawn	
PQ17	Sian Ellis Thomas	Member Code of Conduct
PQ18	Joe Banks	Member Code of Conduct
PQ19	Megs Smith	Net Zero Transport
PQ20	Megs Smith	5G Masts
PQ21	Keep Bristol Moving	East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhoods

December Questions

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Rachael Fagan	Arts Funding
PQ02	Joanna Booth	US Embassy
PQ03	Danica Priest	Yew Tree Farm
PQ04	Ian Pond	Greenbank View
PQ05	Stephen Williams	Canford Lane
PQ06	Sally Kent	Children with EHCPs
PQ07	Adam Chivers	Planning Petition
PQ08	Rob Dixon	Ashley Down Station
PQ09	Mark Ashdown	Local Government Act
PQ10	Derek Giovanni	St Johns Lane
PQ11	Jack Slater	Plant Based Motion
PQ12	Sally Roberts	Barton House
PQ13	Rayhan Ismail	Barton House
PQ14	Nicholas Watts	Bristol Zoo Gardens
PQ15	Chantelle Osmond	Barton House
PQ16	Jama Hussein	Barton House
PQ17	Jamila Sajid	Barton House
PQ18	Syeda Ahmed	Barton House
PQ19	Nigel Varley	Gilton House
PQ20	Wesley Bear	Barton House
PQ21	Fadumo Farah	Barton House
PQ22	Name withheld	Barton House
PQ23	Isaac Caffrey	Barton House



Issued by: Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services
City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE
E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk



PP 01 Bristol Allotment Forum – Hosepipe Ban (264 signatures)

We the undersigned support Bristol Allotments Forum in seeking to overturn the total hosepipe ban imposed by Bristol City Council (BCC) due to a perceived risk of contracting Legionnaire's Disease.

The Forum believes:

1. There is no proven evidence that legionella bacteria can be contracted through hosepipes connected to mains water supplies. No horticultural or public health body advocate such a ban.
2. Distributing harvested rainwater via a hose poses no risk whatsoever as bio-aerosols cannot be created.
3. The ban discriminates against persons with medical or disability issues.

Lifting the current unjustified ban is a pre-requisite of the Forum partnering with BCC to reduce mains water use by increasing rainwater storage and other eco-friendly practices such as mulching.

Bristol Allotments Forum enables plot holders to meet and discuss issues directly with BCC officers.

STATEMENT PS 01

Submitted by Suzanne Audrey

Title: Appointment of Independent Persons

At the Values and Ethics Committee on 9 October 2023 the Monitoring Officer stated that Independent Persons were appointed by the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services, and there was no requirement in the legislation stating that the appointment was made by Full Council.

A post-meeting clarification dated 20 October 2023 indicated: "The recent recruitment process for Independent Persons will require the ratification of those appointments by Full Council and it is anticipated that this will be at the next ordinary meeting of Full Council on 14 November." ([Public Pack\)Minutes Document for Values and Ethics Sub-Committee, 27/09/2021 13:00 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#))

Since the ratification of Mr Christopher Eskell on 10 September 2013 ([0910_mins2.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)) a number of Independent Persons have been appointed but not ratified by Full Council. However, we do not know how many, who they were, when they were appointed, and why Full Council was not asked to ratify them in line with Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.

This should not be dismissed as a minor issue that has been corrected by the ratification of three Independent Persons today. The public, and councillors, have the right to know who all the Independent Persons have been over the last 10 years.

Questions about this important issue have been submitted to Full Council today, and I hope they will be answered without evasion.

If clear responses are not provided, it seems inevitable that requests will be made through the Council's complaints procedure or Freedom of Information process which could lead to the involvement of the Legal Ombudsman, Local Government Ombudsman or Information Commissioner's Office.

Hopefully that will not be necessary and we will be provided with the information in response to our questions.

STATEMENT PS 02

Submitted by Jen Smith

Title: Independent Inquiry into the facts, faults and failings surrounding' Send surveillance

It's been over a year since Full Council voted for the Mayor to agree to hold a 'genuinely independent inquiry, conducted by the LGA or similar appropriate body into all the facts, faults and failings surrounding' Send surveillance.

The Mayor has not agreed to this. A complaint I made to the Monitoring Officer regarding this has been rejected, despite the entire incident bringing the city of Bristol into disrepute.

I wonder why the council has gone to such lengths to bury it. It makes a mockery of every single councillor who voted for the motion and shows Bristol to be undemocratic.

That the investigation never took place implies that the council has things to hide. I would also question how many residents have been subject to surveillance, for what purpose and how much data has been collated to profile people?

Make no mistake, the surveillance affects people's personal lives. Services have been withheld because of it and senior members of staff conspired to come up with plans in retaliation.

I have found people from external sources, the ICB and Bristol City Council all in discussion at one time or another regarding the data that had collected, shared and stored.

Bristol is a place where human rights breaches are council sanctioned and when called out, covered up.

STATEMENT PS 03

Submitted by Donna Sealey

Title: Support for Just Transition Declaration at Full Council 14.11

Ambition Lawrence Weston has been working closely with the other community climate action partners across the city and this level of work is so important to ensure that communities are not left behind by both the climate and ecological emergencies. Ambition Lawrence Weston fully supports the Just Transition Declaration principles to ensure that all local residents are not left behind and have communities have a fair and just transition to Britain's future.

STATEMENT PS 04

Submitted by Karen Self

Title: Golden Motion

I wish to show my support for the Golden Motion from Councillor Ellie King and make some additional points:-

- On dentistry, there is a national crisis in NHS provision caused by 13 years of Tory cutbacks and an inability to plan. It is a shame on this country that a prime cause of young children being admitted to hospital is a dental problem.
- There is a huge disparity in the city when it comes to healthcare, leading to poorer outcomes for more deprived parts of the city. For women living in Southmead life expectancy is 8 years lower than if you lived in Cotham. Child poverty in some parts of the city is chronic, leading to poor health outcomes in this demographic. A child in Westbury-on Trym / Henleaze is much more likely to be able to afford healthy food options and be able to access private healthcare than one in Lawrence Hill.

Levelling up is needed in the City and this can only be achieved by a government committed to providing funding to do this.

- There is a chronic need to increase the local provision of GP medical centres. Some practices have thousands of registered patients located in some of the most deprived areas of the city. The impact of this is people being unable to get through to a GP reception to make an appointment, leading to delays in treatment and poorer outcomes.
- BNSSG ICB needs to understand the needs of its population and react accordingly. As the manager of a mental health charity that is focussed co-production I welcome the roll out of the MINTs (although not the acronym!). But we must gauge the success of these delivery models by appropriate monitoring and be prepared to adapt them as required
- BNSSG ICB needs to understand the specific needs of the local community and put in place plans that reflect the demand of those communities. The 2021 census and local population modelling are key to this.
- Of personal note to me is the number of people who identify as transgender or non-binary in Bristol according to the census and the appalling provision of trans healthcare. Recently there was a case of a young trans woman who took her own life as she was unable to access timely healthcare on the NHS – a trans person who refers themselves to an NHS GP today can expect to wait 20 years for a first appointment!
- There is a crisis in mental health, the city needs to respond to this with an integrated approach by healthcare professionals, the VCSE sector and decision makers. I welcome the proposed resolution in the motion to carry out a strategic needs assessment of health care provision and bring that report back to Full Council, the Health and Wellbeing board and the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Prevention is better than cure and this is true for so many aspects of healthcare. The city needs to ensure that it publicises early interventions that can prevent worse outcomes. We need as a city to work as one to publicise things such as:-

- o Cancer screening (e.g. people with a cervix or a prostate, breast cancer screening)
- o Good oral hygiene (especially in children)
- o Preventative treatments (eg. Anastrozole for breast cancer, PrEP for HIV)
- o Physical exercise that is accessible for all

I urge all councillors to support this important motion

STATEMENT PS 05

Submitted by Mike Oldreive

Title: Appointment of Independent Persons for Councillor Complaints

Potentially Unlawful Actions Committed by the Monitoring Officer & Head of Legal Services -
Concerns about the Management of the Members' Complaints Process

Agenda item 14 is presented as a straightforward "ratification" of appointments. I believe that the Monitoring Officer (MO) and the Head of Legal Services (HOLS) may have acted unlawfully in past appointments of individuals to the role of Independent Person (IP), dating back as far as 2018, when the MO was appointed. I want to alert Members to the background to this Item and to ask them to NOT ratify these appointments until they have clear and absolute confirmations from the Monitoring Officer & the Chief Executive to the 3 issues below. Namely that:

1. IP appointments made to date (since 2018) have been made lawfully, and by extension whether any payments made to individuals were lawful. Also, that complainants' information shared with these 3rd parties could be lawfully shared under the terms of GDPR.
2. the "robust process" mentioned by the MO at para 8, Agenda Item 14 met all the requirements of section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, and that Members and the public have a full understanding of what this "robust process" was. [It refers to a "Council" process but who exactly was involved?]
3. None of these individuals had previously been instructed/appointed to any member complaints process by the Monitoring Officer or Head of Legal Services, nor been involved in any complaints work to date.

Background

I have attended the last 3 meetings of the Values & Ethics Sub-committee, which oversees the Members complaints process. The MO and HOLs responses & behaviours have been characterised by a lack of openness and accountability (under the reason of "confidentiality").

They have, amongst other items:

- refused to say how many IPs have been appointed in the past, the dates of appointment or the names of IPs
- failed to report to V&E significant delays to decide even if a complaint is valid (5 months in my case)
- failed to inform members that the reason for an update of the complaints process was a requirement of a LG Ombudsman findings report, which also asked that the Council apologise to me for the delay of 5 + months
- attempted to impose confidentiality on members of the public, and used perceived confidentiality breaches as a reason to refuse to decide complaints. (LGA guidance makes it clear that this is not possible to impose confidentiality on the public).
- attempted to cancel 25 September V&E on the grounds that there were "too many questions from public forum". A member of the public pointed out that this needed a member vote and Members voted to allow us to read our statements and had a brief discussion.

At 9 October V&E I asked the MO if he could confirm that the appointment of IPs by himself and Head of Legal Services met the requirements of s28 of the Localism Act. The MO answered:

“The process to appoint the IPs was carried out by myself & the HOLS. We advertised these roles; we undertook an interview process & we appointed a pool of independent persons. There is no requirement in the legislation, and in fact I think it would be a complete misreading of the legislation, to think that that appointment would need to be made by Full Council. Our constitution is clear that there's only some very discrete roles that are appointed by Full Council”. (this is a verbatim transcript from a video recording).

After the meeting I wrote to the Chief Executive to voice my concerns about this statement, as I now believed that the MO & HOLS may have acted unlawfully in making these appointments. A few days later Mr O’Gara wrote to me to “apologise for any confusion in the meeting” and said that: “Having reviewed the relevant legislation I would like to clarify the position ... the recent recruitment process for IPs will require the ratification of those appointments by Full Council”. Note that this correction does not extend clarify appointments made since 2018, or whether the individuals to be ratified today have already been working on complaints cases (without Member approval –which would be unlawful).

The MO did not attend V&E 3 November, so as of 7 November my questions as to the legality of the appointments made since 2018 remain unanswered and members have had only 1 meeting out of 3 to explore any concerns over the members' complaints process.

Conclusion

This issue of the process of IP appointments is not just a “technicality” and it is not a trivial matter. I believe that it may be an attempt to legitimise previous unlawful appointments. The Monitoring Officer has a lot of power: as regards members’ complaints his decision is final and cannot be challenged, as there is no right of appeal. This is why the integrity of the MO role is essential. The role of the IP is also a key backstop in the complaints process.

The Local Government Association says : It is vital that the public has confidence in the high standards of local government, and that there is transparency about the conduct of councillors and the mechanisms for dealing with alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct. Equally, it is vital that councillors themselves have confidence in these mechanisms, and that investigations into such complaints abide by the principles of natural justice.

How can the public (or Councillors) trust the process if the Monitoring Officer has acted unlawfully in the appointment of IPs?

The Monitoring Officer is the statutory officer responsible for the legal governance of a local authority . They have a legal duty to ensure councils fulfil statutory obligations and apply their codes of conduct. This includes investigating and reporting on anything the authority does that has the potential to be an illegal action.

In this case I believe that the Monitoring Officer himself (together with the Head of Legal Services) may have acted unlawfully in undertaking the appointment of IPs without regard to the relevant legislation and in particular, in excluding members from their lawful role in the IP recruitment and appointments process during his tenure.

STATEMENT PS 06

Submitted by Suzanne Wilson

Title: The Just Transition declaration

Climate impacts are most likely to affect those that are least likely to cause carbon emission and have least agency to protect themselves from the effects of climate change. The Just Transition declaration centres efforts to reduce climate emissions with the expertise of disadvantaged people, empowers them to take action and build resilience and stands in solidarity with those experiencing the worst climate and ecological impacts across the world.

The community climate action project has empowered 6 communities around Bristol to co-produce climate action plans and are now undertaking work to tackle the climate and ecological crisis led by those communities. By the end of our programme 18 communities across Bristol will have a co-produced action plan making a powerful network to provide community leadership and insight into a just transition to zero carbon Bristol. We hope the Just Transition will receive not just cross party support but create allies and advocates for it.

STATEMENT PS 07

Submitted by Sian Ellis-Thomas

Title: Values & Ethic Committee

I was present at the Values & Ethics committee meetings on 25th September and 9th October. Earlier this year I also attended and spoke at a meeting for the Committee System Working Group. Each time it was to shed light on the Member Code of Conduct and the systematic failure of the procedures behind it.

I am here today to do the same.

As stated in a report submitted to the Values & Ethic Committee on 25th September. From 17/10/22 until 25/8/23 there had been 13 complaints received. Since then, we know there have been a further three complaints. So in a period of 12 months (at least) 16 complaints have been received, with 50% of them being about a single member.

Not one of the complaints has been upheld by the Monitoring Officer.

More worrying, is that a recent FOI request has uncovered that not one single complaint has been upheld for the last 6 years. Nor have these results been submitted to the relevant committee.

If the members of this chamber are not concerned about these statistics, then you are not paying attention. Stats that should be indicating a red flag are being completely ignored thus enabling and encouraging further bad behaviour.

The Member Code of Conduct is in place to protect the public and officers from the bad behaviour of some members. Do you think we feel protected? We do not. We are being failed.

Without robust and transparent procedures behind it, any Member Code of Conduct is purely lip service.

There is a culture of covertness, an extreme lack of transparency, stock replies and apparent obfuscation when it comes to complaints. It appears that it is more expedient to dismiss all complaints and to keep the process as opaque as possible.

The MO role is that of a gatekeeper who is apparently impervious and this acts as a shield for all councillors and the leadership of the Council. There is no scrutiny of the MO's objectivity, fairness or decision making and having already admitted clear failures in process regarding data reporting and the appointment of Independent Persons, it is time to review the parameters of this role and to set in place more robust procedures that properly safeguard the public and restore trust in the complaints process.

We are asking you all to care more, question more and do more.

STATEMENT PS 08

Submitted by Hanin Aidy - Easton Jamia Mosque

Title: Profound Sorrow and Concern Over the Ongoing Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza

To the members of Bristol City Council

We gather here today to express our profound sorrow and concern over the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, which has resulted in the tragic loss of innocent lives, both among adults and children. The recent numbers of casualties paint a grim picture of the human toll this conflict has taken on the region.

We must stand united in our call for an immediate ceasefire to protect the lives of innocent children and adults who continue to suffer in this dire situation. The numbers of lives lost, both among adults and children, remind us of the urgent need for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

In addition to our call for a ceasefire, we urge the international community to ensure immediate access to food, clean water, and medical aid for Palestinians affected by the conflict. It is imperative that we address the basic humanitarian needs of the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.

The suffering of families, children, and adults trapped under the rubble of their homes is a harrowing consequence of this ongoing conflict, and we must prioritise their rescue and assistance. Their lives hang in the balance, and our duty is to act swiftly.

In the spirit of unity and solidarity with all affected parties, we propose that Bristol City Hall be illuminated in the colors of the Palestinian flag following the display of the colors of the Israeli flag. This gesture demonstrates our commitment to equality and peace for all, regardless of nationality or background. As a council, we must send a message that we value every human life and stand for peace and reconciliation in the face of tragedy.

Let us join together in condemning the violence and loss of life, and let our actions reflect our dedication to a future where all can live without fear and in harmony. We also wish to inform this council that our initial intention was to submit a petition to trigger a motion and discussion in this council following the successful gathering of the required petition signatures. However, due to the deadlines and procedures, democratic services have regrettably not allowed us to do so at this time. We have been informed that this intended action will be more likely to take place at the next council meeting in December, and we have a right to expect your understanding and support as we work to bring this matter to the council's attention.

Let us collectively work toward a resolution that not only calls for a ceasefire but also addresses the immediate humanitarian needs and the plight of those trapped under the rubble, as we await the opportunity to formally submit our petition for the intended council motion for a further discussion and contributions by council elected members at a future full council meeting.

STATEMENT PS 09

Submitted by Keep Bristol Moving

Title: Regarding East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood.

Since early summer it has stated, on a number of occasions, and through multiple channels (including the Mayor's blog) that there would be a full consultation on EBLN in autumn of this year.

This suggests that the original consultation was inadequate.

At a meeting on the 9th October I pressed the project manager for the details of the full consultation, he said "what we mean by full consultation is there will be an opportunity to object to the individual Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)".

To attempt to say what is meant by full consultation is the opportunity to object to each individual measure at the TRO application stage is ridiculous, as many members of the community would agree.

After the manager's statement at the meeting, I put it to him that he is tasked with getting this scheme in place come what may, regardless of public support.

Therefore cannot carry out a proper consultation, as it would expose the lack of support, and the scheme would not go ahead. He offered no reply.

As it is the intention to initially install two of these schemes, followed by two per year going forward, the consultation should be citywide.

Closing a large area to through traffic does not just affect those within the boundary, but also people from all over Bristol as well as its visitors.

This administration needs to do the right thing by the people, in order to re-gain some trust, and honour its word to fully consult.

STATEMENT PS 10

Submitted by Norman Zahn

Title: 15 Minute Cities

I think that 15 minute cities may have a negative effect on the ability of people to move freely around their neighbourhoods, and restrict the ability of ambulances is to get their destinations quickly.

I think that the way that decisions are made, decisions that have far reaching consequences for the Citizens of Bristol, should be made in a way that incorporate a much larger range of points of View than is presently done.

STATEMENT PS 11

Submitted by Lesley Powell

Title: Code of Conduct Complaints

My very personal and painful experience of the public side of the Code of Conduct Complaints 'Process' is that it is woefully lacking being disrespectful and dismissive of the honesty, intellect of and / or the emotional turmoil that the complainant may have suffered. Even the correspondence, in my opinion, is unprofessionally sloppy, indicating a lack of engagement. The 'process' appears to be totally opaque, and secretive, with such scant detail being shared, there is nothing to audit. Indeed, it was failing to comply with reporting to Values and Ethics Sub Committee (VE) (its audit gateway) at all until prompted by an FOI. That does not convey confidence....

In Sept / October a 'report' was submitted to VE summarising the Code of Conduct Complaints. This 'report' was a table of one line summaries, which had such scant detail it didn't even confirm to VE how long a complaint had taken to respond to let alone give any form of detail regarding the seriousness of the complaint or how many complaints were about the same Cllr. In fact, absolutely nothing to generate debate to enable the VE committee to provide the assurance I assumed they were in place to provide. Until several aggrieved complainants, who felt very let down by the complaints 'process' started asking questions, attending VE meetings and asking questions publicly, there was, it seemed an opaque screen between the gatekeepers of the 'process', the Cllrs who had been the subject of the complaints and the audit process.

At least some change has started to occur:

- The Complaints Process is moving to the LGO model
- The Member Code of Conduct is being amended (although 'confidentiality' is embodied).
- Code of Conduct complaints are being tabled at Value and Ethics sub committee (Committee Cllrs are now questioning the detail being presented).
- Appointment of IP(s) – Approval of Full Council being sought albeit retrospectively having not seemingly followed due process.

The current complaints system appears, to me, to be geared only to protecting the Councillor:

- It fails to 'investigate' a complaint using multiple excuses to avoid this and thus reject the complaint.
- It fails to probe whether a Councillor response is truthful or not, it merely responds to the complainant with the Cllrs response seemingly accepting it all to be true.
- It fails to be unsympathetic in any shape or form to the complainant disregarding the intellect, integrity or emotional suffering of the complainant.
- It fails to consider the safeguarding of the person making the complaint (or indeed whole committees making their complaint). Fear of reprisals has delayed a number of complainants submitting, despite years of issues. The time delay has then been the reason for the complaint dismissal because it wasn't 'current'.
- It fails to be a complaints system in any shape or form, save its name

- It has failed to investigate ANY of the 16 complaints, (amounting to over 32 people) in 12 months, of which 50% have been about one Cllr, with no red flags, no investigations, no acceptance of any wrongdoing.
- It fails to provide any assurance about the detail of appointment of IP 'consulted' about the complaint.

I and others thought the Member Code of Conduct was in place to support us and enable us to make complaints if a Cllr's conduct is not deemed conducive with expectation, yet it's nothing of the sort. It falls short of even being lip service with complainants (singly or in groups via committees) left terrified of being the subject of further targeting (and indeed being so) because the Cllr has been emboldened by the 'decision' to find in their favour, and even publicly bragging about the outcome in published material. Is this the expectation when we vote a Cllr into post and fund their 'allowances'? 'No. Of course not' should be the answer of anyone who has integrity. But it is not the reality.

Seemingly, there is no investigation of the 'facts', no interview, no follow up, nothing. Just a poorly written excuse of refusal.

- 'Too late';
- 'Too similar to another complaint';
- 'Vexatious';
- 'The Cllr denies it all.....'

And that's it. Complaint over. No appeal, no transparency, no consideration of the complainants suffering; no red flags....so the behaviour continues without fear of redress.

This is certainly not what we should expect but it's what we have got and there's seemingly very little we can do about it.

STATEMENT PS 12

Submitted by Bristol Allotment Forum

Title: Allotment Hosepipe Bans

A 'temporary' hosepipe ban was imposed by Bristol City Council (BCC) on all its allotment sites in 2017, pending water infrastructure improvements. Tenants were advised that the water authority had insisted on the ban due to the risk of contaminated water being drawn back into the public water supply.

When the infrastructure improvements were completed, tenants were advised that the ban was to remain in place, with the justification now shifting to a supposed risk of Legionnaire's Disease, even though the Council's legionella risk assessments do not identify a ban as a required control measure.

Legionnaire's Disease is a form of pneumonia and can **only** be contracted when minute water droplets containing the bacteria, known as bio-aerosols, are inhaled, and drawn deeply into the lungs. It requires significant pressure to create such tiny aerosols. **No other form of contact with water contaminated with legionella bacteria poses any risk of contracting the disease.**

Allotment tenancy agreements already prohibit the use of hosepipes for the direct watering of crops, but tenants have been allowed to use hosepipes for filling water butts and tanks from the mains supply.

The current ban prohibits *all* use of hosepipes, both for filling water butts from the mains supply *and* for the movement of harvested rainwater within individual plots – neither of these scenarios can generate the kind of pressure required to create bio-aerosols and there is no justification for banning the use of hoses for either context. Indeed, the BCC risk assessment states, 'If the water pressure is too low to enable water aspiration [creation of bio-aerosols] then there is NO RISK of Legionella'.

The ban has potentially serious implications for many tenants, especially those for whom the manual handling risks of carrying water over long distances are such that they are now being exposed to significant risks to their health and safety. Many may be forced to give up their plots.

An Equality Impact Assessment of the ban was carried out by the Allotments & Smallholdings Manager and signed off by the Director, Management of Place, in October 2022. The assessment identified that 'Any allotment tenant with the following protected characteristics: disability, age, pregnancy/maternity will be negatively impacted, by the ban.'

The ban also very seriously limits the potential uptake of rainwater harvesting, as systems often involve the use of hosepipes. Banning the use of hosepipes for the movement of harvested rainwater is unjustified and excluded as a risk by the very risk assessment used to implement it and is, we believe, beyond the scope of Bristol City Council's legal remit – BCC may be acting unlawfully, especially since its own risk and equality assessments do not require such a ban and identify significant discrimination arising from it.

None of the main authorities, including the Royal Horticultural Society, the National Allotment Association nor the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), advocate banning the use of hosepipes in their guidance on Legionnaire's Disease – in fact the RSPH has carried out extensive research and concluded that such a ban would be not only unnecessary but counter-productive.

Bristol Allotment Forum was forced to resort to two separate FoI requests before we had sight of the risk assessments. They clearly rule out the need for such a ban, despite being quoted as the basis for it. The supporting documentation we received was heavily redacted, and we cannot be sure precisely who was responsible for it, but we understand it originated in Property Services

We have attempted to engage with officers to discuss the matter but have been rebuffed. Correspondence provided in response to the FoI request confirms that '[name(s) redacted] are unwilling to meet any representatives of allotment holders'. We regard this as totally unacceptable behaviour from public servants.

We wish to engage proactively with BCC to promote and encourage rainwater harvesting for environmental reasons and potential cost savings to the Council but unless there is an option to incorporate the use of hoses this will be severely curtailed.

We now call for:

- **the ban to be amended, to allow both the filling of water butts and the use of hosepipes within tenants' own rainwater harvesting systems.**

STATEMENT PS 13

Submitted by Sally Bowman

Title: Golden Motion around health needs assessment

"As someone who currently works within mental health in the NHS in Bristol, I would like to add my support to the golden motion around health needs assessment. The staff I work with are doing extraordinary work to support those who need it while dealing with significant staffing and funding issues. They still work to provide the best care they can to the residents of Bristol and surrounding area though. I echo the sentiment that our doctors and nurses and other NHS staff deserve our appreciation and thanks for the work they do under intense pressure.

I agree action is needed to improve provisions of healthcare within Bristol. I live in St George in the East of Bristol and an improvement in capacity and facilities in Cossham Hospital would be widely appreciated and utilised by those living in this part of the city. Improved services in this part of the city is vital if we want to improve health outcomes. I would encourage a review into the healthcare facilities at this hospital, as well as across the city.

I also think it's incredibly important to consider, and where possible implement, progressive delivery models. In particular, I want to draw attention to the Mental Health Integrated Network Teams. Treating physical and mental health together is often overlooked, with them being seen as two separate issues. Multi-morbidity is increasing and mental health problems alongside physical health ones is increasingly common. Ignoring mental health issues that coincide with physical ones risks worsening individual's health. Working to integrate different services such as GPs, social services and mental health services could greatly improve health outcomes in the city.

Lastly, I welcome the comments around improving access to dentistry within the city. Too many people lack access to an NHS dentist and so may forgo an important healthcare service where they can't afford to pay for it privately. This could widen health inequalities across the city. As such, I agree this an area that needs to be prioritised for improved provisions."

STATEMENT PS 14

Submitted by Mubashar Chaudhry

Title: To show solidarity with innocent civilians

Bristolians Always stand on the right side of history. Bristol always played a lead role in supporting war zone victims. To show solidarity with innocent civilians who died in Israel without any hesitation, without any protocol city hall been lit with Israeli flag. Leadership feel the need for it and has done it. Soon after a collective punishment, a massacre started in Gaza. Hospitals, Schools, Refugee Camps, Ambulances, Densely populated residential buildings, water reservoirs been bombed without any discrimination. Food, water, electric, fuel, medicine, humanitarian aid been stop and let lot of children starved to death, let patients to die without basic medical needs. We have seen the highest number of UN officials being killed. More than 4000 children died. More than 10000 civilians lost their lives. Densely populated areas been converted to piles of rubbles. The world have seen horrific scenes of parents finding body parts of their children, animals eating human bodies.

Anyone who have their heart at right place could and should cry for a Cease Fire. We are witnessing all these atrocities and yet we need to go through all the protocols of taking public signatures just to say a word Cease Fire now. Just to show solidarity and lit City Hall with Palestinian colours. We have never seen such a huge crowd before on the streets of Bristol chanting Cease Fire now. What is stopping our representatives from saying this?

We need to stand unite, we need to stand on the right side of the history, we need to use our power, our influence, our voice to stop this injustice. As Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere. Thank you

STATEMENT PS 15

Submitted by Dan Ackroyd

Title: Values & Ethics committee

The Monitoring Officer misled the Values & Ethics committee on the 9th of October. When asked if the 'Independent Persons' involved in the complaints process have been appointed lawfully he gave the answer "it would be a complete misreading of the legislation to think that that appointment would need to be made by full council".

Anyway, the appointment is now agenda item 14.

The last lawfully appointed Independent Person had their term expire in 2017, and since then it appears that the complaints process against members has not been lawfully conducted by Bristol City Council.

Questions were submitted to the V&E committee on the 3rd of November about this matter but the answers written by the M.O. were evasive and non-responsive to the questions asked. The Monitoring Officer failed to attend that meeting[1], and so supplementary questions could not be answered in the meeting. The supplementary questions were submitted in writing, with the expectation that they would be answered.

They have not been answered, as of the 10th of November.

One of those unanswered supplementary questions is: "Please can you say in very simple terms, why you believe you don't need to write a Section 5 report?"

For those that don't know, under section five of the 'Local Government and Housing Act 1989' one of the personal public duties of a Monitoring Officer is to 'monitor' the council and write a report if 'any proposal, decision or omission by the authority..constitutes, has given rise to or is likely to or would give rise to a contravention by the authority...of any.. rule of law'.

The Monitoring Officer has said he will not be writing a Section 5 report in relation to the failure of the council to lawfully appoint Independent Persons or to conduct the complaints process lawfully.

He has not explained why he is not going to write that report.

It is a terrible situation when the chief authority on the law at Bristol City Council is failing to answer questions that he could very easily answer, except that the answers might be embarrassing to himself and his department. I'm not sure exactly what would constitute 'bringing the Council into disrepute' but I think an Officer failing to answer what is a very simple question should probably do it.

I encourage Councillors to demand a clear answer to the question above, and the other questions asked on this topic in this meeting. Members of the public do not have the tools to cross-examine someone who is not co-operating.

[1] - Failing to attend a meeting is at least a more lawful way of avoiding answering awkward supplementary questions than trying to just 'skip' public forum questions, which is what happened at the V&E committee on the 25th of September. It is not good that a member of the public has to interrupt a meeting and strenuously inform the Monitoring Officer that his advice is a breach of BCC's constitution.

STATEMENT PS 16

Submitted by David Redgewell

Title: Transport

Whilst we full support a very inclusive City Region which is accessible for people with disabilities and partly sighted people.

We still have a lot to do on the city Region transport and public realm

In Greater Bristol we still have Bridges Like Kings Weston, Bridge .

Over Kings Weston Lane is being constructed without ramps for disabled people with reduced mobility mother and Father's with buggies .

This has been stopped from being made accessible by English Heritage and Historic England.

As is the entrance ramp to Blaise castle House

The same with the Railway stations in the city Region at Avonmouth Dock station needs rails to access the station, as does Bristol Stapleton Road, Bristol Lawrence hill, has access to one platform towards Filton Abbey wood and the seven Beach railway line .

Bristol Temple meads station needs, work on access arrangements to the to platforms and lifts changing places toilets, automatic Doors etc need to be fitted to the waiting rooms and Cafes

The new Eastern, south and Friary entrance Need to be accessible.

As does the redevelopment of the station and new Friary bus and coach interchange with Temple Gate.

Bedminster needs better Disabled access Parson street is not accessible

Nailsea and Backwell not accessible

Needs a lift Bridge

As does Weston super mare railway Needs lifts

Highbridge and Burnham on sea needs a lift Bridge

Bridgwater needs a lift Bridges

Keynsham needs a accessible Bridge between the platform

Oldfield park and Freshford need lift Bridges.

As does Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge.

The New metro west railway Network station at Ashton Gate if funding is found, Pill, Portishead, Ashley Down, Filton North, Henbury for Cribbs Causeway and Bristol zoo.

We need a fully accessible public transport Network in Greater Bristol

We also need all the River Cross to be accessible banana Bridge.

But all the crossing need to be accessible across the New cut as progress is made .

The city Region pavement are still being parked making it difficult for disabled people and people with reduced mobility mother and Father's with buggies to use .

We understand that this requires National government legislation.

We welcome the work in the old city and Bristol Bridge on pavement and the Public realm. But all west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council funded transport scheme need to be fully accessible Under the equalities act 2010.

As does the public realm with very limited use Bristol sets or cobbles Sheets. We need public pavement of stone fully accessible and infrastructure.

All our buses are fully accessible as are National Express coaches limited Megabus Falcon City link coaches and Flixbus coaches. But not all tourists coaches or railway replacement coach services.

On Housing we more m type housing and Flats in the city Region. And offices and shop and housing is not full accessible in Bristol with Victorian and Georgian house and streets . So we need more housing for disabled people and their families.

On mass transit light rail system

This must be fully accessible of the same standards as Newcastle upon Tyne and Wear combined transport Authority soon to be North East mayoral combined transport Authority. Or Manchester metro link as part of the Beeline Network with mayor Andy Burnham or Liverpool City Region with mayor Steve Rotherham Mass transit system with fully accessible need new trains and overground underground sections or West Midlands metro with mayor Andy street.

Greater Bristol and Bath city region need a mass transit light rail system Overground and some Tunnelled Sections.

With routes From Bristol city centre Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale Brislington, keynsham Salford Newbridge Weston Bath spa interchange.

Bristol city centre, Bristol Temple meads station, Arnos vale, Brislington Callington road corridor Hengrove park Whitchurch estate Hartcliffe Bishopsworth and Bristol Airport

Route to North Bristol to Link with Cribbs causeway and the need housing Development at Filton former Airport.

To Kingswood and East Bristol

Link from Bristol city council, Bristol Temple meads station Lawrence hill Fishponds, Staple Hill ,Mangotsfield Warmley Bitton. Kelson Weston Bath spa bus and coach station.

Bristol Airport via A38 long Ashton park and ride via Harbourside city centre Broadmead shopping centre and Bristol Temple meads station.

So we need to make progress on a mass transit light rail system fully accessible.

Jointly With North Somerset council Banes ,south Gloucestershire county council, Bristol city council and the west England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris and western Gateway Transport Board

Linked to buses ferry services and metro west Railway Network.

We must have a fully accessible metro west railway and future west overground underground light rail system in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

And the restoration of support bus services in East and South Bristol through the transport levy to Ashton vale, Brislington Eastville park Stapleton Broomhill Fishponds Oldbury court Downend Bromley Heath The Ding Barton hill Eastville park.

STATEMENT PS 17

Submitted by Lori Streich, Fishponds Community Planning Group

Title: Golden Motion

We note the Golden Motion put to Full Council by Cllr Ellie King, calling for a Health Needs Assessment in areas where there are sites for significant new housing developments.

One such area is Central Fishponds, as described in the draft Local Plan (Policy DS7), where at least 1,500 new homes proposed. A second development on UWE's Glenside Campus could see a further 300 homes developed in the area. This is in addition to approximately 350 new homes on the Blackberry Hill site (nearing the end of construction) and approximately 250 new homes which have been completed on the St Matthias (Barrett Homes) site – both in Frome Vale ward.

Despite this large number of newly built or proposed homes and consequent increase in the local population, the level of health care provision has remained the same.

The Fishponds Community Planning Group supports good development on the brownfield sites in our area. However, residents have raised concerns about the current levels of healthcare provision in Fishponds, and the additional demand that will be placed upon them when additional homes are built. From our discussions, and from social media comments, this is at the top of the agenda for local people.

We have started to explore this issue.

- There are three GP practices in Fishponds, one of which also acts as the health centre for UWE students. As far as we are aware, there are no known plans for expansion, and waiting times are already a significant challenge for health care professionals and residents alike.
- There are two dentist practices that offer NHS dentistry. Neither, as far as we are aware, are accepting new NHS patients onto their lists. For both, the demand is greater than the supply of dentists in place to carry out NHS work.
- There are several group homes in the Fishponds area for people with mental health difficulties and/or learning disabilities, and several care homes for people of older age. Each will be registered with a local GP practice. We have no information at this time about access to health care for residents in these homes, and how this might be impacted as our local population increases.
- Accessing hospital services can be challenging for many people in Fishponds, due to the patchy and often disconnected nature of public transport services/buses.

Therefore the Fishponds Community Planning Group

- Supports Cllr King's motion for a strategic needs assessment of health care provision in Fishponds (and other areas of Bristol where high numbers of new homes are proposed).
- Will support consultation of local residents and other delivery partners to survey what form of additional health infrastructure is required to meet need.
- Will be keen to be involved with the dialogue about actions to take forward the outcomes of this consultation.

STATEMENT PS 18

Submitted by Ellie Keen

Title: Council Lit with Israeli Colours

I am writing to express my disgust at the Council building having been lit up in Israeli colours, without, at the very least, doing the same for Palestinians. Given the horrendously indiscriminate and disproportionate show of force that Israel has inflicted on Gaza since the awful events of the 7th October, I find it astonishing that Council has made no statement at all either in solidarity with those suffering, as it did for Israelis, or in condemnation. Nor has it called for a ceasefire.

I have spent over 30 years working in the field of human rights, and have devoted a great deal of attention to learning from the Holocaust in order that such a catastrophe should never again befall a people. I could not conceive it possible that we would allow mass slaughter and ethnic cleansing to take place on the scale we are now seeing in Gaza, supported by our politicians, armed by companies based in this country.

We cannot claim ignorance: my timeline is flooded with images of dead and wounded children, entirely innocent, close to starvation, unable to receive the medical treatment they need, unable to leave, because the occupying power - Israel - has placed them under an illegal siege. Yet the vast majority of our politicians remain silent, at best, and offer encouragement to Israel, at worst. In Bristol, we are home to Israel's largest private arms company, Elbit Systems, which provides the vast majority of the drones used to inflict ongoing terror on the Palestinian people. We have now broadcast to the world, by means of the lights in Israeli colours, our support for a nation carrying out collective punishment.

Whatever led to this massacre, and whatever Israel claims to be trying to do, their actions are not proportionate, and have been judged by numerous international bodies to constitute some of the worst violations of international law. Please, Councillors, speak out against this horror. Please call on your party leaders to withdraw support for these brutal and illegal actions. We are all culpable for allowing this to happen on our watch. Please add your voices, and help to end it now.

STATEMENT PS 19

Submitted by Megs Smith

Title: Electric Vehicles

The 'Green' agenda supports Net Zero emissions, the eradication of petrol and diesel cars and the uptake of Electric Vehicles, but how 'green' are EVs in reality and how ethical? Green technology has highly polluting products, an inability to be recycled, are produced by the exploitation of child labour, let alone the risk to the public of EVs exploding . Lithium batteries for EVs are environmentally horrific ; every year a single lithium mine causes millions of tonnes of permanent waste laced with sulphuric acid and radioactive uranium polluting the water supply for 300 years, not to mention the unacceptable human costs of child labour to mine the Cobalt. Children directly handle toxic cobalt with many crushed to death in collapsing mine shafts . The biggest threat to our survival isn't the weather, it's people blindly following orders without question or thought to support what is essentially environmental terrorism. Parliament obligations are not ours.

STATEMENT PS 01

Submitted by Rana Basharat Ali Khan

Title: Urgent Appeal for Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

My name is Basharat Ali, residing at Clifton Place, and I am a passionate advocate for humanity, working tirelessly for the oppressed worldwide, with no regard for color or race. Today, I come before you to urge the city of Bristol to take a principled stand for justice and humanity.

I appeal to you for the humanity that resides within each of you, and I implore you in the name of a people enduring continuous bombardment from powerful warplanes, facing extermination without mercy or discrimination in a genocide unprecedented in our modern era. The international community, despite its condemnation and denunciation, has yet to take substantial action. Western countries, under the pretext of Israel's right to defend itself, turn a blind eye to mass massacres that claim the lives of children, newborns, women, the infirm, the disabled, and the sick.

Peoples worldwide, particularly in the West, have demonstrated their rejection of this injustice through various peaceful democratic means. Millions have taken to the streets, expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza. Their voices echo the plea for justice, an end to violence, and the restoration of peace.

I respectfully urge the Mayor, the Cabinet, and the Councillors of Bristol to join this global call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Let us stand together in advocating for the rights and well-being of the innocent victims of this conflict. Your support can make a difference and contribute to a more just and peaceful future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

STATEMENT PS 02

Submitted by Robin Hambleton on behalf of the SEND Alliance for St Christopher's.

Title: The Asset of Community Value (ACV) application for St Christopher's School site

Request

The SEND Alliance for St Christopher's calls on Bristol City Council to welcome and support the new proposal, recently submitted to the council by the SEND Alliance, to have the St Christopher's School site designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) under the Localism Act 2011.

Context

Founded by Catherine Grace in 1945, the much-loved St Christopher's School, based near the Downs, cared for and educated many of Bristol's most vulnerable children. For 75 years this residential special education school made a major contribution to the social wellbeing, not just of the hundreds of children who attended the school, but also to their families and to the local community of Bristol as a whole. In 2020 the school was closed. This was a moment of great sadness as the school was the last residential school for children with complex needs in the city and was a highly valued community asset.

Subsequently, an international property company (the FORE Partnership and associates) bought the land and submitted a planning application which envisaged the removal of many of the mature trees on the site and the building of large blocks of flats (Application No. 22/01221/F). This proposal, which did not include any provision on the site for SEND children, despite this being Bristol City Council policy, was completely out of scale and context with the Downs Conservation Area and the Grade II Listed building, 'Grace House', which was specifically designed for children with special education needs. Unsurprisingly this proposal met with over 1300 formal objections and, acting on the wise advice of city council planning officers, Bristol City Council firmly rejected this misguided planning application last August (a unanimous decision by DC 'A' Planning Committee, 9/8/23).

Our new application for Asset of Community Value (ACV) status for this land.

Now that this planning application has been refused exciting new possibilities could open up for this site. We have submitted an ACV application to the Community Right to Bid (CRtB) team that, not only provides new evidence showing how the site contributed to the social wellbeing of the local community over an extended period, but also demonstrates how this site can further the social wellbeing of the local community in the future.

The SEND Alliance, an unincorporated body, comprises a group of people from Bristol who have joined together with the specific aim of reinstating provision for the learning disabled at St Christopher's. This aim is, of course, consistent with Bristol City Council policy for this site, and is consistent with the fact that the lawful use of this land is as a special school. The Alliance has been working closely with three SEND charities (Freeways Trust; Alliance for Camphill; and Rescare), with local community organisations and with local businesses to ensure that this application is evidence-based and rigorous.

Those endorsing this ACV application.

We are very pleased with the number of highly respected figures in the local community who have agreed to endorse this ACV application. Quite apart from the Bristol citizens who are acting as Nominators of this bid (over 25 people) those endorsing this application include:

Stephen Rolph, Head of Community Assets and Enterprise, Locality. (Stephen is the leading national authority on Assets of Community Value).

Darren Jones MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Councillor Geoff Gollop, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze Ward

Councillor Sharon Scott, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze Ward

Councillor Steve Smith, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze Ward

Councillor Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor with responsibilities for Children's Services, Education and Equalities, Bristol City Council.

Councillor Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homelessness

Councillor Christine Townsend, Chair, People Scrutiny Commission and Member of the Downs Committee

Councillor Kerry Bailes, Member, People Scrutiny Commission

The Rev. Emma Langley, Vicar of the Church in Westbury Park

Peter Lord CBE, Founder of Aardman Animations

A group representing former staff, carers, families, and friends of St Christopher's

Westbury Park Primary School

Westbury Park Community Association

Conclusion

In the light of the evidence submitted in our ACV application, and in the light of the evidence contained in this Public Statement, we ask Bristol City Council to welcome and support the SEND Alliance application to have the St Christopher's School site designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) under the Localism Act 2011. We request a written response to this Public Statement. Thank you.

STATEMENT PS 03

Submitted by Rachael Fagan

Title: Arts

The arts are how we show who we are – what kind of people we are. Our characters, our stories, our history, our beliefs and, yes, our hopes and dreams. How we invest in the arts and our artists also shows who we are. Do we nurture and develop the arts, or do we neglect and cut them?

In the last four years we have seen a relentless attack on arts funding in this city. 40% of the funding from the Cultural Investment Programme has gone in the last 5 years by the Council's own admission.

As a trade union we understand that the structural conditions for the funding crisis in local government lies in Westminster. But decisions are made locally too. Political choices are being made to cut arts and culture for everyone in this city.

These choices have led to Equity members losing jobs, and theatre companies going under. They mean another £75,000 being cut from the cultural investment programme. They mean a lost year of investment in the arts, because the mayor has put off his funding decision since October 2022.

And here in Bristol, consultation with the relevant trade union for the sector, Equity, has been all but absent. We are the experts in this sector. We know how it works, why it works, and what it needs.

What our sector needs most of all is the workers who create the art. They are the people that make theatre, cinema, and entertainment. It is their labour that creates the economic value from which Bristol benefits, not politicians sitting on company boards, or multi million pound executives.

Your funding cuts will mean fewer Bristol workers employed in the arts. They mean missed rent, and less food on the table. Holiday clubs, and children's outreach that won't happen. Art will not happen, and Bristol will be all the poorer for it. Economically and socially.

STATEMENT PS 04

Submitted by Fatina Legg

Title: Call for a Ceasefire in Gaza.

I am asking you to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Do not reply with a political answer, do not look at your superiors or peers to tell you how to reply, how to think and to react.

Why have you, a person with the same humanness of a Palestinian person, not called for a ceasefire?

How can you watch and follow the genocide of a people happening now, in real-time, without wanting to put a stop to it?

Do not reply under the pretence of Israels right to self defence, an occupier who has oppressed generations of Palestinians, an occupier who openly uses statements of genocidal talk and an occupier that has no self control over their genocidal acts on the Palestinian people.

You, who have free speech, free movement, access to basic human essentials, safety and much more.

You, who have the privilege to sit and make decisions for Bristol.

You, who can make a moral stand for yourself and for the people of Bristol.

You, who can speak and stand with a people who have no rights under their brutal occupier and oppressor.

You, who can call for a ceasefire.

Please look a Palestinian in the eyes, who will make known your answer to my family in Rafah, why you do or do not, call for an end to this horrific siege, displacement, bombing and killing of the people of Gaza..

STATEMENT PS 05

Submitted by Paul Constant

Title: Cuts Proposed for The Watershed

I fail to understand the Bristol City Council's proposal to withdraw the cultural funding support for The Watershed.

I appreciate that local authorities are strapped for cash but please may we ask everyone to view the total picture (no pun intended)

Going to the cinema is still one of the most popular cultural activities in the country
At The Watershed tickets start from £5 for the under 24s and senior citizens. Hardly elitist!

The Watershed employs 110 people and includes a popular cafe/bar supporting local suppliers and encouraging footfall to the harbour-side.

Perhaps those members of the council responsible for these prospective cuts should understand the role.

The Watershed plays as a catalyst in attracting and promoting Bristol as a university city and the wider importance of 'Culture' across all forms.

STATEMENT PS 06

Submitted by Nigel Varley

Title: Gilton House in Brislington

I am a tenant at Gilton House, a block of 46 flats in Brislington which are supported housing for the over 60s.

Renovation work started in July 2022, and included replacing the inflammable insulating cladding. The old cladding was off by April 2023 (it blew over a wide part of Brislington) but it has still not been replaced.

Residents are now living in uninsulated and cold flats. To keep warm we must pay greatly increased heating bills. Most of us are pensioners on a fixed income. A number of us have medical conditions which make us vulnerable.

The project has been dogged by unnecessary delays. With proper planning and project management, the cladding could have been replaced before cold weather set in. Our formal complaint in the name of 35 residents has been rejected. We believe that Bristol City Council is now in breach of housing legislation and its duty of care and that we are entitled to compensation to off-set the cost to us of mismanagement. This is an issue for all the tower blocks having cladding replaced.

STATEMENT PS 07

Submitted by Cara Lavan

Title: Funds from the Cultural Investment Programme

Many of Bristol's residents work in the arts and rely on council support and funding to make their living. Many projects are inclusive, affordable & create events and workshops with Bristol's diverse communities. Yet throughout this year, artists have been given the run-around regarding funds from the Cultural Investment Programme, experiencing delay after delay coupled with confusing communications.

Worse - despite being told previously that this money was ringfenced, in an email in late November "Imagination Fund" applicants were told "Funding amounts are subject to Bristol City Council being able to maintain available funds for its arts and culture grant throughout the Grant Period."

This flip-flopping around funding makes it impossible for people who work in the arts to plan the cultural events the City sells itself on. Meanwhile the Council's website proudly promotes the fund - with no mention of freeze, delay or uncertainty.

While waiting to funding decisions on the CIP, Theatre Bristol has closed and Church Rd Lantern Parade, the only visual arts outreach in East Bristol is now not happening this winter. The whole City is poorer as a result.

STATEMENT PS 08

Submitted by Keith Way

Title: Planning Confidence

I have experience of the failings and bias of the planning process. This was the development of HARTCLIFFE SCHOOL FIELD into JESSOP PARK in Hartcliffe. It was in the Site Allocations Document as BSA1301. I was trying to save the All Weather Sports Area (AWSA) which was one of the richest wildlife areas in south Bristol.

A BRERC survey in 2011 by PHIL QUINN listed 220 species on the (AWSA). But the expectation from one of your conservation officers was this would only result in mitigations not protection of the site.

In 2013/2014 we managed to get a change in the Site Allocations Document to include this comment:

be informed by an ecological survey of the site and make provision for **the retention of the 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' on the former games court. If the retention of the habitat in situ is not practicable, mitigation may include the creation of this habitat within the wildlife corridor between Valley Walk and Hawkfield Meadow and/or the provision of biodiverse green / brown roofs. The species, habitats and / or features make a significant contribution to nature conservation in Bristol;**

But this didn't give 100% protection which is odd considering that the tree line on the north side was 100% protected and excluded from development.

In 2017 at a presentation showing the plans I saw the AWSA had not been excluded. I asked the architect who replied "It is not protected, I can do whatever I like". Despite including green spaces and a wildlife area in the design the architect didn't want to use a rich pre-existing site in his grand plan. Later the plan had to be changed to include a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS). The AWSA could've been included in this as it was built to allow rainwater to permeate through the surface. But this didn't happen.

At a meeting about the development I was told by a BCC officer that the comment above hadn't been included in the adopted version of the Site Allocations Document. The officer sent me a copy of this but it included the comment. It seems this officer had not read the document!

In the 2017/8 ECOLOGY SURVEY written about the AWSA the site was said to be of less biodiversity value because there was an extensive invasive species called cotoneaster taking over the site which needed special measures to remove as with asbestos. When we looked into this the cotoneaster was not one of the 5 variants listed on the invasive list. This was confirmed by PLANTLIFE. There was a small amount of Cotoneaster *horizontalis* but it was only a few plants that needed to be removed. It could have been removed easily.

I feel this report was written to undermine value of site so it could be developed. I think that ecology surveys should be independent of developers.

At the planning meeting I was only allowed to submit a statement of 1-2 pages. And 1 minute to speak. By this stage it seemed impossible to make changes or stop the

development and that wildlife and biodiversity was not relevant. One major problem was that the school was classed as a brownfield site, and had less protection. But some brownfield sites can be extremely valuable wildlife areas. This designation needs to be re-assessed. The development went ahead and in December 2019 the AWSA was bulldozed. Currently the Whitehouse school site is being developed into a rugby club but many trees on the site have been destroyed. When are things going to change? Marvin Rees and BCC declared an environmental emergency in February 2020. But what has been done. How many trees have been cut down and how many green spaces built on. There needs to be urgent action to change this, and soon before it is too late.

STATEMENT PS 09

Submitted by Cat Smith

Title: Loss of Confidence in Bristol's Planning System

We, the undersigned, have lost confidence in the effectiveness and impartiality of Bristol City Council's planning system and seek a Full Council debate on this matter.

Why is this important?

Our concern is that the Bristol City Council is currently failing to deliver an effective, impartial service; lacks consistency in the application of material planning considerations and policies, and; is being unduly influenced to 'get stuff done' by the elected Mayor's Office.

We are aware that, while a petition on an individual planning application cannot be taken for debate at Full Council, a petition about the Council's failure to deliver an effective service for planning applications is within the scope of the scheme.

There are examples across the city in which the following material planning considerations are given inadequate weight or where there is inconsistency in their application: loss of light, overshadowing, overlooking, privacy; design and appearance; residential amenity and living conditions; character of the local area; local planning policies; loss of trees and landscaping; impact on listed buildings and conservation areas.

We urge the Mayor, cabinet members, and councillors of all parties to consider the harm done when residents no longer have confidence in the impartiality of officers and members of planning committees, and when decisions are made that will cause long-term, if not irreparable, harm to Bristol's neighbourhoods and city centre.

My experience of Bristol Council planning department is as follows:

I contacted planning enforcement regarding a breach of planning by former neighbours and the case was accepted straightaway. A planning officer visited and confirmed quite quickly my former neighbours' works were in breach of planning. She then advised that, to protect me, the council protocol was that I would always be informed of any action the council planned to take beforehand as these situations could become difficult. She said she would be in touch the following day to confirm next steps. I was not contacted and tried repeatedly to contact the planning officer by both 'phone and email but I never heard from her again.

Weeks later I was contacted by email by another planning officer from Bristol Council planning enforcement. He acknowledged my former neighbours' planning breach but I was told, without explanation, that the case was closed. Moreover, he stated he had emailed my former neighbours to let them know the case was closed. I was perturbed that this planning officer had somehow acquired my former neighbours' email address and took action without reference to or forewarning me; contrary to council protocol and what I had been

advised would happen by the first planning officer. Also attached to the email which was sent to me were photos held on the council file of my former neighbours' works. Not one of these photos included on the file were taken at ground level and, therefore, were not an accurate or correct representation of my former neighbours' works.

I engaged a barrister, with nationally recognised planning expertise, and a site visit was conducted. The barrister confirmed the planning breach, said that Bristol planning should have acted, and that the Planning Ombudsman would find for maladministration.

I was subsequently diagnosed with PTSD and medically advised not to return to my former home. Unexpectedly, I had found myself without my own home and unable to work, again medically advised.

I have no hesitation stating that the actions of Bristol Planning compounded my trauma. I understand that Bristol planning failed to protect my human rights, as set out in the European Convention, to peacefully enjoy my home. I am also alarmed that cases can be closed just by one officer, without scrutiny or reference to others, and there is no meaningful or accessible recourse.

I am relieved that this petition is taking an aggregated approach to better understand what is happening with planning in Bristol city-wide. I am perplexed as to why there is not an external investigation of Bristol planning as there appears to be an abundance of evidence that something is seriously awry.

Everyone hopes and expects to be safe in their home. I can state that having your land transgressed without warning is a very frightening experience. All I ever expected of Bristol planning was to follow their protocols and planning law. I can fully evidence my experience as described in the above statement.

STATEMENT PS 10

Submitted by Danica Priest

Title: Loss of confidence in Bristol's planning system

Let's face it. This statement won't make a lick of difference. Most of you won't read this. The ones that will are the ones already trying to fix this broken system but they have no power in our current administration. Suzanne will read a brilliant statement presenting her petition that thousands of us signed. Lots of words will be spoken by our elected officials, most of it meaningless, and no action will come.... Yet...

That action will come in May when we vote out the current administration. But for now I'm going to give my statement anyway. At least it will get a few likes on twitter am I right? (Insert winky face emoji here)

Over 3,500 citizens have united in a resounding petition, unequivocally expressing the shattered trust in our planning system. This collective outcry underscores the depth of disillusionment and resentment towards the actions and decisions made by politicians and planning officers.

The decision and behaviour surrounding the approval of an application that would turn a beloved nature reserve and Bristol's last working farm into a graveyard is not just a lapse in judgment; it's an egregious betrayal of the public's trust. Your disregard for irrefutable evidence, impassioned appeals, and expert advice lays bare a shameful disregard for the values and desires of the community you supposedly serve.

This reckless approval isn't just a failure of governance; it's a wholesale abandonment of your duty to protect our SNCIs. The callousness displayed by bending reality and disregarding expert counsel is an insult to the citizens who trusted you to uphold our city's integrity.

Bristol deserves leadership that champions preservation over expedience, listens to expertise, and prioritizes the well-being of its citizens and environment. Your decision to sacrifice a treasured nature reserve for short-term gain is nothing short of a travesty.

This glaring affront to our community's wishes demands more than a mere apology—it necessitates a complete overhaul of a system that has blatantly failed us.

STATEMENT PS 11

Submitted by Mubashar Chaudhry

Title: Cease Fire

Bristolians always stand on the right side of history. Bristol always played a lead role in supporting war zone victims. To show solidarity with innocent civilians who died in Israel without any hesitation, without any protocol city hall been lit with Israeli flag. Leadership feel the need for it and has done it. Soon after a collective punishment, a massacre started in Gaza. Hospitals, Schools, Refugee Camps, Ambulances, Densely populated residential buildings, water reservoirs been bombed without any discrimination. Food, water, electric, fuel, medicine, humanitarian aid been stop and let lot of children starved to death, let patients to die without basic medical needs. We have seen the highest number of UN officials being killed. More than 20000 civilians lost their lives and most of them are women and children. Densely populated areas been converted to piles of rubbles. The world have seen horrific scenes of parents finding body parts of their children, animals eating human bodies.

Anyone who have their heart at right place could and should cry for a Cease Fire. We are witnessing all these atrocities and yet we need to go through all the protocols of taking public signatures just to say a word Cease Fire now. Just to show solidarity and lit City Hall with Palestinian colours. We have never seen such a huge crowd before on the streets of Bristol chanting Cease Fire now. What is stopping our representatives from saying this?

We need to stand unite, we need to stand on the right side of the history, we need to use our power, our influence, our voice to stop this injustice. As Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere.

STATEMENT PS 12

Submitted by Catherine Withers

Title: Loss in Confidence in Bristol's planning department

I am writing to express my loss in confidence in Bristol's planning department.

I have had numerous experiences with the department and none positive.

Officers who do not know the planning laws they are entrusted with upholding and no enforcement of planning breeches.

More recently officers appear to have lost their impartiality regarding the Crematorium expansion. Documents that should be submitted and open to scrutiny were withheld from committee and public. Interference from the administration appears rife in planning matters

The action and inaction of Bristol's planning department has real and long term effects on how Bristol and Bristolians.

We need a planning enforcement team who enforce and uphold planning decisions and conditions.

I am struck by the people I have recently introduced to the planning system by helping me represent the Farm. They are all horrified that essential evidence and facts were seemingly ignored.

I can try to show sympathy and the usual blah, blah about severe cuts to the department etc. but something else is going on. Enforcement has been in the same governance for a long time and so little enforcement happens although they hold many powers.

STATEMENT PS 13

Submitted by Anita Bennett

Title: St. Christopher's School is an Asset of Community Value

When I think of St. Christopher's School I remember moving over to Bristol from the beautiful Wye Valley because everyone said that my daughter with Downs would benefit from going there. It was famous throughout the Southwest and the UK, something that was the flagship pride of Bristol, with new buildings opened by the Queen Mother. Thousands of people had volunteered there over its 70 years, thousands of children with learning disabilities were educated and lived there. Hundreds of teachers and support workers, who still work with special needs children, were trained there. Entire families were saved from break up and poverty, thanks to St. Christopher's.

If ever there were an asset of real community value St. Christopher's it is this beautiful five-acre site. The Bristol Zoo, with only a one-page application, quite rightly, won its case to be declared an ACV. But our second 27-page application was turned down for allegedly "not benefitting the local community?"

It makes you wonder if animals have more worth to Council officials than children with learning disabilities. Both are also sites of huge ecological value. Sadly, no elected councillors are on the Community Right to Buy Team.

We had submitted our application, complete with supporting statements from local families, residents, former teachers and staff, former residents. They all spoke of the enormous local benefit to Bristol.

So we in the SEND Alliance for St. Christopher's are about to make our third application, only this time we have not only a wide alliance of cross-party supporters. We have advice that suggests that if the Council turns down our next application Bristol may be seen to be operating indirect discrimination against a special school. Because by its very nature, and to make it viable, a specialist school has to have a wider catchment area than any local mainstream school. Some of the children needed 3 to 1 care. You are not going to find enough children needing that in Westbury Park are you?

Historically, the school drew from the old Avon authority. And even when the developers' most recent overbearing plans were rejected, the figure of 7.5 Bristol pupils attending in its final five years was given by Council officials. To avoid discriminating against SEN pupils you would have to multiply that figure by at least ten. That gives 75 local pupils, the most vulnerable, the right to have St. Christopher's declared an Asset of Community Value.

Thank you to all the citizens and elected councillors from all parties that have so far endorsed our application. We implore you to keep a watchful eye on the Council officers to ensure that they do the morally and historically right thing when they finally declare St. Christopher's to be an Asset of Community Value. That will give us six months to present a plan to buy out the present owners.

STATEMENT PS 14

Submitted by Mhairi Threfall

Title: Childcare is infrastructure

It is essential to the economy; it is essential to breaking down inequality barriers; it is essential to enabling women in work; and is essential to give our children the best start in life. However, it is increasingly becoming something that is accessible only to the most privileged. In Bristol, we have 18 month long waiting lists and the average nursery place for an under 2 is now costing around £90 a day.

Nationally the women's budget group, the early years alliance and charities like Pregnant then Screwed are working hard to address the challenge of underfunding in the early years and childcare sector.

However, these changes to the childcare sector will take time, yet parents, childcare workers and children are struggling now.

I urge you to take time to read the Bristol Women's commission economy task group report on the caring economy and think about what immediate actions you could take to address the city's childcare crisis.

I ask you to support the Care in the Economy manifesto which will be presented to you in January's full council.

Finally I call on you to use your voice to support carers, care workers and those who are cared for in every aspect of council business and to be a champion of the caring economy.

STATEMENT PS 15

Submitted by Carrie Sage

Title: Loss of confidence in Bristol's Planning System

This submission is about process. It is not an argument about why Development Control Committee A was wrong to approve Bristol Zoological Society's development proposal for the Bristol Zoo Gardens site on 26 April 2023. We acknowledge that in a properly functioning, democratic, transparent, well-resourced and open planning system, not every decision will go the way you want.

Bristol City Council's planning system is none of these.

Bad planning blights lives and it is blighting this city. This is why this debate is vitally important. It is also why elected Members should take it seriously, rise above party political interests and act now to restore public confidence.

The petition before you contends that the Council is failing to deliver an effective, impartial service; that it lacks consistency in the application of material planning considerations and policies, and that it is being unduly influenced to 'get stuff done' by the elected Mayor's Office. We agree.

1. Failure to deliver an effective, impartial service

The Planning Officer's report on the Zoo application accepted that the scheme did not accord with the Development Plan, local policies, or the National Planning Policy Framework. Nonetheless approval was recommended. Would a homeowner applying for a garage extension or roof alteration be similarly indulged? Why are there different considerations for housing developers?

There was, and is, huge public opposition to the Zoo proposal: 10,000 signed a petition and 500 public objections were made. This was disregarded.

In Committee on 26 April, assurances were given beforehand that many more than the usual 30 x 1 minute speakers would be allowed to make their case. The Chair, Cllr Eddy, shut down the speakers after 30 had made representations because 'applause from the public gallery had used up available time'. The majority of the time wasting was in fact Cllr Eddy's constant interruptions – far more than the applause of the public. The two most prominent opponents of the scheme were denied their say as a result.

Vitally important elements of the scheme are to be agreed under officer delegation in a s.106 agreement. We argue that DCC-A members ought to have an opportunity to ensure that these elements are properly scrutinised and have approached Cllr Eddy in this respect. Cllr Eddy chose to respond impatiently and negatively to us before apparently receiving any advice or input from the Chief Planner.

We see no evidence of impartiality in many of the planning processes in Bristol.

2. Lack of consistency in the application of material planning considerations

In addition to the inconsistencies in planning guidance (noted in 1. above):

Biodiversity Net Gain: Bristol Zoological Society has recently made a number of planning applications to South Gloucestershire Council in respect of the Wild Place, which employ Biodiversity Net Gain metric 4.0. This is the accepted standard. The Society's application to Bristol City Council was allowed to proceed with outdated and unworkable BNG metrics, which vastly overstated the 'gains'. The correct metric of 4.0 shows there is a substantial net biodiversity loss – a fact that has been hidden from public scrutiny.

Housing development policy: the approval of the Zoo planning application was supported by a number of Councillors in Committee on the basis that it would provide 'much needed housing'. This mantra is regularly repeated by the elected Mayor. The proportion of social housing, if it is ever built, at the Zoo site is tiny. Luxury flats are not 'much needed housing'.

We are not aware of a properly detailed, consistent, zoned, meaningful plan to provide housing for those in need in Bristol. There is a numerical housing target but little more. Decisions to approve housing development appear opportunistic and arbitrary and lack a policy context or framework.

Environment: Bristol has a proud environmental heritage and the elected Mayor is presently attending the COP28 Conference in the UAE. The Mayor's Office regularly issues statements about 'greening' Bristol – whether it is planting trees or introducing the CAZ scheme. However in planning terms, where housing development is concerned, environmental considerations are consistently dismissed out of hand.

The fact that the Zoo development, as with other large proposed schemes, will create or cause the release of tens of thousands of tonnes of CO2 was ignored and did not figure in the Council's consideration.

The elected Mayor and Cllr Eddy appear to be systematically destroying Bristol's green credentials.

To emphasise the point, at COP28 the elected Mayor has just made a number of public statements about 'anti housing campaigners' 'often wrapping themselves up in environmental credentials'. He also asserted that Bristol has a 'brownfield site first' development policy for housing. These statements are dismissive of opposition to his views, careless of environmental impacts and (in the case of 'brownfield first') not remotely borne out by the facts – see the Yew Tree Farm case, amongst others.

Material planning considerations are not applied fairly or consistently.

3. Undue influence from the elected Mayor's Office

The elected Mayor gave over his blog to Dr Justin Morris, Bristol Zoological Society CEO the day before DCC A met to consider the Zoo scheme: <https://twitter.com/MarvinJRees/status/1650937726273982465> (note the words

'I hope it is approved tomorrow'). In Committee, Cllr Ed Plowden raised the inappropriateness of the remarks and the possibility /likelihood of predetermination before the hearing started. Instead of reflecting on this matter any discussion was immediately shut down by the Chair, Cllr Eddy.

Cllr Eddy's remarks before the vote on 26 April amounted to a long argument for approval – which is entirely inappropriate for a Committee Chair. Extraordinarily Cllr Eddy felt the need to go into print days later to defend 'his' decision - <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-planning-chair-defends-zoo-8407808> but mainly, it appears, to undertake some political point scoring.

These behaviours do not inspire confidence that Bristol operates a mature, democratic planning system.

In the absence of any housing policy, any consistency in environmental policy, or respect for opposition to proposed schemes, it is difficult not to conclude that the elected Mayor operates a 'developer's charter' in Bristol, and that these objectives are supinely supported by the Chair of Development Control Committee A.

Under this regime, democracy is being ignored and Bristol's reputation as a progressive green city is being dismantled.

Summary

This is a timely and justified petition, and we hope elected Members will accord it the importance it deserves.

Our experience illustrates that the planning system and processes in this city are not fit for purpose and require urgent remedial action.

STATEMENT PS 16

Submitted by Robert Dixon, Bristol Rail Campaign (FoSBR)

Title: lack of interest in ensuring opportunities for bus-rail interchange at our local stations

Bristol Rail Campaign (FoSBR) is concerned at a lack of interest in ensuring opportunities for bus-rail interchange at our local stations. This has come to a head with the new Ashley Down station.

Construction of the new Ashley Down station began in March and is progressing well. However no attempt has been made to improve bus-rail interchange at Ashley Down. Bristol City council have stated that the location of existing stops is adequate and no further action is required.

We find the council's stance both remarkable and concerning as the current arrangement is wholly inadequate. The station site is only about 200 metres from Muller Road. Here, under the railway bridge is a northbound bus stop. There is not one on the southbound side. When asked whether a southbound one would be installed council officers told us that the council are opposed to this because it would have a negative affect on traffic flow. This appears to run counter to the council's stated aim of prioritising active travel and public transport.

Similarly, on nearby Shaldon Road there is only a northbound bus stop. We understand that Bristol City Council has even considered removing this!

These stops serve routes to Southmead Hospital, Lockleaze and Eastville. Southmead Hospital has significant problems with parking and congestion and is an important destination for people around the region. Lockleaze and Eastville are areas of significant deprivation, where car ownership is relatively low. This limits access to employment opportunities. Bus journeys to are often slow as a result of congestion and insufficient regularity whereas train journeys are rapid.

Existing rail services already serve many employment areas, such as the City Centre, Severnside and Yate. Interchange at the few places where this is possible can allow journeys to other locations, such as at Bristol Parkway or UWE where MetroWest trains and local buses can enable journeys to Emerson's Green Science Park and Cribbs Causeway.

Better interchange between bus and train at Ashley Down station would enable easier and quicker journeys to Southmead Hospital from further afield, and better access to employment from local areas. People could make a variety of journeys by public transport that are currently difficult or unrealistic. The absence of a stop in one direction on different routes creates a long gap between stops and a considerable walk is required up steep hills. This does not encourage travel by public transport and reduces accessibility for those with mobility problems.

Frustrated by a lack of response to our campaigns, we submitted a [pre-application planning request](#) to Bristol City Council. In this we suggested locations for bus stops, included signage

to point the way between station and stops, and suggested types of real-time information for both. The proposed locations are shown in a map below, together with photographs of examples of signage and information displays.

Our intention was to show that interchange is possible and, we hope, to finally push the council into action. However, workload pressures in the council’s planning department means they no longer accept pre-apps for “smaller” planning requests. This has prevented us from having a response that indicates how such a scheme could be progressed.

In other core cities such Manchester, Nottingham or Leeds, it is clear that bus-rail interchange would have been included in the design process for the new station. We don’t think they would consider removing an existing local bus stop, making interchange harder. Nor do we think they would fail to add a bus adjacent to a station where one exists for travel in the opposite direction.

We urge Bristol City Council to follow their stated aim of promoting active travel and public transport, provide proper bus rail Interchange at Ashley Down station and to set the precedent of fully integrating bus and rail services.

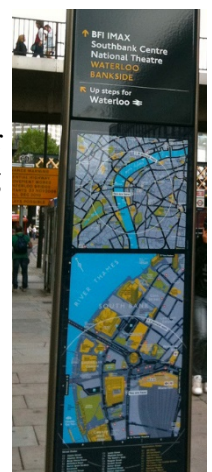
Examples of interchange facilities (taken from Bristol Rail Campaign’s Pre-App)

We proposed a southbound bus stop be built on Muller Road under the railway bridge, with covered bus shelter, associated signs including a hanging LED screen showing real time bus information, and a flat LED screen showing real time rail information. We included the photographs below to illustrate this. Bus stops should have maps showing their location in relation to the station and giving directions.



On Shaldon Road we proposed a southbound bus stop. in view of the limited space we gave three suggested locations, and a choice of either the same facilities as on Muller Road or a bus stop pole incorporating an LED sign to show real time bus information, together with a small

LED screen on the pole giving real time rail information.





We proposed a station signs and Totem LED screens for rail and bus times be placed near the entrances to the station on Muller Road where it joins Station Lane and the Concorde Way, together with LED screen showing rail times.

We also proposed Metallic wayfinding signs on Concorde Way and Station Lane, showing directions of the train station and the bus stops on Muller Road and Shaldon Road. We illustrated these with pictures.



STATEMENT PS 17

Submitted by Martin Garrett

Title: Public Transport

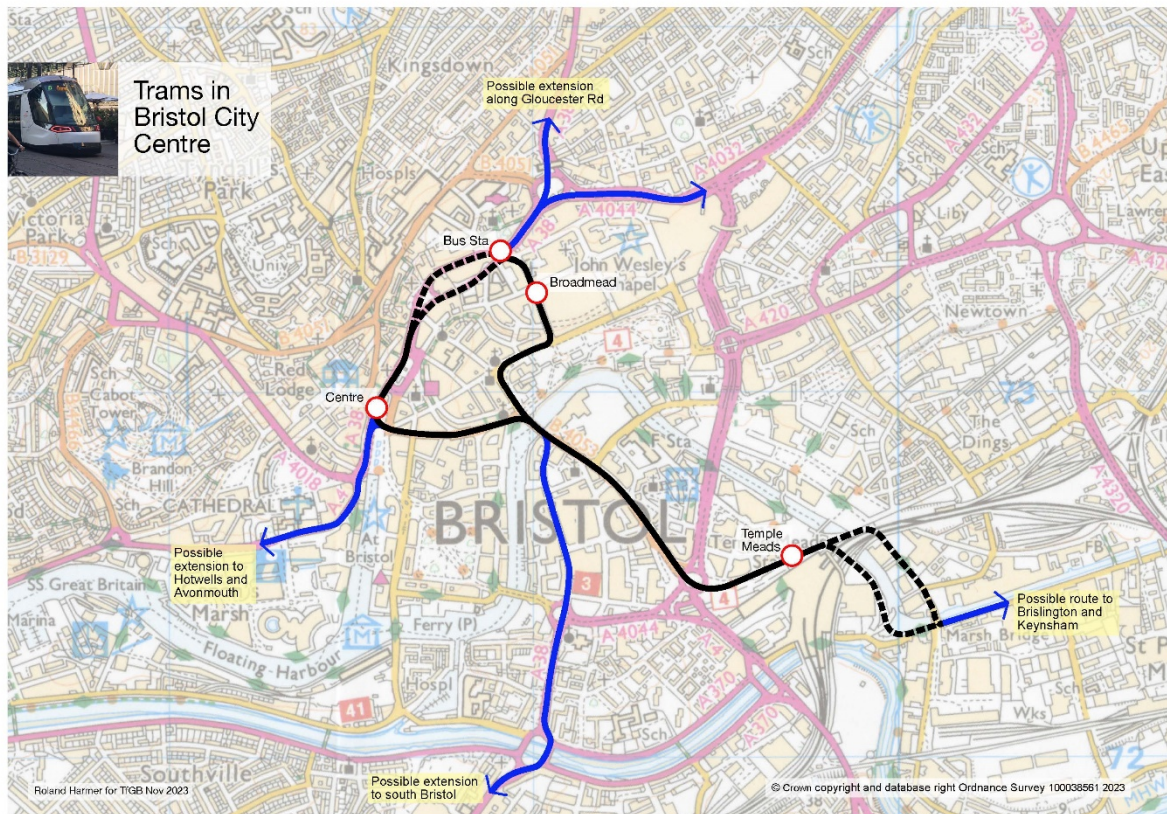
Whatever decisions you make today on Just Transition, and how CAZ income is spent, Bristol needs a transport policy to promote integrated public transport over wasteful private cars, even electric ones.

For that we urge you to work collaboratively within the Combined Authority to develop a policy that includes modern rail based mass transit integrated with a publicly controlled bus network.

This can start with one initial tram route chosen for minimal disruption, and as in other UK cities with tram networks, further routes follow with DfT funding.

As car traffic declines network development gets easier.

Evidence shows that trams within integrated public transport are environmentally sound and promote economic wellbeing with social justice and opportunity.



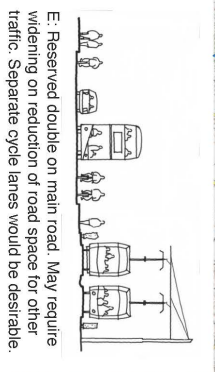
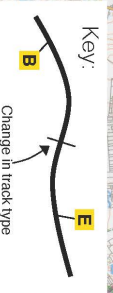
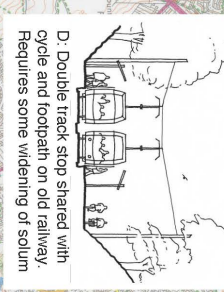
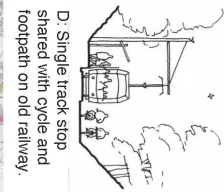
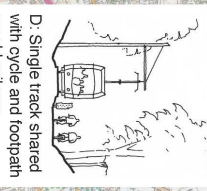
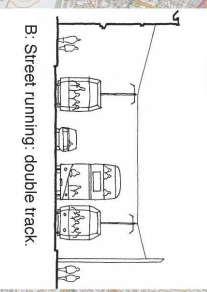
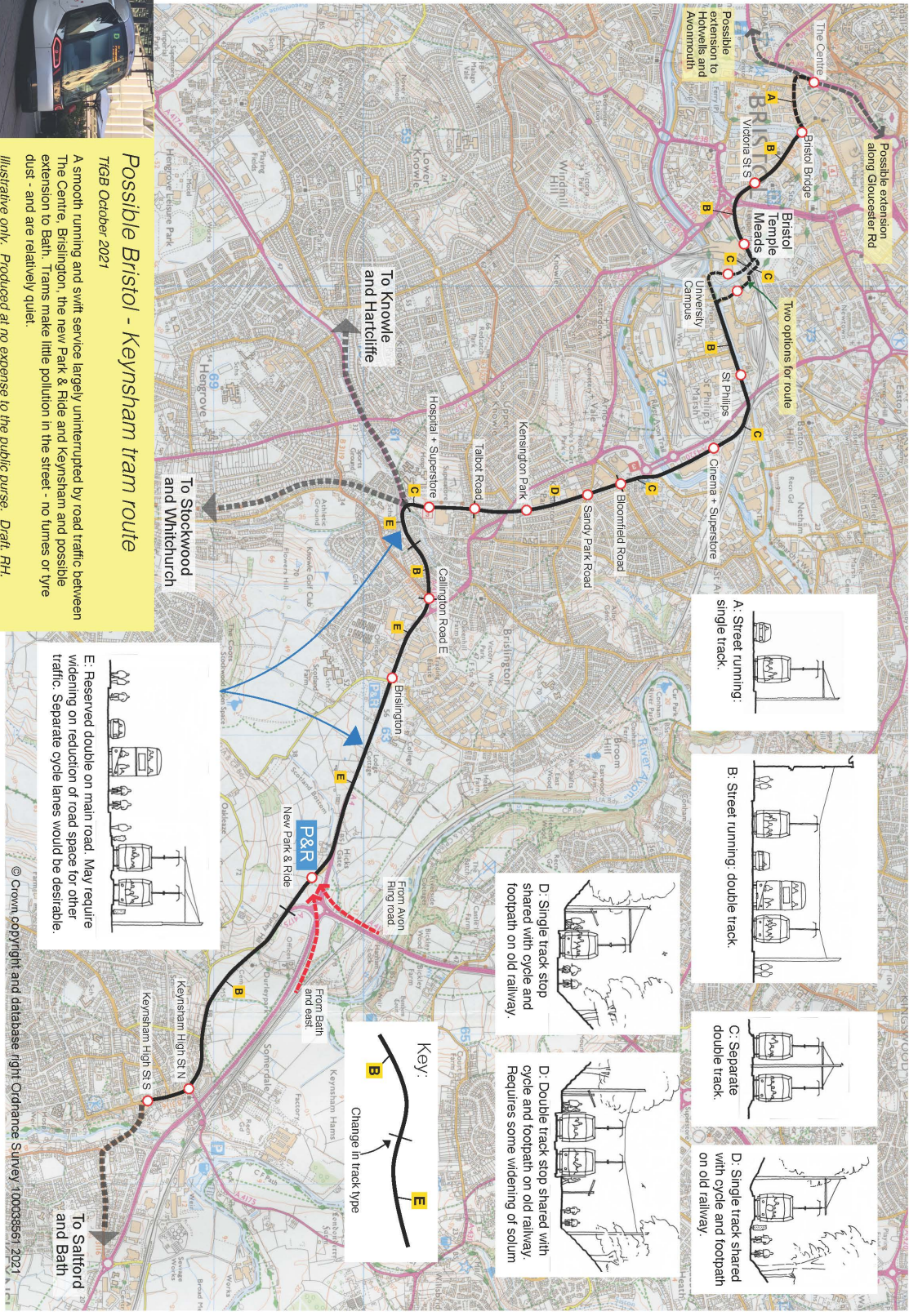


Possible Bristol - Keynsham tram route

TRGB October 2021

A smooth running and swift service largely uninterrupted by road traffic between The Centre, Brislington, the new Park & Ride and Keynsham and possible extension to Bath. Trams make little pollution in the street - no turns or tyre dust - and are relatively quiet.

Illustrative only. Produced at no expense to the public purse. Draft. RH.



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STATEMENT PS 18

Submitted by Helen Hughes

Title: East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood: cleaning the air, improving road safety, and Net Zero

I am aware that the stated aims of the EBLN trial scheme are to make residential streets safer, improve air quality for better health, and to be part of the Council's strategies to implement Net Zero Carbon emissions, having declared a climate emergency.

What I find most puzzling about the "Liveable Neighbourhood" strategy, apart from the confusion around the consultation (some insist there's been an detailed and expansive one involving all residents of the area, while others say in their perception there has been hardly any effective communication), is that, over a period of many years, citizens of Bristol, as over most of the "developed" world, have been channelled into a society that has become very reliant on the car to take part in. Most professional jobs are only available miles from home; where home is is in itself very hard to have much influence over with house prices being so high; local food shops have been replaced in many areas with supermarkets near major roads, and shops in general with giant malls and shopping centres in the town centre or on the very outskirts. Secondary schools and sixth form colleges are often far from home and not necessarily easily accessible by bus. Sporting fixtures at the weekend and even training in the week require cars to transport kids to, often miles away from home. Family members often live far from one another and require a car for visits, including to elderly members in care homes. Evening classes, music groups and associations of all kinds in the city often mean you need a car to be able to attend them. These are just a few of the reasons why people drive. I am sure the mayor and councillors can think of many more.

Cycling and walking are great: I do a lot of both. They help keep us fit and do not pollute the air Yet they will not get us everywhere we need to go, given how society and its structures have been set up. They also become much less attractive in challenging weather conditions, especially when footpaths and cycleways are not properly maintained, particularly for those with disabilities or the elderly. but actually for most others as well.

Being able to use public transport is extremely helpful, if the infrastructure is good. Sadly, only certain aspects of this function well in Bristol, with many routes being complicated and lengthy, and there often being shortages of personnel, etc. (Sadly, funding for the EBLN scheme is not connected in any way to funding for improvements in

public transport.)

I would like to hope that councillors have taken into account all these reasons why people drive their cars in or through Bristol, in preference to walking, cycling or using public transport, and can see that if there is a genuine desire to improve air quality and reduce traffic accidents, as well as aim for a severe reduction in carbon emissions, then the very way our daily lives have been set up (not through our own choice but through the decisions taken by previous town planners, financial and economic interests, both local and national, as well as increasingly global) needs to be taken into account. Closing off a few roads to through traffic is not going to change the fact that people have been made to become dependent on the motor vehicle in the first place. "Rat runners" are actual people with actual lives to lead, trying to find the easiest and most stress-free ways to get to where they need to be. I very much doubt there are many driving through the streets of East Bristol just for the fun of it. I also suspect that there are people living in that neighbourhood who quite possibly use other residential neighbourhoods as short cuts when they are driving from A to B.

If councillors and their advisors involved in or supportive of low traffic neighbourhoods have not been thinking of this, I hope they will start to. Above all, I hope they will begin to speak to people about why they are driving their cars through residential streets and ask them for their own ideas on how this could be done differently. Perhaps, with assistance from the Council, they can find jobs closer to home instead of making it more difficult for them to get to work. At the very least, perhaps the Council can ensure that each area of the city has excellent public transport connections and also thriving local shopping streets with plenty of shops with healthy, locally grown food from healthy soils. If the Council is really serious about health and the environment, my suggestion would be to place its focus there.

STATEMENT PS 19

Submitted by Elena and Murray Cross

Title: Loss of Confidence in Bristol's planning system

We would like to draw your attention to another application decided by the Planning Committee A (31.05.23) which has now been granted (01.12.23). It is the application for the demolition of the west half of the current Vassall Centre in Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2QQ, and the construction of six 3-storey buildings up to 11.5m tall in its place (22/03476/F). The Vassall Centre is a single-storey low impact building situated in a quiet residential area of 2-storey houses with pitched roofs. It houses charities and offers large fully accessible conference rooms and around 110 parking spaces.

This application attracted 89 objections from local residents, tenant charities and other interested organisations; with no statements of support other than that of the applicant's CEO. Many valid material planning concerns were expressed in these objections and the subsequent statements to the Committee. The height, massing and positioning of the buildings; the location of the car park; the inadequate parking provision; and the increased noise, disturbance and pollution were the main concerns of the local residents. The lack of bus service to the proposed development was also mentioned by many, including the local ward Councillor Lesley Alexander. Cllr Alexander's statement, however, was not present in the Public Forum pack for the 31st of May, in spite of being submitted for the 26th of April hearing which was postponed to allow for the site visit. Missing from the May pack, too, was the statement submitted in April by the local community activist Mr Nils Lindahl Elliot.

During the Public Forum Statement presentations for the Vassall Centre, the microphone in the Chamber was muted and the manager of a tenant charity (Driving and Mobility) was prevented from speaking due to their statement being placed within the Broadwalk Shopping Centre Public Forum pack. We, and other members of the Vassall Centre Neighbours group, found the Officer's report and the presentation on the day to be lacking in objectivity, knowledge and even accuracy. The Chairman, having seen the shadowing scheme for the 21st of March, was under the impression that the proposed development would not cause any overshadowing of the neighbouring homes and gardens on "the worst day of the year" (21st of December) and stated this clearly in their pre-vote summary. They were not corrected by the Officer or any of the Committee members. This is evidenced in the Live Link Webcast at 53.00:

"I am reassured that the impact for example of any shadowing will be exceedingly minor. We saw light shadowing schemes on the worst day of the year and that to me was more reassuring." Cllr Eddy

The shadowing scheme for the 21st of December was never produced by the applicant but a photograph of the real life winter shadows cast by 2-storey houses surrounding the Vassall Centre, taken by an immediate neighbour, was displayed in the Chamber on the day.

Furthermore, the winter overshadowing of the currently sunlit gardens and windows that would occur due to the height and massing of the proposed development was mentioned in the objections submitted by the affected residents.

This matter was raised via email with the Chairman soon after the meeting but they never addressed it. We, together with the other members of the group who read out their statements at the meeting, complained on 01.07.23 to the Planning Department about all of the above mentioned issues. The apologies were received for the muted microphone and the misplaced Driving and Mobility statement but we did not receive a satisfactory response with regard to the quality and objectivity of the Officer's report and the presentation. The Chairman's error of judgement regarding the overshadowing was not dealt with at all. Included in our complaint, also, was the pre-application consultation process with the applicant, Bristol Charities. Specific feedback was provided by the local residents on many occasions, however, many of the significant issues raised were repeatedly overlooked.

We are still waiting for the response to our group request for escalation sent on 11.09.23 which we should have received by 27.10.23.

STATEMENT PS 20

Submitted by Kim Hicks

Title: Proposed Cuts to Arts and Culture

Having attended last week's Cabinet meeting – the terrible pressure on the Council to make huge savings is very evident. Nonetheless the proposed cuts to Arts and Culture are breathtaking. Heaped on top of the poor management of previous grant applications the resulting effects for creatives in Bristol is an unsustainable situation with the resultant loss of not only innumerable jobs but entire organisations.

Before voting on these proposals please bear in mind - the Data shows that for every pound invested in Arts and Culture, between £3 and £7 is generated back into the wider economy. In other words, for each £1000 CUT there is a loss to Bristol of between £ 3000 and £7000 pounds.

In a world where National Government policies are driving some local Governments to bankruptcy. Massive Arts Cuts do not make financial sense.

STATEMENT PS 21

Submitted by Nikki Jones

Title: Planning System

I own a house that backs onto the new development off Shaldon Road, Lockleaze. Previously, this was woodland. Two of my bedrooms looked onto trees and birds and, set back from Muller Road, the house had a surprising level of peace and privacy.

I attended two of the early face-to-face public consultations regarding the proposed development of the land. Along with everyone else - there were no dissenters - we agreed to allow the Community Land Trust to build on this land, having being given categorical assurances that our privacy would be maintained, that mature and semi-mature trees would not be removed, that parking areas would be kept away from existing housing, and that the development would be as 'sustainable' as possible.

I wish to emphasise this point: we were not 'NIMBY's, we understood and accepted the need for new housing. Further, we were led to believe that there would be an emphasis on self-build and that local people would benefit from the new housing.

There then followed several years of no - or very poor - communication with the CLT, and inaction on the land. Houses on Muller Road were left out of leaflet drops and when I spoke to someone at CLT to ask for an update, I was told they 'did not do emails'. In general, it was impossible to find out what was happening. Calls and emails went unanswered; promises to call back didn't happen.

Clearly there was another public consultation - online - at some point, but by then I was absorbed in domestic issues. Plus I was naive enough to believe that the original consultation and all the promises (I still have the documentation) held good.

Then the whole site was cleared. Every tree, everything. I'm told the flight of animals was heartbreaking to watch. What has been constructed since breaks every promise we were given. My bedrooms now look directly into the houses on the estate, and vice versa. The parking has been brought right up to our houses and I have had to battle for some screening to be provided. Many of those trees have not survived, and there is inadequate space for real protection.

All the natural flood management from this very wet site has been removed, and my house, built on a clay slope, now has cracking that was not there before. Many of my neighbours have had flooding.

My house has been massively devalued. It has lost all its privacy and quiet. And what I hear from you, Marvin, is that I am a NIMBY. I am not.

My point is that face-to-face consultations with the public should be clearly labelled as 'sales pitches', with guarantees that may - or may not be - upheld. Nothing that is written at that stage can be believed, or taken as an understanding. It is a consultation that is simply for show, and nothing 'agreed' there has any weight at all. We were all conned. New construction should take into account the very real needs and concerns of those who already live in the area. Losing the privacy in your house - let alone your bedroom - is no small thing. Nor is having to deal with cracking and flooding.

Full Council – 14 November 2023

Agenda item 6 b

Public questions



Procedural note:

Questions submitted by members of the public:

- Questions can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affect the city.
- Members of the public who live and/or have a business in Bristol are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions, and to ask up to 2 supplementary questions. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- Replies to questions will be given verbally by the Mayor (or a Cabinet member where relevant). Written replies will be published within 10 working days following the meeting.



*point of explanation - where a person has asked two questions on the same topic they are on the same line. Where topics are different they have different lines.

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Lena Wright	RPZ Consultation
PQ02	Molly Sherlaw-Fryer	Food Sustainability Motion
PQ03	Dan Ackroyd	Arena Island
PQ04	Mike Oldreive	Independent Persons
PQ05	Jenny Harrison	Food Sustainability Motion
PQ06	Suzanne Audrey	Independent Persons
PQ07	Harry Simpson	Bus Services
PQ08	Jen Smith	Independent Persons
PQ09	Keith Farley	Independent Persons
PQ10	Lesley Powell	Independent Persons
PQ11	Railfuture Severnside	Mass Transit and Transport Levy
PQ12	Bristol Disability Equalities Forum	Transport Accessibility
PQ13	Tim Hayes	Events at Lloyds Amphitheatre
PQ14	Veronica Wignall	Food Advertising
PQ15	Martin Rands	Avon Crescent
PQ16	Withdrawn	
PQ17	Sian Ellis Thomas	Member Code of Conduct
PQ18	Joe Banks	Member Code of Conduct
PQ19	Megs Smith	Net Zero Transport
PQ20	Megs Smith	5G Masts
PQ21	Chris Johnson - Keep Bristol Moving	East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood



QUESTION PQ 01

Subject: RPZ Consultation

Question submitted by: Lena Wright

I would like to thank the Mayor for his replies to my previous two questions on Windmill Hill RPZ, in the summer. In one answer the Mayor stated, “As we have stated many times, we will only bring forward residents parking schemes where overwhelming local support has been demonstrated, a criterion that has not yet been met.” In the other, the Mayor stated, “There is no consultation planned.” I looked online for ways to demonstrate the level of local support for something, and the Local Government Association's advice was: to do a consultation with local residents.

Q1. Can the Mayor please advise how residents are supposed to indicate their level of local support without doing a consultation?



QUESTION PQ 02

Subject: Food Sustainability Motion

Question submitted by: Molly Sherlaw-Fryer

My question is directed at Marley Bennett as the cabinet member for climate. At the moment, there is a food sustainability motion tabled from Labour. While the sentiment is good, the details of the motion have many limitations when it comes to making a transition to more sustainable ways of eating and promoting this to residents.

Council has declared a climate emergency and has a 2030 goal that Bristol citizens will consume carbon neutral food and drink. In this context, Council must prioritise a motion that can truly reflect the nature of our collective situation, and can realistically achieve the Council's own goals.

A comprehensive report by Harvard University from 2019 showed that if we free up and rewild the 48% of UK land that is currently being used to farm animals, the UK could be net negative in emissions. This shows the huge impact that making the switch from animal farming to a plant-based food system can make on our climate. If we continue as we are, over a billion people are expected to be displaced and seeking refuge by 2050, all due to climate disasters. Given the urgency of the situation we are in, a 100% plant-based transition is what is needed within society, and key institutions making that transition are key to bringing society closer to this change in order to save the world from total climate catastrophe.

So my question is, will Labour, as the leading party, please recognise the importance of drafting up a stronger and more ambitious plant-based motion and prioritise this as a matter of urgency?



QUESTION PQ 03

Subject: Arena Island

Question submitted by: Dan Ackroyd

My understanding is that the details of the commercial deal done with 'L & G' of the land previously known as 'Arena Island' that saw the land become unavailable to be used for an Arena were kept secret at the time, and still haven't been published.

Please can you provide a detailed explanation of the public interest test that was used and how it was evaluated, that led to the decision for the deal to be kept secret, both at the time, and why the details still haven't been published yet?



QUESTION PQ 04

Subject: Independent Persons

Question submitted by: Mike Oldreive

Q1: The Monitoring Officer has told me in a written answer to Values & Ethics Committee (9 October 2023) that, during his tenure (2018 onwards):

“ The appointment of Independent Persons was done through a formal recruitment and selection process carried out by the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Legal Services.”

[the MO seems to imply that if individuals are appointed to actions other than “investigation” of a complaint, then that is a discretionary matter (which is true) and that therefore the “appointment” is outside the remit of LA2011 (which is incorrect). LA 2011 clearly sets out the arrangements a Council must have in place for setting standards and dealing with complaints. Any Independent Person must be appointed in accordance with s28 of the Localism Act 2011.]

Can the Monitoring Officer confirm that this approach, (where he and the Head of Legal Services appointed “Independent Persons”, apparently without Member approval) was lawful and fully met the requirements of s28 of the Localism Act 2011 for all “IPs” used in complaints handling, by completing the attached table.

Requirement of Localism Act 2011- references to subsections of section 28.	MO confirms that requirements met YES/NO
IP 1 Date appointed:	
8 c (I) the vacancy for an independent person has been advertised in such manner as the authority considers is likely to bring it to the attention of the public,	
8 c (ii) the person has submitted an application to fill the vacancy to the authority	
8 c (iii) the person’s appointment has been approved by a majority of the members of the authority;	
Subsections 8a and 8b and 10	
IP 2 Date appointed ... etc	



Q2: Since 2018 how much has been paid as allowances to the individuals “appointed” by the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services as “Independent Persons”, and on what basis are these payments considered to be lawful? (please provide reference to relevant legislation).

Please provide as a table:

	Value of allowances paid, £		
Financial Year ending:	IP 1	IP2	IP 3 etc
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			
2024 to date			



QUESTION PQ 05

Subject: Food Sustainability Motion

Question submitted by: Jenny Harrison

My question is directed to Marley Bennett, as the cabinet member for climate. In September, a Labour councillor spoke with a member of our Plant-Based Councils team and said that they would be willing to meet with members of the Green Party with a view to develop a cross-party plant-based motion for the Council to debate, in order to hopefully get a motion surrounding plant-based climate solutions heard sooner.

Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change and Councils who have declared and recognised we are in a climate emergency have a responsibility to take action on this. One of the key ways Council can do this is to introduce 100% plant-based catering in their own internal meetings and events, while also taking significant steps to promote plant-based eating to residents. This way we can make meaningful progress towards the Council's goal of Bristol citizens consuming carbon neutral food and drink by 2030. The current tabled Labour motion is much more limited in its scope than this and that's another reason why it's important for Labour and the Greens to meet to hopefully develop a stronger cross-party motion, more in line with what is set out in the Green's tabled plant-based solutions motion that has a greater chance of being heard.

Since September we have not had any further communication from Labour Party councillors regarding this, and so this important work has stalled. So my question is: would you, as the cabinet member with the brief for the Climate, please prioritise a meeting with the Green party, in order to establish a more ambitious cross-party motion that can be prioritised to be heard at Full Council?



QUESTION PQ 06

Subject: Independent Persons

Question submitted by: Suzanne Audrey

Background. In relation to Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, as far as I can tell Bristol City Council's Independent Persons have not been ratified by Full Council for the period between the appointment of Mr Christopher Eskell on 10 September 2013 until today (14 November 2023).

Question 1. Please provide the names of all Bristol City Council Independent Persons appointed since September 2013, together with the dates of appointment.

Question 2. Please explain why the appointment of Independent Persons has not been ratified by Bristol City Council Full Council in the ten years since September 2013. Please note it is not sufficient to say, for example, that the Monitoring Officer and/or Head of Legal Services appointed the Independent Persons. The question is about why the appointments were not ratified by Full Council in line with Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.



QUESTION PQ 07

Subject: Bus Services

Question submitted by: Harry Simpson

The Dings has suffered from no bus service for a while and with new housing projects and the Temple Quarter regeneration scheme it is becoming paramount a service is implemented. Will the administration encourage WECA and First to alter the 36 bus route to better serve the present and future residents?



QUESTION PQ 08

Subject: Independent Persons

Question submitted by: Jen Smith

Q1. Can the Monitoring Officer confirm that there has been no breach of data protection regulations by himself and the Head of Legal Services?

Q2. The Independent Person appointed in 2013 had a term limit of 4 years so they are no longer a lawfully appointed Independent Person. Any "Independent" Persons appointed directly by the MO & HOLS are not appointed in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 so they are not lawfully appointed. Under what legal authority has the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services been sharing the personal information of complainants with those Independent Persons?



QUESTION PQ 09

Subject: Independent Persons

Question submitted by: Keith Farley

1.

What is the justification for the Council to refuse to disclose data (via FOI's etc) about the appointment of IPs (other than names) such as:

- number of IP's in post
- date of appointment
- Who appointed them and how their appointment was approved / whether they were appointed in accordance with the S28 of the Localism Act 2011

to assure the public that the MO / HOL are not acting in opaque isolation as is the current perception?

2.

Can BCC provide the public and members with confirmation that a bone fide, legally appointed Independent Person has been available since 2016 (the last date seemingly an approval to appoint an IP was submitted to the Values and Ethics Committee for approval / onward journey to Full Council)?



QUESTION PQ 10

Subject: Independent Persons

Question submitted by: Lesley Powell

1. The MO has confirmed that the appointment of IPs (following the advert* for IPs in July 2023), which he is retrospectively asking Full Council to ratify today, did not follow the process required under S28 of the Localism Act 2011. As we have multiple examples of confirmation from Legal Services / the MO that the MO consults the IP in EVERY Code of Conduct Complaint, how can the Code of Conduct complaints 'considered' during the period when an IP was not legally appointed, be valid and therefore what is the process for their resubmission for a fair hearing?

*https://ce0389li.webitrent.com/ce0389li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID=045280Qqqm&WVID=5153023bMp&LANG=USA&utm_source=LinkedIn&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

2. In relation to the above, if the MO advises that a legally appointed IP, other than the ones requiring retrospective ratification today, were in post prior to today, to whom he referred Code of Conduct Complaints, why is he / Legal Services refusing to answer all the FOI's which ask for confirmation of this?



QUESTION PQ 11

Subject: Mass Transit and Transport Levy

Question submitted by: Railfuture Severnside

1. In view of the importance of a mass transit light rail system to the Economy and connectivity of the Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

What progress is being made by Mayor Rees in partnership with the leaders of North Somerset council, Banes ,south Gloucestershire county council and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris on the future west mass transit, light rail overground part underground system? One option being funded through a new second Devolution with North Somerset council joining the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority in 2025

2. What progress is being made with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority, North Somerset council, Banes ,south Gloucestershire county council and the mayor of west England Dan Norris. On setting the Transport levy for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority to pay for also Bus services and Public Transport improvements in the Bristol and Bath city region alongside money from the Department of Transport bus service improvement plan funding?



QUESTION PQ 12

Subject: Transport Accessibility

Question submitted by: Bristol Disability Equalities Forum

1. With the important of improvements public transport in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region including North Somerset council area .

Working in Partnership with Banes council, South Gloucestershire county council, city and county of Bristol and North Somerset council Working with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and Mayor Dan Norris,

How does Bristol city council see progress being made on a fully accessible mass transit light rail system going forward in Bristol city Region.

It must be noted that most of uk and Europe have light rail system the compose of overground Street running Segregated tracks and sections and tunnelled sections in Newcastle upon Tyne, city centre, West Midlands metro in Birmingham on its new Extension to Five ways, their are tunnel section on Metrolink in Greater Manchester.

Must mass transit light rail system are a mixture of fixed track formation street running and overground underground. In Fact in Bristol the Bristol Temple meads station seven Beach via Clifton Down station and Avonmouth. Runs underground Clifton Downs in Deep tunnel and under Ashley Down near Montpellier Station.

We therefore ask the city mayor Marvin Rees and councillor Don Alexander Transport what plans they have to move the future west mass transit light rail system forward that is fully accessible to passengers with reduced mobility and partly sighted passengers?

At the next west of England mayoral combined Authority committee and joint committee with North Somerset council who are supporting a mass transit route to Bristol Airport.

2. Whist we have seen a lot of progress on disability and equalities in the Greater Bristol city Region over the last 10 years we still have The Footbridge at kingsweston Lane being rebuilt with disabilities accessible ramps .

And we have a metro west railway Network without fully accessible stations at. St Andrews Road Avonmouth requires rails Bristol Stapleton Road is not accessible to cross platforms Bristol Lawrence hill has a platform accessible in the Severn Beach line and Filton Abbey wood directions. Parson street completely none accessible, Nalisea and Backwell station no access towards Weston super mare and Taunton. No lift Bridges at weston super mare. Highbridge and Burnham on sea, Bridgwater. Keynsham Oidfiled park Freshford and Pilning all have none accessible footbridges to cross platforms

Or Bridges over the Harbour that are Not accessible like the Banana bridge through the new cut .Or Ferry services and Terminal with out Being Wheelchair accessible.

Many street in Bristol have pavement parking making it difficult for disabled people and blind and partly sighted peoples to walk or wheel down the road and street in Greater Bristol laid out with Bristol sets cobbles ,



Or not enough standard housing in the city Region or even basic accessible to homes or shops .

But the New Bristol plan is make the city Region fully accessible with the New South Gloucestershire council North Somerset council and revised Banes plan.

Bristol disability equalities forum would like to ask Bristol city council Working with the other unity council and west of England mayoral combined transport Authority working with the equalities act 2010 plan to Bring forward a fully accessible city to partly sighted and people with reduced mobility.



QUESTION PQ 13

Subject: Events at Lloyds Amphitheatre

Question submitted by: Tim Hayes

Can the Council indicate how the presence of several hundred residences close to Lloyds Amphitheatre, many of them recently built, is incorporated as a relevant factor into the Council's decisions about:

- 1) the number and duration of Lloyds Amphitheatre events?
- 2) the calculation of the specific noise levels that the Council decides are appropriate for events held at Lloyds Amphitheatre?



QUESTION PQ 14

Subject: Food Advertising

Question submitted by: Veronica Wignall

I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis. I'm also very aware of the huge role advertising can play in cultural norms and consumer choice - for example, advertising for beef, unsurprisingly, pushes up likelihood to purchase and consume beef. In relation to the climate, the Advertised Emissions report first launched at COP26 in 2021 found that advertising adds an extra 32% to the annual carbon footprint of every single person in the UK.

This Council has a 2030 goal that "people in Bristol will consume carbon neutral food and drink". It seems very important that advertising within our city is addressed to enable more carbon neutral ways of eating, since it has a considerable influence on people's choices and social norms.

I know Council has already brought in an advertising policy that bans certain harmful ads. My question is, can this be taken a step further to include a ban on meat and dairy advertising, as this contributes massively towards Bristol citizens' choices to eat these foods - which are extremely emissions-intensive and environmentally damaging?



QUESTION PQ 15

Subject: Avon Crescent

Question submitted by: Martin Rands

1. A white line has been painted on the highway at Avon Crescent to 'extend the pavement'

No traffic regulation order has been obtained.

No equalities assessment has been done (there are no dropped kerbs)

No safety assessment has been carried out.

The justification for these failures, is that the 'solution' is temporary and of small scale.

A temporary solution must have a defined end date.

There is no certainty of if and when 'Western Harbour' will be built.

My question is, when does this 'temporary' period end?

2. A Freedom of Information request exposed the minutes for the Quality Assurance Board discussion around Avon Crescent on 1.8.2023.

Information about 'small scale' and 'temporary nature' come from F.O.I. requests by a third party.

My question leading from these minutes is:

What were the concerns with the use of bollards at Avon Crescent?



QUESTION PQ 16

WITHDRAWN



QUESTION PQ 17

Subject: Member Code of Conduct

Question submitted by: Sian Ellis Thomas

Question:

Given the results of the member complaints data finally uncovered this year and for the last six years; (that not one single complaint has been upheld and that information has not been provided to the Values & Ethic committee to enable proper decision making), do you think that it is time for the role of the Monitoring Officer to be reviewed and altered in such a way that does not facilitate a closed system and which allows for more transparency and scrutiny?



QUESTION PQ 18

Subject: Member Code of Conduct

Question submitted by: Joe Banks

This is a yes or no question. Has the council's Member Code of Conduct complaints process been carried out in full accordance with the law (Localism Act 2011) at all times during the Mayor's period in office?



QUESTION PQ 19

Subject: Net Zero Transport

Question submitted by: Megs Smith

Q1. Dear Mayor, as Bristol City Council supports Net Zero emissions incentives, which will mean the eradication of all petrol and diesel cars within the decade, what public transport provision is being planned for those who cannot afford expensive EVs and who choose not to cycle or use the e-scooters?



QUESTION PQ 20

Subject: 5G Masts

Question submitted by: Megs Smith

Q2. Dear Mayor, why is Bristol City Council allowing the installation of sporadic 5G masts without a planning application? Is this not both unlawful and illegal, necessitating their immediate investigation and possible removal , when detected and reported by members of the public?



QUESTION PQ 21

Subject: East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood

Question submitted by: Chris Johnson – Keep Bristol Moving

1. Regarding EBLN; Please will you provide me with the documentation relating to consultation with stakeholders, emergency services any other relevant organisations?
2. Please will you advise which external organisations have been involved in the planning & design of EBLN.



Full Council – 12 December 2023

Agenda item 6 b

Public questions



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Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Rachel Fagan	Arts Funding
PQ02	Joanna Booth	US Embassy
PQ03	Danica Priest	Yew Tree Farm
PQ04	Ian Pond	Greenbank View
PQ05	Stephen Williams	Canford Lane
PQ06	Sally Kent	Children with EHCPs
PQ07	Adam Chivers	Planning Petition
PQ08	Rob Dixon	Ashley Down Station
PQ09	Mark Ashdown	Local Government Act
PQ10	Derek Giovanni	St Johns Lane
PQ11	Jack Slater	Plant Based Motion
PQ12	Sally Roberts	Barton House
PQ13	Rayhan Ismail	Barton Houes
PQ14	Nicholas Watts	Bristol Zoo Gardens
PQ15	Chantelle Osmond	Barton House
PQ16	Jama Hussein	Barton House
PQ17	Jamila Sajid	Barton House
PQ18	Syeda Ahmed	Barton House
PQ19	Nigel Varley	Gilton House
PQ20	Wesley Bear	Barton House
PQ21	Fadumo Farah	Barton House
PQ22	Name Withheld	Barton House
PQ23	Isaac Caffrey	Barton House

QUESTION PQ 01

Subject: Arts Funding

Question submitted by: Rachel Fagan

1. Can the Mayor confirm the reason for the £75,000 per annum cut from Originators funding strand compared to the previous budget, that was reported in the news on Weds 29 November?
2. Can the mayor confirm how much money earmarked for culture funding was left unspent/unawarded in the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 budgets?



QUESTION PQ 02

Subject: US Embassy

Question submitted by: Joanna Booth

What has the council been doing in its work with the US embassy for years, as mentioned by Marvin Rees at a previous meeting? Please be detailed in the response.

Was the work between the council and the US embassy the reason the embassy lobbied on behalf of Rees so he could win the World Mayor competition?



QUESTION PQ 03

Subject: Yew Tree Farm

Question submitted by: Danica Priest

Earlier this year the planning department made an error which resulted in an ancient hedgerow being cut by mistake on yew tree farm. In the council's statement they said: 'The Mayor's Office are conducting inquiries into how this situation has arisen to seek assurances that any issues with process or procedure are fixed immediately'.

Q1: What was the result of that enquiry?

Q2: Since making that statement what changes have you made to the planning enforcement department to ensure this will never happen again as promised?



QUESTION PQ 04

Subject: Greenbank View

Question submitted by: Ian Pond

Regarding the “proposed closure of part of the road to motor traffic and a new cycle lane” on Greenbank View BS5.

Your Transport Engagement Department have put forward a proposal to spend what appears to be a significant sum of money to close a short section (150m) of Greenbank View BS5 to all motor vehicles using removeable bollards to both ends and install a cycle lane.

This road has no through access to motor vehicles due to the long-standing modal filter at the junction with Thurlow Rd, which means that it is already a safe & pleasant road to cycle on. I see no cycling benefit of this work and suggest that there are other places that would be more appropriate for new cycle lanes.

The proposal describes work that entails; the existing modal filter being removed, new bollard closures to be installed, 32 tree pits to be dug in the road and trees planted, the painting of a new cycle lane and installation of a pedestrian crossing.

My two questions are:

What is the total cost estimate for the proposed works as described?

Which specific budget will be used to fund this work?



QUESTION PQ 05

Subject: Canford Lane

Question submitted by: Stephen Williams

1 What is the timetable for installation of the pedestrian crossing on Canford Lane?

2 What criteria, beyond that set out in the Localism Act 2011, does the council apply when considering whether to approve an application to list a property as an asset of community value and where is that criteria published?



QUESTION PQ 06

Subject: Children with EHCPs

Question submitted by: Sally Kent

Please can you break down in numbers and % where children with EHCPs are educated in Bristol?
Please provide data for the last 3 years.

Mainstream school

Special school

Independent special school

Alternative provision

Home school

Education other than at school (EOTAS)

Hospital education

Unknown

Please add any categories I may have missed.

Can you also please clarify how many children are currently waiting for a special school placement?



QUESTION PQ 07

Subject: Planning Petition

Question submitted by: Adam Chivers

1. Bearing in mind the need for impartiality and transparency in the planning process, how can it be that Bristol's Planning System allowed the Case officer responsible for consideration of the proposal by Bristol Zoo for car parking on the West Car Park (application 21/01999/F) to send his Officer's Report in draft form to the Zoo/its representatives and invite/allow it/them to make such amendments to it as it/they wished and to do so covertly without advising the hundreds of objectors thereby giving the Development Committee and the general public the impression that his report was the product of his impartial, objective assessment when it was nothing of the sort?

2. Why should Bristol City Council permit of a system whereby in relation to a major planning application (the application of Bristol Zoo for development of the Zoo gardens 22/02737/F) which attracted massive local objections it allowed insufficient time for public representations thereby depriving significant members of the public the opportunity to have their say?



QUESTION PQ 08

Subject: Ashley Down Station

Question submitted by: Rob Dixon

1) The site of the new Ashley Down station is only about 200 metres from Muller Road, where there is currently a bus stop under the railway bridge for northbound buses but not for those heading south.

Given that it would be at a location where the road is sufficiently wide for traffic to pass, does the council agree with its officers that a southbound bus stop on Muller Road to serve the new Ashley Down station is inappropriate because it would cause congestion? If so how does this fit with the council's stated aim to promote active travel and public transport?

2) What actions do the council plan to take to enable interchange between bus and train? Or do they consider that walking 600-700 metres up steep hills is acceptable, including for those with limited mobility and encourages people to use public transport?



QUESTION PQ 09

Subject: Local Government Act

Question submitted by: Mark Ashdown

This question is directed to the Mayor, the Cabinet Member responsible for Development Management. We require a written response, please.

On a number of occasions when we have attended Council meetings, our requests to adjourn the meeting because of breaches of Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972 (reproduced below) have been refused or not dealt with.

Is it the intention of the Planning Authority to continue to do this and so subvert the purpose this section of the Act?

100B Access to agenda and connected reports.

(1) Copies of the agenda for a meeting of a principal council and, subject to subsection (2) below, copies of any report for the meeting shall be open to inspection by members of the public at the offices of the council in accordance with subsection (3) below.

(2) If the proper officer thinks fit, there may be excluded from the copies of reports provided in pursuance of subsection (1) above the whole of any report which, or any part which, relates only to items during which, in his opinion, the meeting is likely not to be open to the public.

(3) Any document which is required by subsection (1) above to be open to inspection shall be so open at least [F3 five clear days] before the meeting, except that—

(a) where the meeting is convened at shorter notice, the copies of the agenda and reports shall be open to inspection from the time the meeting is convened, and

(b) where an item is added to an agenda copies of which are open to inspection by the public, copies of the item (or of the revised agenda), and the copies of any report for the meeting relating to the item, shall be open to inspection from the time the item is added to the agenda; but nothing in this subsection requires copies of any agenda, item or report to be open to inspection by the public until copies are available to members of the council.

(4) An item of business may not be considered at a meeting of a principal council unless either—

(a) a copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is open to inspection by members of the public in pursuance of subsection (1) above for at least [F4 five clear days] before the meeting or, where the meeting is convened at shorter notice, from the time the meeting is convened; or

(b) by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

(5) Where by virtue of subsection (2) above the whole or any part of a report for a meeting is not open to inspection by the public under subsection (1) above—

(a) every copy of the report or of the part shall be marked “Not for publication”; and

(b) there shall be stated on every copy of the whole or any part of the report the description, in terms of Schedule 12A to this Act, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council are likely to exclude the public during the item to which the report relates.

(6) Where a meeting of a principal council is required by section 100A above to be open to the public during the proceedings or any part of them, there shall be made available for the use of members of the public present at the meeting a reasonable number of copies of the agenda and, subject to subsection (8) below, of the reports for the meeting.



(7) There shall, on request and on payment of postage or other necessary charge for transmission, be supplied for the benefit of any newspaper—

(a) a copy of the agenda for a meeting of a principal council and, subject to subsection (8) below, a copy of each of the reports for the meeting;

(b) such further statements or particulars, if any, as are necessary to indicate the nature of the items included in the agenda; and

(c) if the proper officer thinks fit in the case of any item, copies of any other documents supplied to members of the council in connection with the item.

(8) Subsection (2) above applies in relation to copies of reports provided in pursuance of subsection (6) or (7) above as it applies in relation to copies of reports provided in pursuance of subsection (1) above.]



QUESTION PQ 10

Subject: St Johns Lane

Question submitted by: Derek Giovanni

I live just off St. John's Lane in BS3, which is one of the new routes taken by non-compliant vehicles avoiding the CAZ. It feels like routing traffic outside of the presumably less populated centre of Bristol through neighbouring areas has just shifted a pollution problem into primarily residential neighbourhoods and has additionally caused non-compliant vehicles to have to make longer journeys, resulting in an overall increase in pollution within the surrounding areas.

Question 1

As I understand it, there was a predicted traffic increase of 400 vehicles per day along St. John's Lane. When will figures for the actual increase of traffic along St. John's Lane as a result of the CAZ boundaries be published for comparison?

Question 2

Whilst I question the routing of non-compliant vehicles through residential neighbourhoods, I'm not necessarily against the CAZ and do support attempts to reduce pollution and congestion throughout our city. I assume the planned forecast is that newly busier routes like St. John's Lane will, in time, become less congested and non-compliant vehicle usage and pollution will decrease. What are the timescales for a reduction in non-compliant vehicle usage along the perimeter of the CAZ and how frequently will measurements be taken and published along the way to check progress?



QUESTION PQ 11

Subject: Plant Based Motion

Question submitted by: Jack Slater

My question is directed to councillor Bennett as the portfolio holder for climate. All of the existing food strategy documents that Bristol City Council have produced recognise that animal products are amongst the most environmentally damaging foodstuffs, and it is therefore important for consumption of these products to be significantly reduced if the Council is to achieve its stated goal of “carbon neutral food and drink” consumption in the city by 2030.

It would not be unfair to say that, in this respect, existing strategies do not meet this ambition. They have only very limited plans for meat and dairy reduction, and lack a serious commitment to the promotion of plant based food.

So my question is: in light of the importance of food systems in combating the climate crisis as recognised by the recent COP 28 climate meeting, can you commit to developing, debating, and implementing a plant-based motion as a matter of urgency?



QUESTION PQ 12

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Sally Roberts

1. Are residents to able to go home for Christmas or not?
2. The holiday inn lack of variation dietary needs. One resident has a stomach bag so does not get the dietary needs.



QUESTION PQ 13

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Rayhan Ismail

1. Mayor Marvin Rees,

Considering the complex interplay of safety issues, mental health impacts, and inadequate responses for Barton House residents, how do you envision establishing a multifaceted support system that addresses not only immediate rehousing needs but also provides comprehensive health and well-being assistance, acknowledging the intricate challenges faced by the affected community?

2. Mayor Marvin Rees,

Given the multifaceted challenges at Barton House and the reported breakdowns in communication and crisis management, can you outline a detailed and proactive strategy to rectify the systemic issues, rebuild community trust, and ensure that future responses to such crises are not only prompt but also encompass a holistic approach, considering both physical and mental well-being?



QUESTION PQ 14

Subject: Bristol Zoo Gardens

Question submitted by: Nicholas Watts

First, Bristol Zoo Gardens and Gloucester County Cricket Ground are up for sale for £40 million each, and both of their replacements will be located in South Gloucestershire. Please can you tell us what the resulting loss of revenues to Bristol City Council will be, and the gains to South Gloucestershire?

Secondly, please can you explain why the biodiversity metric applied to the loss of biodiversity resulting from loss of, or damage to the non-native trees at Bristol zoo Gardens in the process of redevelopment is not the latest version, applying state of the art knowledge to mitigation of climate change and preventing loss of biodiversity?



QUESTION PQ 15

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Chantelle Osmond

1. Myself and my children have been staying at my daughters grandmother's in a living room since the evacuation with two dogs and birds and weren't found accommodation where we can stay all together as a unit why is that?
2. What will happen to family's that don't want to return to the building because they are scared and traumatised will they be made homeless through no fault of their own?



QUESTION PQ 16

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Jama Hussein

I am one of the Barton House residents.

My two questions to the mayor are as follows:

1) When Barton House assessment and survey finishes, will you publish and share with residents the full report with its findings and recommendations?

2) After survey's report and assessment is completed, after whatever decision that you made there will be questions and concerns for the residents. Will you personally and your team allocate enough time meet all residents and address our concerns fully?



QUESTION PQ 17

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Jamila Sajid

"When did you first know about the structural problems with Barton House?"

National government sent you a letter about these problems in 2017, so you have known about this situation, and the risk to people's lives, since at least that time.

"Why didn't you act earlier and make for a proper plan of action for a dignified evacuation of Barton House of its residents? Why evacuate us at 6pm in the evening? Why were media outlets made aware of the situation before us residents?"

Ms Jamila Sajid, Barton House Resident.



QUESTION PQ 18

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Syeda Ahmed

What will be the fate of residents living in limbo? How much longer are we expected to live like this ?

When can we get a real concrete answer regarding the multiple failure by the Council to act in a timely and appropriate manner?

My name is syeda ahmed, and my address is Barton House.



QUESTION PQ 19

Subject: Gilton House

Question submitted by: Nigel Varley

1. Will the Council recognise and learn from mistakes made in planning and oversight causing an unacceptable delay in replacing insulating cladding at Gilton House, which has resulted in distress and expense to its residents, so that the residents of the other tower blocks having cladding replaced do not have to endure uninsulated homes during the cold weather period?
2. Will the Council negotiate with the tenants of Gilton House compensation payments to cover the considerable cost of additional electricity required to heat uninsulated homes?



QUESTION PQ 20

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Wesley Bear

Why have the community done more for the residents of Barton House than the council?

Some 20% of Barton House residents are members of ACORN. Why is it that the council refuse to acknowledge ACORN as representatives of the residents, when the residents themselves have named ACORN their voice?



QUESTION PQ 21

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Fadumo Farah

My two questions are:

Is the land of Barton House being sold?

Is the council willing to pay compensation to the residents because it affected us mentally and financially?



QUESTION PQ 22

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: name withheld

What are your long term plans for the residents if they were to get rehoused and would they remain a priority throughout until they get rehoused?



QUESTION PQ 23

Subject: Barton House

Question submitted by: Isaac Caffrey

Why, if the Council is aware, have residents of Barton House, removed from the building over unexplained safety concerns some weeks ago, still been paying rent on the property?

