

Member Forum - Questions & Statements from Councillors



Date: Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Time: 4.30 pm

Agenda

1. **Member Forum Questions and Answers Received**

(Pages 2 - 25)

2. **Member Forum Statements Received**

(Pages 26 - 31)



Member Forum

16th March 2021

Questions and replies



Procedural note:

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- Councillors are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions each.
- Councillors are also entitled to ask a maximum of 2 supplementary questions at the forum.
- All supplementary questions must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- Questions have been submitted in priority order.
- At the forum, the asking of supplementary questions will be rotated between the political groups.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 1

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Smith (Westbury on Trym & Henleaze)

Subject: CLEAN AIR ZONE

1. Is the Mayor able to tell me what proven predictive level of accuracy for the types of mathematical (or other) modelling used to finalise your clean air action plan?
2. What are the current monitored levels for NO₂ on this part of the A4?

REPLY:

Q1

The verification process has been fully described in Section 3 of AQ2 and Section 3 of the April AQ3 report in the recently submitted Full Business Case (FBC).

The model we use is GBATS, and all our modelling work is submitted to, assessed, and signed off by the JAQU technical team at DEFRA and ultimately the minister. They have approved all our submissions to date.

Q2

I presume you are referring to the Portway.

The annual mean concentration of NO₂ in 2019 at site 555 (420 Hotwell Road) was 32 ugm⁻³ (microgrammes per cubic metre). Site 555 is the only location on the A4 portway for which we have recent data.



GREEN QUESTION 1

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Carla Denyer

Subject: Support for Student Tenants in Private Accommodation

Councillors from several parties have been working to support student renters who are on strike after being asked to pay huge sums for accommodation they cannot use. Since being encouraged by universities to sign housing contracts, Government advice changed, and many students were advised not to return to student accommodation after Christmas.

Universities have already provided rent reductions for students in halls. Students and others are now calling on private landlords to take advantage of Government support and do their bit to support students too. The University of Bristol and Bristol Students' Union have backed these calls.

Last month 67 Bristol councillors and candidates signed an open letter calling on private landlords, student accommodation providers and letting agents to offer rent relief to students whose income or housing situation has been affected by the pandemic, taking advantage of support offered by the government including mortgage holidays.

This particularly affects students from lower income backgrounds, many of whom expected to get a part-time job in the hospitality industry to help pay their rent, as the average maintenance loan does not cover rent and living costs in Bristol.

Questions:

Mayor Rees, please will you commit to:

1. Support struggling students by writing to private landlords, student accommodation providers and letting agents to ask them to take advantage of government support such as mortgage holidays to offer rent relief or penalty-free contract release to their student tenants?
2. Write to the Minister of State for Universities calling for financial support to universities and students during the pandemic to ensure that students do not face undue financial hardship, and receive adequate education and mental health support?

REPLY:

Q1

Our private housing team have corresponded through regular bulletins to landlords and agents operating in the Private Rented Sector and we are happy to reiterate that message.

Q2

We have already written to the Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan, asking the government to increase the financial support available for students, and also to call for more mental health provision both within universities and across the health service.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 1

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Gary Hopkins Subject: Social Housing Targets

Housing figures for Bristol new homes and affordable new homes have recently been published by council officers. I have grouped them into period 1 which was mainly Lib Dem administration but with other parties having influence prior to the mayor. Period 2 is the Ferguson mayoral administration. Period 3 is Mayor Rees' administration.

PERIOD 1

Total new homes. Of which classed as affordable

08/09. 2574. 583
09/10. 2189. 510
10/11. 1739. 402
11/12. 1746. 369

Average. 2067. 466

PERIOD 2

12/13. 878. 300
13/14. 1287. 103
14/15. 1454. 243
15/16. 1539. 173

Average. 1292. 205

PERIOD 3

16/17. 1994. 199
17/18. 1640. 188
18/19. 1799. 260
19/20. 1350. 312

Average. 1696. 240

1. With a clearly stated promise of 2000 houses of which 800 affordable in his 2016 manifesto should the Mayor instead of boasting about success in hitting his target ,which he did in the media a year ago, or crowing about success in delivering affordable homes ,which he and colleagues did in our recent budget debate, now in fact be issuing an apology to Bristolians for breaking this, and every other , of his promises?



2. This authority has cross party over many years supported the maintenance and enhancement of local authority housing. The mayor and most of his party refused recently in the budget debate to implement the possible rent rise. One of the main reasons for agreeing the rise was the access to extra borrowing for the HRA at favourable terms to be used for improvements and new council house provision. The calculation of the extra funds available was apparently not available to cabinet. Can we now have that figure please?

REPLY:

Q1

Far from apologising I hope you'll join me in recognising the success. Thanks to our delivery, there are families across the city who now have a stable home, and we are monitoring closely the delivery of sites in our pipeline.

We took numbers up, but we need to recognise the impact that Brexit and Covid have had on delivery.

As your own numbers show, we were on track to exceed 2000 homes a year, and as we move out of Covid, we will accelerate our delivery and exceed our targets.

Q2

One of the reasons why freezing rents was the right thing to do is because our residents have experienced an exceptionally difficult year.

While increasing rents in 2021/22 by CPI +1% could have generated an additional £1.7 million income each year (excluding the impact of bad debt), there is no correlation between this income and the access to extra borrowing at favourable terms.

The PWLB interest rates are determined by HM Treasury and the Council cannot borrow in advance of need. Borrowing terms for the Council including the HRA must meet affordability principles as set in the prudential code and not expose the Council to unnecessary risk over the medium and long term. The capital strategy sets interest cover ratio (ICR) as one of the measures of how well the fund can meet its fixed interest costs from annual surpluses, but this will not be the only consideration in determining affordability and risk exposure over the long term.

The freeze is for one year while we draw together a 30-year business plan for the HRA. That plan will set out ambitious housebuilding plans, and also tackle the historic failures in maintaining our existing stock.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 2

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Weston (Henbury & Brentry)

Subject: CLEAN AIR ZONE

1. Does the Mayor accept there is a certain level of mission creep evident in extending the zone perimeter to the Portway? Whilst this may capture more vehicles to achieve 'behavioural change', the original purpose of the CAZ was to lower pollution in non-compliant parts of the city.
2. If, as seems likely, that the effect of this policy will be to displace traffic into other areas, and potentially raise air pollution in other places or over a wider area, does this not risk becoming a self-defeating measure for protecting the environment?

REPLY:

Q1

The original purpose of the CAZ has been to lower pollution and drive behaviour change.

This movement has always been part of the CAZ proposals from the very beginning of the proposals that were consulted on, so there is no mission creep.

Q2

This is why we kept telling Conservative ministers that CAZ is a very blunt instrument.

While there is some displacement of traffic expected, the total increase in traffic flow is estimated to be around 2-5% on roads around the zone

Due to the zone cleaning up the vehicle fleet overall, pollution levels even on roads with additional traffic are expected to fall.



GREEN QUESTION 2

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Martin Fodor

Subject: Investing in our streets and neighbourhoods

Years of austerity and the experience of lockdown has highlighted the need for healthier streets and more child friendly, safe and liveable neighbourhoods.

It's been stated many times now that this will be the council's approach in future. What support and resources will be made available to work with residents and stakeholders to make this a reality, and when?

REPLY:

Work is already underway on an ambitious citywide proposal for Liveable Neighbourhoods. We hope to complete this strategy by the end of the year, with public consultation in Autumn/Winter.

We are currently engaging with city stakeholders to ensure that this strategy is representative of a range of views. Some examples include Members, Emergency Services, Health partners, the Citizens Assembly, Disability and Equality groups, the One City Transport Board and many more.

For such an impactful programme of works it's important that we bring people with us to avoid some of the kickback that we have seen occur in some of the London boroughs. The strategy will answer the challenging questions around funding arrangements, timescales and most importantly of all prioritisation, so that resources can then be focussed.

At the same time we are also tackling the issue of how we become better 'enablers' of neighbourhood improvement schemes, and again, the strategy will speak to this.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 2

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Tim Kent

Subject: Children's Play Areas

1. Could the Mayor please provide details about Bristol's children's play areas? Particularly could you please list out the total backlog in repairs and equipment needing replacement, due to being end of usable life, for all of Bristol's play areas? A total number is fine or break down by ward preferable.
2. For my ward of Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Fortfield Green Play Area was at the end of its life over 5 years ago by the Council and at Millennium Green Play Area not one of the five swings are present for children to use. What action on repairs and replacement of this play equipment has the mayor planned for the next 12 months?

REPLY:

Q1

The Council inspects its 151 play areas, wheel parks and MUGAs for health and safety purposes weekly or bi-weekly.

Defects are categorised by risk with high risk items tackled as soon as possible and medium risk tackled within 12 months. Lower risk items do not necessarily require a response as they do not affect safety nor play value in many cases.

At the 11th March there were 15 high risk defects logged and 397 medium risk defects.

Play equipment is supplied with a manufacturer's 'shelf life'. However, as our play team make repairs daily we are able to extend this shelf life, often considerably.

Q2

We are aware that both play areas require investment. We would welcome a conversation about how we can improve the future design of Hartcliffe Millennium Green.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 3

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Claire Hiscott (Horfield)

Subject: BRISTOL BEACON PHASE 2

1. Many local taxpayers will have been shocked by the escalation in cost for this renovation project. Can the Mayor tell me what professional oversight was put in place by the council at every stage of this contract from procurement to ruin?
2. Can the Mayor advise who authorised the removal of the roof before checking the full building survey as this act could only further compromise its structural integrity?

REPLY:

Q1

The project followed an industry standard 2 stage procurement process through the Southern Construction Framework. Since approval at Cabinet in 2018 professional oversight has been provided by both internal and external resource including:

- procurement officers,
- internal and external legal support,
- internal project management officers,
- a comprehensive design team,
- external professional cost managers (Aecom)
- external professional project managers (Mace)
- an experienced Project Director

All surveys and issues discovered through the enabling works contract were addressed within the construction contract through provisional sums. The building continued to reveal issues and secrets up to a year after the main contract started.

Q2

We were always going to take the roof off.

The removal of the roof was programmed within the contract approved in June 2019 under delegated authority by the Exec Director for Growth and Regeneration and the consultees noted into the Cabinet decision.



GREEN QUESTION 3

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Paula O'Rourke

Subject: Lamppost in the Paragon

A lamppost in the Paragon in Clifton was knocked down in the summer of 2019 and it is to be replaced under an insurance claim. The insurance company want 3 quotes before they accept the claim. I know that this heritage piece will be replaced by craftsmen and it is very specialist work. However, it is almost 2 years since the accident and the insurance claim, to the best of my knowledge, is yet to be processed.

While I understand the hurdle of Covid, I question if this is really acceptable; can the Mayor account for the long delay and tell me something about how target-setting and performance management play a part?

REPLY:

The process has taken longer than usual, and we recognise and accept the frustration. The issues have been interruptions in the supply chain due to Covid and Brexit, and furloughed staff at our specialist suppliers.

We have approached 3 specialist suppliers (this type of work is very specialist and the supply chain is very limited). We received 2 quotations; one quotation not valid as the supplier has not supplied a working drawing or structural calculations and the second quotation is substantially more. We have a meeting booked with a Contractor next week to gain a second quotation in order to satisfy the insurance company. Officers are happy to update you with next steps following this previously arranged meeting.

Performance is always monitored, and in this case it is worth acknowledging the strain on that department's resource. The department has had to prioritise extensive Health & Safety electrical testing and compliance works to ensure the streetlights and electrical infrastructure across Bristol remains safe and the Authority fulfils its statutory requirements under the Electricity at Works Act. The team has also been required to electrically test and inspect in the region of 40k units in the last 18 months.

Non-critical works are not prioritised, but will be carried out as resource allows.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 3

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Anthony Negus

Subject: Planning Enforcement in Cotham

In defiance of council policy, letting agents are advertising existing private houses in an area with an Article 4 direction that requires them to apply for planning approval, and properties without a C4 (HMO) planning permission for lettings to students. 11 properties in High Kingsdown alone have been submitted for investigation as records show that they do not comply and a number of individual present HMOs have been submitted by several local residents because increased numbers of occupants puts them in breach of licensing and probably planning law. The common thread in all of these situations is that no replies have been received from the planning enforcement team or the replies do not address the stated problem or, after several months, they are saying that the situation is still under review.

Q1: Will the mayor give absolute assurance that there has been no instructions to relax this policy or downplay the importance of resolving these accumulating complaints and if so is he satisfied with the level of staffing or commitment to dealing with these recurring issues?

Subject: EV Charging in Cotham

Many local residents, particularly those living adjacent to the soon to be rolled out CAZ, want to do the right thing and upgrade to cleaner vehicles. I have received many enquiries about on-street EV vehicle charging from people who live in streets where onsite parking is not available and anyway, they would not wish to tear down their front garden walls and rip out trees and shrubs. The council has made clear that it will take action against trailing leads and even cable trays because it sees them as a hazard to pedestrians (though it's strange that all the other hazards are not similarly considered important). It has also indicated that its preference is for charging points to be in existing fuel stations which is not always convenient and requires more vehicle movements.

Q2: Will the Mayor please report on the current thinking and actions on how street charging may be rolled out, maximising existing power supplies, and employing funding from government, the council and even private sponsorship as has been explored and sometimes implemented by other local authorities in the UK?

REPLY:

Q1

There have been no instructions to relax the policy or the approach to the issue of HMOs. In fact, the Council's ability to carefully manage new HMOs has been significantly improved by the recent adoption of the HMO Supplementary Planning Document and also the introduction of further Article 4 directions across the city.

All planning enforcement complaints are registered and will be investigated by the relevant team in the Development Management service. The DM service is funded by planning application fees and this source of funding has been significantly impacted recently. As a result, the anticipated additional resource for a more proactive approach (to HMOs that were identified through the licensing process) has not been possible. This will be kept under review.

In the meantime, the specific cases in question will be investigated by the team. If complainants have further evidence of harm being caused by the alleged changes of use, this can be submitted to the enforcement team in order to inform prioritisation.

Q2

We're currently installing over 120 publicly accessible charging bays, as part of the Revive network, at destinations as part of the Go Ultra Low West project, which concludes in 2021. Charge points are being added to some fuel stations by the private sector.

We're identifying new funding and hope to apply for a new grant in 2021-22. We're investigating the potential for CIL and s106 to be used as match funding.

We're evaluating different residential charge point solutions, where there are not suitable off-street locations in areas of high demand for residential charging.

We're currently analysing areas of high demand and welcome suggestions for new sites from residents. There is a form on the Travelwest website. travelwest.info/electric-vehicles/charging-points#suggest-a-new-charging-point-location-or-make-an-enquiry



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 4

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor John Goulandris (Stoke Bishop)

Subject: BRISTOL BEACON

1. When did the Mayor first become aware that the revised budget for this work was wholly inadequate?
2. If, as it has also been alleged, bids for publicly funded contracts are often unrealistically low, is it not time to adopt best practice or the more disciplined approach to project management relied upon by the private sector?

REPLY:

Q1

The risks to the original budget were escalated to me in April 2020 as soon as it was apparent they would become issues that could not be managed within the limits of time and cost set out by Cabinet, before we had the full information.

Q2

As you will know, BCC has historically struggled with the cost and scope of projects, due to a lack of backroom capacity and skills. We have appointed a new head of capital projects, and have brought in a strategic partner with the aim of better managing our projects and contracts as well as improving the amount of delivery in our capital budget.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 4

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Sultan Khan

Subject: Bulky Waste

Eastville is hotspot for the waste on the street.

I have written to the Mayor and cabinet member for waste and had a meeting with the cabinet member about bulky waste fees and its impact on my ward.

I was assured that they are looking into it and happy to find some solution, yet, when amendments put forward to reduce the fees, you have voted against, let alone scraping it. What action is being taken to reduce the problem of bulky waste in Eastville and across the city?

REPLY:

I'm pleased to see you've met with the Cabinet Member.

The Council offers residents free use of the Reuse and Recycling Centres at St Philips and Avonmouth to dispose of household waste items.

The bulky waste service is designed to offer residents who cannot access the Reuse and Recycling Centres a low cost collection for items that cannot fit in or are not suitable for their refuse collection service.

The Council also promotes third party organisations who offer free collections for reusable items varying from books, clothes to furniture. Links can be found on our website.

Leaving waste on the street is classed as fly tipping which is a crime. If you provide officers details on particular problem areas they can deploy Community Engagement to inform and educate the residents in those areas.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 5

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Richard Eddy (Bishopsworth)

Subject: IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE MALAGO GREENWAY SHARED CYCLEWAY/ PEDESTRIAN PATH (IN THE MANOR WOODS VALLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE)

1. The Mayor will be aware that one positive feature of 'Lockdown' and related restrictions during the Covid crisis is that many people have reacquainted themselves with their neighbourhood open spaces and rediscovered greater exercise and more sustainable transport. One such area in my ward is Manor Woods Valley, bisected by the Malago Greenway shared cycleway/ pedestrian path, which also connects us with Bedminster and the City Centre. Unfortunately, increased usage - particularly by pedestrians - has led to soil erosion and other physical damage. Are there any plans to address such damage and improve the LNR for future use?
2. Back in the early 2010's, there were upgrades to the Malago Greenway northeast of Hartcliffe Way? Are there any plans to improve the cycleway/ pedestrian path southwest of Hartcliffe Way (in Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve)?

REPLY:

Q1

The numbers of people visiting parks and green spaces has been very high – through 2020 and in to 2021. This in combination with winter weather conditions has led to higher incidences of ground damage in many spaces that is largely cosmetic and will recover naturally.

We are checking sites now and where damage has occurred that requires a repair to be made we will be doing this when ground conditions improve. I will ask officers to liaise with you on Manor Woods Valley.

Q2

There is currently no funding in place to upgrade the Malago Greenway through Manor Woods Valley, however officers will be able to submit the scheme to WECA's walking and cycling 'Early Assessment Sifting Tool' (EAST) for consideration.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 5

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Sultan Khan

Subject: Homelessness and Covid19

We have around 100 homeless rough sleepers in Bristol. Do we know how many are registered with GPs, how their mental and physical wellbeing has held up over the past year, and whether they all have access to the Covid vaccination? What additional plans are now in place to ensure they have permanent accommodation as we leave COVID19 restrictions?

REPLY:

There have been around 1,500 people placed into accommodation since the implementation of Everyone In which was initiated as part of the Covid19 response.

Since 'Everyone In' the number of people rough sleeping has decreased markedly since 2019-20.

Actually, the figure now identified as rough sleeping in Bristol in the last week is 27. 18 of these have been made an offer of accommodation and refused it. 4 have been evicted from or abandoned accommodation they have been placed in and 5 people are new to the streets and will be receiving an offer of accommodation.

All rough sleepers are offered care and wellbeing services from the Homeless Health Service. We are not able to provide information about the numbers of rough sleepers registered with other GPs.

A multi-agency group was set up to ensure that homeless rough sleepers have access to Covid testing and the Covid vaccination.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 6

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Graham Morris (Stockwood)

Subject: SCOTLAND LANE

1. In January you said that plans are ongoing regarding Scotland Lane and preventative measures regarding fly tipping.

I agree that the lane is difficult, and I would welcome the opportunity to be involved in discussions about how we can make this work. However, I am not getting any feedback from Council Officers and would appreciate a full update on plans and timescales. Are you able to provide these?

REPLY:

An assessment of Scotland Lane has found that the fly tipping takes place in a wide range of locations in an adhoc way. There do not appear to be specific locations on the lane where targeted action can be taken.

The range of fly tipping locations and the nature of the roadside environment, which is primarily hedgerow, make it unsuitable for the deployment of CCTV cameras.

Enforcement officers are visiting the location on a weekly basis to check for fly tipping and search for any evidence that will assist with enforcement action. One Fixed Penalty Notice has recently been issued.

An evaluation is currently taking place to consider more sustainable options to deter fly tipping. I will ask officers will contact you to ensure that you are involved in helping to find a solution to this problem.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 6

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Chris Davies

Subject: Redcatch

Q1 There has been further delay in the parks asset transfer process. Redcatch park is very successful but we are not getting the best from the pavilion as parks dept have not got the capacity or the funds to manage it. In addition, we have had some very unsuitable football teams causing annoyance to neighbours and other park users.

A petition has been submitted today in support of the joint application from the Redcatch community garden, who have been a huge asset to the park, and the park football club who do a great job locally and are very highly regarded by Somerset F. A..

As the transfer will take time can i get an assurance from the mayor that a short term licence can be issued a.s.a.p. So that we can get full and proper use of our park and necessary repairs can be carried out.

Q2 After Much delay the road junction at the Redcatch park entrance and associated work were actioned a few months ago. The quality of the work by the contractor was very poor and there are a couple of very minor design issues to rectify. We have met officers on site and have followed up every avenue available but as yet we are still not benefitting properly from the safety improvements and the road surfacing is awful.

Can the mayor intervene to get this work satisfactorily completed please without further delay.

REPLY:

Q1

We are committed to working with all our football, rugby and cricket clubs on transfers of facilities to ensure they have the benefit of managing their own pitches and clubhouses.

The Sports Facilities Transfer expression of interest phase was extended until the end of March to allow time for interested parties to raise questions and receive answers and in anticipation of the government's covid roadmap and the ability to arrange site visits.

A decision on the future of the facilities will be made based on the expressions of interest received and the quality of the proposals. In the meantime the facilities will be available to clubs and teams to hire seasonally or on an individual game basis as in previous years. The council has accommodated teams' requests to extend this season to the end of June.

Q2

The contractors fully agree that the standard of workmanship (namely the resurfacing and the level control of the ramps) has not been carried out to the appropriate standards.

The contractors concerned suffered an outbreak of COVID 19 which we understand to have delayed their timely response to these issues.



Officers have provided detailed plans, photographs and descriptions of the substandard works and actively pursued the Contractors for their response.

Their formal reply is expected imminently. Officers will shortly agree the extent of remedial works with the contractors



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 7

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Graham Morris (Stockwood)

Subject: IMPERIAL SPORTS GROUND - MANOR FARM SITE

1. You have recently been emailed regarding your comments on the Manor Farm Site of the Imperial Sports Ground. Due to the lease involved in the site there is no financial security to improve the changing rooms - in fact it is a complete disincentive and a financial risk.

South Bristol Sports Centre are really keen to support the community by securing the future of this building - without which 6 sports pitches will not have any changing and toileting facilities whilst the existing changing rooms deteriorate and attract further anti-social behaviour.

Can you please confirm your support for a new community use for the site at NO cost to the Council and support Council officers in their discussions with the landowner?

REPLY:

Thank you for the proposal.

As you know, we support the Imperial Sports Ground and I have asked council officers to meet with you and the trustees to look at the lease.

We are committed to supporting sport across the city.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 7

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Wright

Subject: Harbourside

The first “spring-like” weekend at the end of February brought predictable crowds down to Harbourside. This was nothing though, compared to the number of people that will surely come when the bars, cafes and shops will open on 12th April. That time last year, utter chaos ensued, and parts of the quayside transformed into an open sewer due to the lack of bin emptying and public toilets, and all the business venues refusing to open their own toilets to customers due to perceived Covid risk.

Q. What measures is the Mayor taking to ensure that there will be adequate toilet provision on Harbourside to handle the expected tens of thousands of people in early April?

REPLY:

A temporary serviced public toilet facility will be provided on each side of the harbour from April through to September. These will be robust container style units.

Bristol Waste Company will be providing an enhanced cleaning operation in the Harbourside area.

Temporary fencing will again be put in place on the Harbour Inlet pontoons and the reed bed walkway (opposite the SS Great Britain).

Discussions are taking place with local supermarkets to restrict the supply of alcohol at peak times in the Harbourside area.

We will be encouraging licensed premises that are open to make their toilet facilities available to the public

CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 8

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Liz Radford (Westbury on Trym & Henleaze)

Subject: CLEAN AIR ZONE

1. Parts of our City have no/little air quality monitoring. Please can the Mayor confirm what extra monitoring sites will be set up, to record the impact of the proposed Clean Air Zone outside of this area?
2. Specifically, can the Mayor confirm which monitoring sites will be set up on the A4018 and the B4056 in North Bristol, which will not only be affected by the proposed CAZ, but also the CPNN?

REPLY:

Q1

Our air quality monitors are fully compliant with Defra guidance and are reviewed annually. We monitor at 188 locations in 2021, and these locations are reviewed each year.

Monitors are located close to busy roads.

We have started monitoring at over [90 new sites](#) in 2021 to assess the effect of the CAZ. The locations have been determined by the modelling for CAZ.

Monitors for CAZ specifically in the area cited are shown [here](#)

Q2

Monitoring of a site on Southmead Road (B4056) in 2018 showed annual mean concentration of 28 ugm-3 (40 is the legal limit) of NO2 and was discontinued thereafter as part of our regular review process. We will review a return to that site.



CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 9

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Geoff Gollop (Westbury on Trym & Henleaze)

Subject: PROPOSED CONVERSION OF 'A' and 'B' BOND WAREHOUSES

1. The Mayor may recall that the idea of repurposing these buildings for housing was advocated in a Conservative motion around three years ago, so we welcome this possible development. It will now be subject to public consultation by the Council's own housing company. No doubt this will involve a mixture of types and tenure. Can the Mayor advise whether any of these flats will be reserved for 'key' worker accommodation as our resolution in 2018 originally envisaged?
2. Will the Mayor look again at the potential for deploying modern prefabricated dwellings to address the continuing housing shortage in our city?

REPLY:

Q1

The Bonded Warehouses form a significant feature within the Western Harbour Regeneration Area, and the intent is to re-develop the warehouses as part of a residential/mixed use regeneration scheme at Western Harbour.

The Cabinet report, agreed, identifies a number of locations where Goram Homes, the council's housing company, may in the future act as developer including A and B Bond warehouses.

We are still at the early stages of considering how Western Harbour will be developed and are committed to working with businesses and the community to create a shared vision and masterplan for the area.

A programme of early engagement will take place in Summer 2021 to create a shared vision for the area – we will be talking to local and citywide communities, businesses and stakeholders. This will be followed by the creation of a masterplan, anticipated to take two years to produce, again in collaboration with communities, businesses and stakeholders.

The masterplan will determine the mix and location of development across the Western Harbour regeneration area. The council is committed to mixed use/ residential development.

Any residential element will have a mix of tenures, at this juncture it is too early to determine the exact tenure mix, but that we recognise the need to include key worker accommodation. This will be considered in due course.



Q2

We are committed to accelerating delivery of new homes throughout the city. Currently our team is working with the Bristol Housing Festival on demonstrator sites in assessing Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) as a construction method. The sites that have been delivered by the BCC team and or in partnership with the housing festival are:

- Ashton Rise (133 new homes- a mix of affordable and private sale homes delivered by the HRA team)
- Hope Rise (Zpods- 11 units of which houses vulnerable adults and provides onsite support)
- Snug home (1 unit which is complete and has housed a refugee family)

We're not just interested in new ways to build houses, we're interested in new ways of thinking about the role of housing in creating great places that support communities and we see MMC as part of that.

We encourage you to contact the Housing Festival team and bring forward any ideas you may have.



Member Forum

16 March 2021

Statements from Councillors



Procedural note:

STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- A maximum of 1 minute shall be allowed for the presentation of each statement (subject to overall time constraints).
- There shall be no debate on the statements and the Lord Mayor shall refer them to the Mayor for information/consideration.
- Statements will be dealt with in the order of receipt (subject to time).

The following statements have been submitted – full details are attached:

| | Name | Subject |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|
| CS01 | Cllr Graham Morris | Mixed Tenure Estate |
| CS02 | Cllr Olly Mead | Local Government |
| CS03 | Cllrs Estella Tincknell and Gill Kirk | Lockleaze |
| CS04 | Cllr Jerome Thomas | Bristol airport expansion and failure to represent the policy of Bristol City Council by Bristol's mayor |
| CS05 | Cllr Lesley Alexander | State of Bristol's Streets |
| CS06 | Cllr Don Alexander | Bristol Music |



CS01

Members Forum statement from Councillor Graham Morris

Subject: Mixed Tenure Estate

I have been speaking to several residents recently regarding their concerns of living in their mixed tenure estate. They are upset by the significant deterioration in their quality of life and have provided me with a few examples of what they are experiencing.

For some this was too much and they were unable to commit pen to paper for fear of reprisals. This statement is to provide a voice for these residents and to enable them to know that the council are clearly aware of their issues.

At this point I would like to add that this is not a reflection on the Housing Officer but on the process which existing residents are impacted.

Amongst the behaviour which is making longer term residents concerned includes:

- A lady being confronted on her door step by a man calling her a ‘crackhead’ and saying that she needs to hand over her money otherwise he will ‘*****-slap her’. For anyone this would be intimidatory but worse when you are living alone. When other neighbours came out to see if the resident was OK the man tried to attack them and threatened them.
- A new resident in the area is dropping bags of rubbish in a local bin - sometimes this includes needles.
- A new tenant, who is a recovering drug addict, is placed into a property between two known drug users. How do residents know they are drug addicts? Well the same resident above also had this drug addict exposing himself and rubbing himself up against her door. How would you feel if this happened to you?
- A resident has previously had his house forcibly entered and the property was destroyed by a machete. He was the partner of a new tenant’s boyfriend. He is imprisoned. The tenant, whilst within her probationary period, has been allowed to stay. The existing resident is now concerned that when the culprit is released he will be allowed to return - who knows what damage he could do when he returns?

Other tenants have said ‘There’s always been tenants here that have had issues but over the last few years the council has moved in tenants who are just anti-social and have ruined this little community.’

A few months ago I worked with residents to instill a sense of pride in their area. We cleaned and tidied and cut back bushes and the area looked lovely. I even got Western Power to paint the substation. Roll forward a few months and the same residents are terrified - some are considering leaving. This is not acceptable and I am calling upon Bristol City Council to support and help the residents who are in fear of their safety.



CS02**Members' Forum statement from Councillor Olly Mead****Subject: Local Government**

Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors,

Today is my last ever Full Council as a Councillor. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve alongside all of you for the past seven years, and seeing how much hard work is put in by so many of you for the people you serve in office. It is a tough gig, with meetings at all kinds of odd times, community and weekend events to attend, and casework to work on. But, when you achieve success on some issue or piece of casework, it can also be incredibly rewarding. In early 2019, I concluded that running for re-election and being re-elected would probably kill me before I reached the age of 50, so I decided to stand down and let hardier souls take my place. Horfield ward deserves nothing less than the best, and I can honestly say that my health precludes me from giving the level of service I used to be capable of providing.

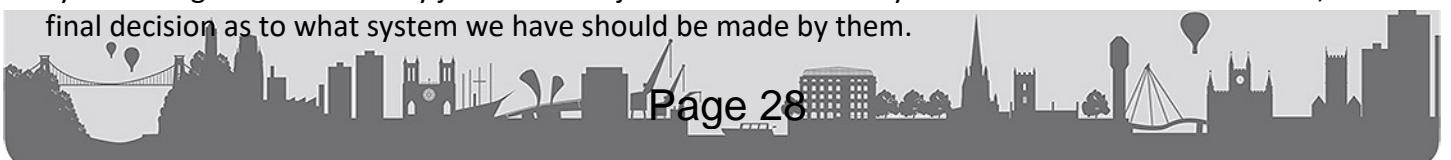
Tonight, there will be a debate about having a referendum regarding the system of governance in place in Bristol. In 2012, with no idea what the Mayoral system would be like, a narrow majority in a low turnout referendum voted to try the new system. I feel that the Mayoral system was doomed from the outset. Instead of working out how to have a well-functioning system with checks and balances, and an emphasis on cooperation between Mayor and Council, we instead were lumbered with an existing constitution with the Mayor's role plonked on top, or randomly shoved in like an ill-fitting piece of a jigsaw. I have participated in at least three cross-party attempts to revise the constitution and make it work, but we are still in much the same position as we were seven years ago, and quite frankly it has been a total waste of my time.

The main problem in Bristol has been a long history of fighting between and within parties. I was genuinely shocked by the hardcore partisanship when I attended a Full Council some time before the Mayoral system was adopted. This same partisanship writ large is why our country is dogged with poor governance nationally, and there are times when it can be just as bad locally in Bristol. That is not to overlook the many times when we do work across party lines, especially at committee meetings. Those have been among the most rewarding and positive experiences of my time in office, but Full Council meetings in particular have tended toward being party political bun fights.

Since we have added elected Mayors into the mix, it was quite clear that from 2012-16 it became a case of George Ferguson doing battle with 70 opponents/enemies, and from 2016- present of a successor wary of the crucifixion his predecessor experienced and trying to find ways of avoiding working with the Council wherever possible. What has suffered most as a result of this is scrutiny.

When projects and ventures are kept away from scrutiny they can end up costing large sums of money to the taxpayer (Bristol Energy circa £50 million, Bristol Beacon cost overrun £60 million, Arena Island already £12 million and a projected additional £32 million to make it ready for use by a private developer), and I hate wasting money when I can think of the difference just a few thousand pounds could make to issues in my ward.

I doubt that many people outside the Council chamber are all that interested in comparing different systems of governance – they just want the job to be done well by whoever holds office. However, the final decision as to what system we have should be made by them.



I would urge whoever is elected Mayor, and whoever is elected to the Council later this year to lay aside your party differences and work together for the ensuing few years. In Horfield, Claire Hiscott and I have worked well together as a team, with my being able to cover when she was on holiday or working in her day job, and her lightening my load when I have been ill or studying. We have worked as one on hospital parking issues, children's play equipment in parks, and establishing a Community Hub in Manor Farm. Then, for about six weeks every few years we enter silly season, slug it out for re-election, and after the results are in we start playing nicely again. We do not have to agree about everything, but from a starting point of mutual respect and a desire to serve the community effectively, we have not done too badly.

I was impressed by a similar attitude within the Youth Council. They identify things they want to achieve and work together. Perhaps we should get them to give the new Council and Mayor a masterclass after the May election.

Whatever system of governance we have, the constant grind of squabbling and carrying on election battles at every meeting for years on end only serves to let down the people we are elected to serve. The City deserves better. Yes, we should have principled battles where there are legitimate concerns about things like SEND provision, money being poured into the energy company, the port land sale, etc, but it might also be that a spirit of routinely working together would make it unnecessary to be confrontational, as people might think: 'Yes. What a reasonable point. Let us work together to find a solution.' Instead of always being ready for another fight.

We also need to make the best use possible of the talents people have. Instead of treating Councillors like a nuisance to be barely tolerated and left in a corner to do colouring in like primary school children, there should be meaningful opportunities for us to make a difference on issues that we care about. It could lead to better policies in some areas of Council work, or more financial support/resources for parts of the Council's operations that need them. But, that will require a relationship of mutual trust, rather than one of Councillors sniping at the Mayor and the Mayor sniping at Councillors. You know, the kind of relationship grown ups have in the big wide world outside of politics.

For my part, my political journey is coming to an end. Armed only with a red nose and some paint brushes I am heading off into the sunlit uplands of obscurity to bring more laughter, colour and joy into our drab and unhappy world. I wish all of you well, whether you are running for re-election, or not. It takes a lot of guts and energy to put yourself forward to serve in local government, and as rewarding as it can be, there also comes a point when it is time to step away.

Olly Mead, MFA, Councillor for Horfield ward



CS03

**Members' Forum statement from Councillors Estella Tincknell and Gill Kirk
Subject – Building for the Future in Lockleaze**

We have been proud to have served Lockleaze as its Councillors. Over the past five years much has been achieved in the ward thanks to the commitment by the Mayor and cabinet to economic and social inclusivity across the city of Bristol. Lockleaze has great community spirit and pride. We believe these achievements will build on that spirit and help to ensure it thrives. Despite challenging times, we have seen:

- Badly needed new homes coming onstream on many sites across the ward.
- A brand-new secondary school on Romney Avenue, which is offering Lockleaze children access to a great education.
- Investment in the future of Stoke Park, which provides a wonderful open space on our doorstep. This will restore the landscape and allow access for all.
- A strong network of Children's Centres co-ordinated from Filton Avenue Nursery School, which support families across our communities.
- Community facilities which offer space for a wide range of activities and which are supported by wonderful volunteers, including the Hub on Gainsborough Square and the Old Library on Muller Road.
- The ongoing success of the Vench adventure playground, which is now the location for the excellent National Food Service, which has provided hot meals for all who need them throughout the COVID crisis.
- And excellent local organisations such as Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust and North Bristol Advice Centre, whose staff have done so much to support and sustain Lockleaze.

Of course, there is still much to do. We want to see improvements to public transport links including bus routes and a local station, housing developments that reflect local people's needs as much as possible, and finally, getting that derelict pub site on Gainsborough Square cleared and replaced!



CS04

Members' Forum statement from Councillor Jerome Thomas

Subject – Bristol airport expansion and failure to represent the policy of Bristol City Council by Bristol's mayor

In December Full Council passed a motion stating that 'airport expansion is incompatible with Bristol, the West of England and the region's carbon reduction targets and therefore must not go ahead'. This was a formal commitment by this Council to oppose Bristol Airport expansion.

On 3 March Mayor Marvin Rees responded to my emails of 3 February and 17 February. In that response he confirmed and implied that at the WECA meeting of 5 February he voted with the Conservatives representatives in WECA to continue to support the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport, consistent with the views represented in his mayoral blog, 'Up, Up and Away'*.

In doing so, he represented his own views, and not the views of Bristol Labour Party or this council.

I ask the mayor to confirm or correct this interpretation, by sharing the minutes of the WECA meeting that took place on 5 February.

CS05

Members' Forum statement from Councillor Lesley Alexander

Subject - State Of Bristol's Streets

Bristol is getting dirtier and dirtier every day, and the streets are not swept on a regular basis. Residents (if they minded to do so) are left to pick up the rubbish dropped by the bin men who seem to be under the impression that there is a team that follows them to clear up after them. Has anyone ever seen this auxiliary team?

We cannot rely on the residents "Big Tidy" Campaign to clean up as a supplementary or alternative service to Bristol Waste. People have a right to expect that their bins are emptied and the streets swept frequently as they pay for this in their Council Tax which, by the way, is much higher than that levied by many other local authorities.

When visitors come to Bristol, the first thing they see is how shabby it has become. This is not a good advert for our beautiful, vibrant city.

The Council must take responsibility for this basic and essential function as so many of our streets are being swamped by rubbish and fly-tipping.

CS06

Members' Forum statement from Councillor Don Alexander

Subject – Bristol Music

I would like to put on record that I acknowledge and appreciate the good work being done by Bristol Music Trust, and, particularly, the Bristol Plays Music Hub. Bristol is renowned for its cultural and music scene and it is appreciated by all our citizens – we need to be grateful for the fact that we're in such a good financial position that we're able to invest in cultural and entertainment venues like the Bristol Beacon. We're able to make this valuable investment due to all the money we've saved from not spending it on the arena on Temple Island – and opposition parties should acknowledge that fact.