

# Public Forum

## Public Forum for Full Council

### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 6pm



#### 1. Public Petitions

Ref No	Name	Title	Registered to speak?
PP01	Emma Edwards	Holm Oak Tree on Ashley Down Road	yes
PP02	Simon Stafford-Townsend	Change the names of Colston Street and Colston Avenue	Yes

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#### 2. Public Statements

Ref No	Name	Title	Registered to speak?
PS01	Sarah Halligan	Review of Hotwells Speed Limits	No
PS02	Mohamed Makawi	School Streets 4 Bristol	No
PS03	Natalie Chow	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS04	Liam Smith	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS05	Mathilda Pack	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS06	Daniel Edwards	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS07	Elsie Mori	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS08	Alice Brewer	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS09	Jane Tily	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS10	Eric Green	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS11	Joy Hunt	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS12	Simon Robson	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS13	Adriana Evans	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS14	Robert Mitchell	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS15	Alison Allan	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS16	Lizzie Webb	Support for Christy Braham's question	No

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		to FC	
PS17	Elena Duckworth	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS18	Andrew McCalla	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS19	Ruby Begum	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS20	Magda Czaja	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS21	Sam Smith	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS22	Daniel Key	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS23	Shannon Kneis	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS24	Gabrielle Watson	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS25	Jessica Winkler	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS26	Steve Ayres	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS27	Elsie Bradley Middle	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS28	Hribhu Mendiratta	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS29	Judith Sluglett	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS30	Sean Kirtley	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS31	Emma Powell	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS32	Sue Mullins	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS33	Sarah Burroughs	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS34	Catherine Lambert	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS35	Ben Scarlett	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS36	Anne Coughlan	The Mardyke Steps	No
PS37	Danielle Baxter	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS38	Jake Colman	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS39	Sam Lockwood	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS40	Tom Antebi	Support for Christy Braham's question to FC	No
PS41	Rowena Hayward, Rebecca Dawkins, Adie Baker	GMB Statement - British Gas - Fire and Rehire	Yes
PS42	Anurag Khahra	Support for Christy Braham's question	No



		to FC	
PS43	Andrew Lynch	Bristol Port Company	Yes
PS44	David Wilkinson & Dawn Shorten	Colston Street name change	No
PS45	Jonte Hance	Colston Street name change	Yes
PS46	Roger Wilson-Tucker.	Development at 99, Devonshire Road, Westbury Park	No
PS47	Rob Dixon	Bonnington Walk Open Space	Yes
PS48	*withdrawn		
PS49	Alex Hartley	Mayoral referendum	Yes
PS50	Merche Clark	Mayoral referendum	Yes
PS51	Christina Biggs	Clean Air Zone	Yes
PS52	Jen Smith	Mayoral Referendum	No
PS53	Andrew Brown	Mayoral referendum	No
PS54	Nicholas Coombes	Mayoral referendum	No
PS55	David Redgewell	Public Transport Network	Yes
PS56	Jackie Hawken	CAZ on North Bristol	Yes
PS57	Susan Lewis	Re-opening the Mardyke Steps	No
PS58	Mick O'Neill-Duff	Brislington Cemetery	No
PS59	Nick Lynn	Colston Street name change	Yes
PS60	Erica Dubuisson	Colston Street name change	No
PS61	Andrew Varney	Bristol Quality of Life	No
PS62	Claire Mitchell	Bonnington Walk Development	No
PS63	Sally Kent	Bristol SEND	No
PS64	Kay Galpin	Bristol SEND	No
PS65	Clean Up SEND	Bristol SEND	No
PS66	Thomas Hathaway	Student rent relief	No

### 3. Public Questions

Ref No	Name	Title	Registered to speak?
PQ01 & PQ02	Penny Beeston	Legal Costs and Stoke Lodge Playing Fields	No
PQ03 & PQ04	David Redgewell	Graffiti removal	YES
PQ05	Christy Braham	Unlawful Evictions	YES
PQ06	Lee Starr-Elliott	Harcliffe Farm	No
PQ07 & PQ08	Ted Powell	Supply Teachers/ SEND pupils in Bristol	No
PQ09 & PQ10	Clive Stevens	Policy Development Scrutiny in a Mayoral System	YES
PQ11	Jonathan Hucker	Car Clubs in Suburban Areas	No
PQ12	Suzanne Audrey	Backbench and Opposition Councillors	YES
PQ13	Jonathan Hucker	Bristol Beacon	No
PQ14	Stephanie French	Bristol's Tree Management Policy	No
PQ15	John Pauling	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ16	Duncan Laxen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ17	Maureen Phillips	Derelict Property in Westbury	No

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		Park	
PQ18	Mr J Bishop	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ19	Philip Lidstone	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ20	Deborah Walpole	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ21	Caroline and John Davenport	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ22	Sylvia Dodd	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ23	David Wilcox	Bristol Airport	No
PQ24	Andrew Lewis-Barned	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ25	Heather Mack	Bonnington Walk land clearance	YES
PQ26	Judith Sluglett	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ27	Stephen Noreiko	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ28	Caroline Graham	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ29	Heulwen Flower	The Chocolate Path	YES
PQ30	Cathy Warne	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ31	Christine Townsend	Kingsweston to Blaize stone bridge	YES
PQ32	Christine Townsend	St George and St Piux primary sites	YES
PQ33	Peter Champion	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ34	Huw Owen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ35	Tina Owen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ36	Kathryn Bristow	Colston Four	YES
PQ37	Roy Sanders	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ38	Christina Biggs	CAZ	YES
PQ39	Philip Barker	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ40	Kevin Chidgey	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ41	Andrew Varney	Sorry state of Sparke Evans Bridge	No
PQ42	Grace Dalley	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ43	Andy Leeming	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ44	Rob Stewart	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ45	Ed Plowden	One City approach	No
PQ46 & PQ47	Simon Stafford-Townsend	Bristol History Commission	YES
PQ48	Joanna Mellors	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ49	Lily Fitzgibbon	Students in privately owned	No



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		accommodation	
PQ50	Lily Fitzgibbon	Use of harmful pesticides	No
PQ51 & PQ52	Alderman Mike Wollacott	Pandemic impacts	No
PQ53	Valerie Williams	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No



## **STATEMENT PP 01**

**Submitted by Emma Edwards**

**Title: Stop the felling of the Holm oak tree on Ashley Down Road**

A notice for felling has been attached to this 100-year-old Holm oak tree on Ashley Down road. It would appear that the reason for this is 'property damage', although there are no specifics. In its situation, the tree provides a noise and pollution barrier to the residents living behind it, as well as being an attractive and valuable part of Ashley Down road. But more than this, mature trees are our first line of defense against air pollution. We need trees more than ever, especially in urban areas, as their carbon-cutting value cannot be underestimated. A large, established tree is more valuable than planting smaller trees that would take longer to have the same positive impact. Such a large tree will also be home to birds and wildlife, who would be displaced by its removal. Bristol has a target to become carbon neutral by 2030, and has declared a commitment to tackling the climate emergency. The felling of established trees is not in line with this, especially where alternative solutions to property damage can be taken.

We ask that the council halt the felling of this tree and look into alternatives to repair the 'property damage' they are concerned about. We also ask that they make a commitment to preserving this, and other mature trees in Bristol that provide protection against pollution levels.

1,884 signatures (at time of publication) collected on [Stop the felling of the Holm oak tree on Ashley Down Road - Action Network](#)

**STATEMENT PP 02**

**Submitted by Simon Stafford-Townsend**

**Title: Change the names of Colston Street and Colston Avenue**

We call upon Bristol City Council to commit to changing the names of Colston Street and Colston Avenue, and for the new names to be decided in consultation with local residents, traders, and visitors.

163 signatures collected online

## **STATEMENT PS 01**

**Submitted by Sarah Halligan**

**Title: Review of Hotwells Speed Limits**

To the Council

I am writing as a local resident to request that you urgently consider reducing the speed limit on the Hotwells Road from 30mph to 20mph, and simultaneously reduce the speed limit on Brunel Way and the A4 from 40mph to 30mph as they enter the city. The number of accidents (including fatalities) in this area makes it absolutely clear that the current speeds are not safe and I honestly don't understand why action has not been taken already.

The bend on Hotwells Road which comes immediately after cars exit the flyover, often at high speed, seems particularly dangerous. Hotwells area is a residential area that includes a primary school, and many children walk to school along that particular stretch of the Hotwells Road.

Please make this change this before further serious incidents occur.

## **STATEMENT PS 02**

**Submitted by Mohamed Makawi**

### **Title: School Streets 4 Bristol**

School Streets Bristol aims to provide health and wellbeing benefits to children by creating a safer, cleaner, and calmer environment outside schools.

To increase road safety so that more children can walk and cycle to school, and to improve air quality during the times that children are walking to and from school.

In order to raise a new generation that does not suffer from the diseases related to environmental pollution, and they will be healthy and effective in society and to prolong the expectations of life.

These are some facts and figures:

#### **Air Quality**

- Over 300 premature deaths a year in Bristol are related to air pollution.
- Bristol is one of the most polluted cities in the UK, with 10 micrograms per cubic metre of fine particle emissions in the city's air – this is the current limit set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The Exhale study showed that by the age of eight to nine, children from the most polluted areas have 5-10% less lung capacity – and they may never get that back.
- Pollution has been referred to as a 'public health timebomb' for the next generation – 90% of the world's young people are breathing toxic air according to a 2018 report by WHO.
- Driving isn't safer - exposure to air pollutants is typically higher inside a car (sometimes up to 10 times higher), because cars take in emissions from surrounding vehicles and recirculate them.
- Many of the areas of highest deprivation in our city also have the highest levels of air pollution, particularly in central wards:

Ashley

Bishopston & Ashley Down

Central

Clifton

Clifton Down

Cotham

Easton

Hotwells & Harbourside

Lawrence Hill

Redland.

All of us need to act now, before it's too late.

#### **Road Safety**

Parents' fear of traffic-related danger is the main reason they don't let their children walk to school alone. So, while Bristol parents want their children to be safe and healthy, many are avoiding the very thing that offers them a daily dose of exercise and fresh air.

This results in more parents driving children to school, increasing congestion around schools and exasperating the situation rather than relieving it. The more

parents drive, the more fraught it is and the more dangerous it feels, leaving us in a vicious cycle.

## **Results**

Hackney, Camden, Solihull, and Edinburgh have already led the way by closing streets outside schools. This has given parents and children the chance to experience a safe and calm journey to school and enjoy physical activity along cleaner streets. It has created a safe entrance to the school, and sent out a message that the health and wellbeing of our children are more important than saving a few minutes of journey time.

The schemes have also alleviated conflict around parking between schools, parents, and residents.

- School Streets restrict traffic on roads outside of schools at opening and closing times in a bid to reduce air pollution,
- Improve road safety and encourage children to walk or cycle to school.
- The traffic restrictions can be enforced by using road signs, temporary bollards and occasionally automatic number plate recognition cameras.

The proportion of School Streets in London, Birmingham, Leeds and Bristol has the potential to increase to two-thirds.

Based on the average car emissions, the roll-out of School Streets in these four cities has the potential to reduce air pollution by up to 64,000kg a year and carbon emissions by up to 12,000 tonnes per year.

Air pollution has a big impact on children because of their vulnerability and unequal exposure, including their exposure from the school run, where air pollution levels have been found to increase by up to five times.

By reducing the number of cars around a school, the authors have highlighted that this can help protect children from the dangers of air pollution, as well as wider road danger.

## **STATEMENT PS 03**

**Submitted by Natalie Chow**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham. I ask that you give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted and let her be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's question is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 04**

**Submitted by Liam Smith**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

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It is unacceptable for the Police to plead ignorance of the law and effectively protect landlords acting illegally. The Council can use any powers and influence it can to address illegal eviction.

It should go without saying why preventing people from becoming homeless in this way should be a priority for local government.

## **STATEMENT PS 05**

**Submitted by Mathilda Pack**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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Please let Christy's voice be heard.

## **STATEMENT PS 06**

**Submitted by Daniel Edwards**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in support of Christy Braham's campaign for housing justice in the city of Bristol. Christy was the victim of an unlawful eviction aided by Avon & Somerset Constabulary, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that Bristol City Council address her question, submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 07**

**Submitted by Elise Mori**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is extremely important, given that the pandemic has put the security of millions of renters across the UK in jeopardy. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 08**

**Submitted by Alice Brewer**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 09**

**Submitted by Jane Tily**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 10**

**Submitted by Eric Green**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

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## **STATEMENT PS 11**

**Submitted by Joy Hunt**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am a renter and, having experienced the insecurity of the private market - despite having had the great fortune to have had decent landlords - I understand the anxiety and stress caused by the threat of homelessness. As a single parent, reliant in part on benefits to pay my rent, I also know the stress and anxiety caused by attitudes of landlords to the more vulnerable.

Hence, I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 12**

**Submitted by Simon Robson**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

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It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 13**

**Submitted by Adriana Evans**

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This is Christy's question:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 14**

**Submitted by Robert Mitchell**

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This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 15**

**Submitted by Alison Allan**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

You can imagine my surprise at hearing of inequality apparently being meted out in one of the most equality sensitive cities in the world! What are we thinking?  
There must have been a mistake!

I refer, of course, to ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the insecurity of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

At the moment we are a Labour/Green city. We do not capitulate to the excesses of Priti Patel.

## **STATEMENT PS 16**

**Submitted by Lizzie Webb**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Thank you for taking the time to assist with this matter which is of the upmost importance given the grave safety concerns for all involved.

## **STATEMENT PS 17**

**Submitted by Elena Duckworth**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below). I have already spoken to Thangham, and Marvin Rees has been repeatedly contacted.

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 18**

**Submitted by Andrew McCalla**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 19**

**Submitted by Ruby Begum**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Please support Christy she needs to be provided with a safe space to leave and THIS BEHAVIOR is NOT ACCEPTABLE you need to do the right thing and put her in a home and take care of her basic human rights

## **STATEMENT PS 20**

**Submitted by Magda Czaja**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Please hear and consider the above.

## **STATEMENT PS 21**

**Submitted by Sam Smith**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions are as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 22**

**Submitted by Daniel Key**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

It is unfair that Christy has been treated in this manner.

## **STATEMENT PS 23**

**Submitted by Shannon Kneis**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting. Given your statement of support for the BLM movement, I think responding and actioning this question is an important step for you to take to reflect your commitment to racial justice in the city.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 24**

**Submitted by Gabrielle Watson**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

As a renter myself, I am aware of the worry of eviction or increased rent as factors out of my control. Renters, and particularly the BAME community, need to be sure the law, police and Bristol City Council as on their side when they are an innocent party being evicted from their home. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused added stress and uncertainty to many people's lives. An unlawful eviction during this time in particular is something Bristol City Council should be protecting its residents from.

Please allow Christy Braham to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March 2021 to help address these issues.

## **STATEMENT PS 25**

**Submitted by Jessica Winkler**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am emailing in support of ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 26**

**Submitted by Steve Ayres**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Please do consider this so as to do the right thing.

## **STATEMENT PS 27**

**Submitted by Elsie Bradley Middle**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

I urge the council to respond to Christy's case and raise her question at the open council meeting on March 16th.

## **STATEMENT PS 28**

**Submitted by Hribhu Mendiratta**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Please do all you can to ensure she is heard.

## **STATEMENT PS 29**

**Submitted by Judith Sluglett**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

Isn't it time the police were educated to understand housing law?

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 30**

**Submitted by Sean Kirtley**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 31**

**Submitted by Emma Powell**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 32**

**Submitted by Sue Mullins**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's question is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

It is crucial that the authority does all it possibly can to ensure that all evictions are legal and that the authority has done all it can to help both tenants and landlords to act appropriately.

The police must only be involved to deal with a breach of the peace and have no place being used by unscrupulous landlord in this way.

The council should organise a working group to explore a better way to intervene so that the question of legality is confirmed before any possible police intervention.

After all it is the council who has to manage the homelessness within the city and therefore it is in its best interest to minimise homelessness by helping tenants to remain their tenancies wherever possible and to ensure people being evicted are able to access alternative accommodation.

## **STATEMENT PS 33**

**Submitted by Sarah Burroughs**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 34**

**Submitted by Catherine Lambert**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 35**

**Submitted by Ben Scarlett**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am emailed to express my support and solidarity for ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March this year.

In this time of global unease it's important that we come to rely on local councils to show heart and compassion. Especially to those that need help the most.

The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 36**

**Submitted by Anne Coughlan**

**Title: The Mardyke Steps**

I have lived in Hotwell Road, in Pooles Wharf, directly opposite the bottom of these steps.

I and my friends frequently used the steps to get to and from the small park next door to the Lion Pub or to go to the pub itself, which is an important social hub in our area - and I am quite sure that business will suffer if there is no direct route - and to visit other friends who live close to Church Road.

In addition, I personally walk up the hill to Clifton every day. This is an important part of my fitness, at 63 I wish to keep fit and the steps are a vital part of this.

Many sightseers stop at the top of the steps to admire the view from there, and they would then walk straight down to the harbour. They can now no longer do this. So businesses down on Hotwell Road will also suffer.

Quite apart from all that the steps are now an ugly mess. Graffiti is proliferating on the sides of Harbour House now that these steps are closed off. Vandals can work undisturbed.

I see people walking up the steps to urinate out of sight of Hotwell Road. Not out of sight of me, I might add, since my bedroom window looks straight over. I often also see kids going up there to smoke and it is clear that other people use it to take drugs. It's a perfect little haven for those who don't wish to be seen. How long before one of them is seriously injured?

Mend it NOW. This is an important and very historic part of Bristol and it needs to be brought back into use, not left as a slummy little ramshackle area full of litter, drug paraphernalia and urine and human faeces.

## **STATEMENT PS 37**

**Submitted by Danielle Baxter**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

Given that Bristol City Council have also expressed solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, I find it difficult to comprehend that you are seeming unable to acknowledge the ways in which race has played a role in Christy's case.

## **STATEMENT PS 38**

**Submitted by Jake Colman**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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I trust that you will respond to this important issue,

## **STATEMENT PS 39**

**Submitted by Sam Lockwood**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

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## **STATEMENT PS 40**

**Submitted by Tom Antebi**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

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This question is of utmost pertinence given that the pandemic has exacerbated the precarity of millions of renters across the UK. The issues raised in Christy's question are driven by her personal experience of an illegal eviction aided by the police. It is vital that Bristol City Council address these issues, and the first step towards doing this is to give Christy the chance to ask her question at the Open Council Meeting.

Avon and Somerset police does not have a great reputation when it comes to incidents that have race and ethnicity as a core element. There was a speaker from A&S police during the recent Racism and Housing conference hosted by Sari and BCC. This speaker talked about the various 'learning' ASP had done since the case of the racially aggravated murders of Bijan Ebrahimi and Kamil Ahmad. This is clearly not filtering down to officers in other areas of work.

Christy's questions is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 41**

**Submitted by Rebecca Dawkins, Rowena Hayward and Adie Baker**

**Title: GMB Statement - British Gas - Fire and Rehire For Full Council 16 March Bristol City Council**

Many thanks for allowing GMB to put forward a statement to the council at the meeting on Tuesday 16th March.

This continuing dispute revolves around Centrica/British Gas serving a section 188 notice on GMB members in July 2020 even before meaningful negotiations had commenced over the company's plans to "modernise" the terms & conditions of its workforce.

At the same time the company served notice to terminate all collective agreements that not only covered 10,000 GMB members, but also the thousands of members from Unison and UNITE from right across the company.

Their strategy was clear right from the start, play hard ball during the negotiations then make a final "take it or leave it" offer to their workforce.

In November, the company made its predictable "final offer" to the workforce and all signatory Unions balloted their members on the offer.

Members from the "staff" side of the company accepted the company offer as the impact on them was marginal and many saw little change.

The 8000 GMB members in the "Field" based roles however were facing huge changes to their terms & conditions and rejected the company offer by 86% in an 86% turnout.

The company refused to return to the negotiation table and gave the "Field" based workers an ultimatum, sign up to their deal by 23rd December and they would get "the benefit" of the deal, refuse to sign then the transitional payments of up to £2,000 and other protections negotiated by GMB would be withdrawn.

These key workers have served their communities throughout this pandemic, workers that entered customers homes on a daily basis, even when they knew they were putting themselves at risk.

Workers that came together to support people in food poverty, British Gas workers delivered hundreds of thousands of vital food parcels on behalf of the Trussell Trust and yet behind their back, their employer was plotting to betray them!

GMB were left with no other choice than to ballot members for Industrial Action.

In a 59% turnout, 89% of GMB members voted to support strike action.

The company refused our offer of fresh talks and 5 days of National Strike Action was organised between 7th-11th January.

Five more days of Strike Action have already taken place since the 20th January.

Public and political support for the strike has been overwhelming and the dispute has been widely reported across the media and has had huge followings on the various social media channels.

Using "Fire & Rehire" as a negotiating tactic and bullying a workforce into accepting cuts to pay and hard-fought terms & conditions has no place in the modern workplace.

It has been universally condemned and even Boris has slammed these tactics in Parliament.

In February ACAS approached both Centrica and GMB and offered their services in an attempt to see whether or not a resolution could be negotiated.

In spite of GMB entering those discussions with the company in good faith, the company continued to refuse to remove the threat to "Fire & Rehire" workers if they did not agree to their new offer.

In reality the company did not move its position very much but there were some small changes that we felt had to be put to our 8000 Field based members in a consultative ballot. This ballot was conducted by an independent balloting scrutineer called UK Engage and closed on Thursday 4th March.

Over 70% of the Field based workforce that voted in an 82% turnout voted overwhelmingly to reject the company offer.

The company reacted quickly by issuing letters to all field based staff that evening informing them that they would now enter into an individual consultation meetings regarding the proposed changes to their terms & conditions.

If workers refuse to accept the company offer during these consultation meetings, the company will almost certainly then issue letters giving notice to terminate contracts.

- **GMB is calling on a Labour controlled, Bristol City Council to condemn Centrica's treatment of its employees.**
- **We strongly believe there needs to be a change to the law which makes "Fire & Rehire" illegal.**
- **We call on you to write to Centrica/British Gas CEO Mr Chris O'Shea and condemn his actions and demand that he removes the threat to "Fire & Rehire" British Gas workers.**
- **Bristol City Council is also a British Gas customer and we call on you to review the contracts that are held with Centrica/British Gas.**

This is a British Gas Workers Strike, but it is also a Strike for all workers, we know other employers are watching with interest, considering if they could "get away" with circumnavigating collective bargaining processes regardless of the cost to its workforce. We cannot allow this practise to become normal or acceptable, this cannot become a legacy that Covid leaves behind for our workers to deal with.

Yours in solidarity  
Adie Baker – Regional Organiser  
GMB  
Wales and South West Region

## **STATEMENT PS 42**

**Submitted by Anurag Khahra**

**Title: Support for Christy Braham's question to full council**

I am writing in order to support ACORN's campaign with Christy Braham, and to encourage you to give her the chance to ask the question she has submitted, to be heard at the Open Council Meeting on 16th March, 2021 (question printed below).

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Christy's question is as follows:

'Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?'

## **STATEMENT PS 43**

**Submitted by Andrew Lynch**

**Title: Bristol Port Company**

Yesterday (March 15) I wrote to the chief executive of the Bristol Port Company, asking that the dividends paid to Bristol City Council be ring-fenced from political and charitable donations over which the City has no say. These donations should be taken from the dividends of the other shareholders.

Bristol City Council holds a 12.5% stake in the Bristol Port Company. Yet it appears to have no voting rights. The Port is a private company that has become highly successful under the two entrepreneurs who control it. Over the past decade or so, the Port has given £74,000 to local Conservative associations (and one in 2012 to the Lib Dems) and national MPs. Of that, £25,000 went to the prime minister for his leadership campaign.

Furthermore, the Port gave £100,000 to Vote Leave in 2016. One might deduce then that the people of Bristol gave £12,500 to Vote Leave.

It is time that the City told the Port that its interests must be ring-fenced from donations.

I am asking the Mayor and all his rivals in the May election to commit to achieving this ring-fencing.

## **STATEMENT PS 44**

**Submitted by David Wilkinson and Dawn Shorten**

**Title: Colston Street**

We have lived and worked on Colston St for over 10 years and wholeheartedly support the change of name.

Those who believe historic place names should be preserved, ignore the fact that history is the story of change. This street was known as Lower St Michaels Hill, and also Steep Street. Both of these names are preferable to that which celebrates a man who made his fortune from the despicable practice of slavery.

During Colston's time with the Royal African Company it is estimated that 84,000 people were abducted and shipped in hellish conditions; nearly 20,000 are known to have died on the journey; violence and cruelty on an industrial scale. He continued trading slaves privately after leaving the company.

That this proposal may be challenged in the year 2021 when this history is widely known, is deeply saddening. Bristol may well be diverse but it is not fully inclusive. Discrimination and prejudice are still apparent.

Bristol's black community deserves better.

This is an opportunity to remove a name which insults and shames Bristolians.

## **STATEMENT PS 45**

**Submitted by Jonte Hance**

**Title: Colston Street name change**

I'm writing to submit my public statement for the Colston St renaming:

"I'm a PhD student at the University, own one (soon to be two) of the flats in Three Kings' Court (the Foster's Almshouses building), and am a director of the company that owns and manages that same building. I'm keen on local history, and have spent many hours down at the Archives researching the building and area. And I wholeheartedly believe the name of Colston Street, the street on which I live and own property, should be changed (ideally back to the original name of Steep Street).

Street names tell stories, and the story that the Bristol City Corporation wanted to tell in the 1860s, when they renamed a street from something it had been since time immemorial, was that Edward Colston was a man worth celebrating – revering, even. This is not the case. This man's primary contribution to human history is his role as Deputy Governor of the Royal African Company. During his tenure in this role, equivalent to a modern-day Chief Executive Officer, it is estimated that the company transported over 84,000 African men, women and children to the Americas, with as many as 19,000 people having died on the journey. It is likely he would have personally overseen ship manifests, (human) cargo lists, and approved the layout of the ships in which human beings were crammed in conditions which we can barely fathom. He did this for profit. The £70,000 he donated in his life (equivalent to £8,000,000 today) pales in comparison to his estimated lifetime earnings. Any claim he was a philanthropist falls foul of ignoring his massive wealth, the paltry sum he gave away, and most importantly it's source – so to claim we immortalise him for this philanthropy is a weak cover as to the real reason for his immortality: systemic and institutional racism.

It is obvious, as it has been obvious for a long time, that the city's hero-worship of Colston must come to an end – we must educate ourselves about him. The best place to do this is in museums and history books, not through glorifying statues and street names. Colston Street must be renamed – I only hope the council has the strength and will to do this."

**STATEMENT PS 46**

**Submitted by Roger Wilson-Tucker.**

**Title: Development at 99, Devonshire Road, Westbury Park**

The Westbury-Park Community Association has written to you about the above-mentioned development, which is set to be discussed at a full Council Meeting, on the 16th inst.

A minor amendment to the original permission was granted, with a condition that work to complete the development be recommenced within a month of that grant. As no work has been resumed, it seems that the developer was using a delaying tactic, with no apparent justification.

I wish to add my support to the request that enforcement action, and, possibly, compulsory purchase be implemented, without further delay.

## **STATEMENT PS 47**

**Submitted by Rob Dixon**

### **Title: Bonnington Walk Open Space/ The attitude of planning development to the retention of trees on development land**

The mayor and council are right to consider housing provision as a priority. However, at Bonnington Walk Open Space (and several other housing developments) the council have failed to protect nature and retain trees where this could have been done.

In the area planned for development at Bonnington Walk Open Space, most of the trees were along the edge of the site, along the back of Landseer Avenue and Rowlandson Gardens, together with a group in the middle. These have all been removed, with the exception of a handful near a site entrance.

Residents argued that by changing the position of or slightly reducing the number of houses more trees in the centre of the site could have been retained. Similarly trees and other vegetation on the edge of the site could have been retained in the gardens of new houses. Planners have argued that it was "not possible" to do such things. However this was a choice made by planning development and the council, which is indicative of their priorities. While trees were always going to be lost, a significant number could have been retained if there had been the will to do so. However numerous trees have been removed unnecessarily with a negative impact both on the local environment and residents' perceptions of the council.

Planning officials openly told residents from the beginning of the consultation that their priority was to maximise the number of houses on the site. They were not prepared to consider how both the number of retained trees and housing could be maximised. Trees were considered to be without value and easily replaced by new planting. Other than reducing the density of housing by reducing the height and location of some buildings, residents considered that planners and the council did not listen to their concerns and simply continued as planned.

The council has never acknowledged how few trees in the development area have been retained in comparison to the number in areas that were never going to be developed, including on railway and other private land off-site. Similarly there has been no recognition that most of these trees cannot be safeguarded and the contradiction between the council's refusal to allow trees to be retained in the gardens of new homes and their assumption that those "retained trees" on private land are protected.

We urge the council to consider the priorities of planning development in view of their declaration of a climate emergency in order to consider how the maximum number trees and vegetation can be retained. Rather than simply maximising the number of houses, planners should consider how developments can be best fitted around the existing trees.

## **QUESTIONS**

What are the priorities of planning development, have the council examined them following their declaration of a climate emergency, and if so how have they changed?

What consideration was given to how development could be fitted around existing trees and vegetation, rather than maximising the number of homes, and what options were examined? If this was not done, why not?

## **STATEMENT PS 49**

**Submitted by Alex Hartley**

**Title: Referendum of Mayoral role**

Thank you Lord Mayor. I would like to speak in support of the motion on a referendum on the Mayoral Role.

In 2012 the role of a directly elected Mayor was pitched as a way to increase democracy in Bristol, supposedly giving citizens a more accountable and open figurehead of the Council. I would suggest that the opposite has been the outcome.

The Mayor has overridden the majority will of elected councillors, accountability has diminished, and the lack of openness and scrutiny has resulted in a series of costly failures, such as the Bristol Energy fiasco. Rather than becoming more engaged with the views of local residents, the Mayor has chosen to only listen to 'city partners' and executives, with residents being shut out.

The Mayor has suggested in the last few weeks that the city will outgrow the council. I would suggest the only thing that has outgrown this Council is the Mayor's ego.

As of the most recent Quality of Life survey, only 25% of people in Hotwells & Harbourside feel an elected mayor is improving the leadership of the city, and only 23% of people across Bristol feel the same. The people of Bristol deserve a chance to make their own mind up on the role. The people of Hotwells & Harbourside want a referendum, the people of Bristol want a referendum, and I hope that the Council votes to give them one today.

## **STATEMENT PS 50**

**Submitted by Merche Clark**

**Title: Referendum of Mayoral role**

"I would like to speak in support of the Mayoral Referendum Motion.

Many saw the introduction of a directly elected Bristol Mayor in the 2012 referendum as a positive move, which would improve decision making in the City. We have now experienced 2 different Mayors and, I believe, the model has not delivered the expected outcomes.

In particular, it has concentrated power in the hands of very few. We now see Bristol run by an executive office which appears to ride roughshod over other elected members. Various motions passed in the Council chamber have not been enacted – most noteworthy the siting of the Bristol Arena. Under a leader and cabinet model, this is not permissible.

The current cabinet comprises only Labour Councillors, meaning that 50% of Bristol voters are unrepresented. So many decisions that directly affect people's lives are taken at Cabinet level. How can elected Councillors fulfil the expectations of their voters when they aren't at the table? A Cabinet comprising representatives from different parties should be better representative of the City.

Then there is the Bristol Holding Company which owns trading companies, some of which perform core functions of the Council (like waste collection and house building). I am not necessarily opposed to this structure if it can be shown to improve Governance and allow proper scrutiny. However, as the recent Bristol Energy debate showed, the shareholder representation is in effect just one person, the Deputy Mayor. And it is clear that the limited number of people involved in tackling the difficult situation of Bristol Energy led to poor decisions. A structure that allows informed debate and engages wide points of view is likely to generate better decision making.

Bristol City Council is required to deliver services to its citizens. It should do so in an effective and transparent manner. Council tax payers need their representatives to be able to scrutinise how their contributions are spent. The current executive Mayor and his office appear to have used different methods to deny access to information that could allow Councillors to properly access executive decisions. All Councillors must have access to the information necessary for them to undertake their duties.

This motion gives Bristol's citizens the opportunity to evaluate the benefit to them of the directly elected Mayor position and to reconsider whether this model should continue. Like many others, I question the role's value. I would ask Councillors from across the chamber to support the motion."

## **STATEMENT PS 51**

**Submitted by Bristol Clean Air Alliance**

**Title: Clean Air Zone**

### **Summary**

Bristol Clean Air Alliance (BCAA) supports the current proposal for a Small Area Clean Air Zone Class D (all vehicles) on the basis that the purpose is for:

- reducing the illegal levels of air pollution in the centre of Bristol to legal levels under lockdown;
- reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions;
- improving access for pedestrians and safer cycling through the centre;
- reducing bus journey delays and therefore incentivising the use of public transport
- contributing to better safety, security and health for residents and visitors to the city centre;
- improving quality of life and creating a healthier environment.

**BCAA recognise that the main impact of including Portway and the Cumberland Basin in the Charging Clean Air Zone is to precipitate a greater change of the total road vehicle fleet to less polluting road vehicles. We therefore recommend that Full Council resist calls to exclude these key areas from the CAZ.**

BCAA also note that the Euro 6 diesel certification for car models is based on average emissions and therefore is not guaranteed proof against air pollution, and that biogas and petrol contribute both to particulates and climate change. However, we also recognise the value of a CAZ in promoting modal shift to public and active transport, but recommend investigation of the relative merits of trolleybuses, battery buses and hydrogen fuelling. This also applies to rail and we note that VivaRail are in discussions with GWR about battery and hydrogen trains. Such technology is much harder to roll out for private vehicles.

### **Background**

BCAA have supported the Bristol City Council's previous proposal in November 2019 of a Small area Diesel Ban as arguably (and demonstrated as such by the computer traffic modelling) more effective than a charging clean air zone, and lament that the central government Joint Air Quality Unity (JAQU) did not see fit to grant the necessary change in legislation. However, we have also been sympathetic to the needs of small businesses and

understand the dilemma facing Bristol City Council as they seek to balance the needs of all Bristol's citizens.

### **Other measures for attaining clean air**

BCAA views the general strategy of roadspace removal as a positive step for Bristol, as this is economically fairer than a clean air zone and arguably could deliver better air quality due to the inherent danger of vehicle drivers having the freedom to pay to pollute. It also has the benefit of allowing buses to run more punctually as they will not be caught as much in the road congestion, and this will encourage more people to take the bus to work. However we recognise that a charging Clean Air Zone, given the opportunity for government funding, will be more effective in the short term.

BCAA recognises that the Bristol Bridge bus gate is only the first step in achieving enough roadspace removal to deliver legal air quality, but that the location of Bristol Bridge is sufficiently strategic to deliver a significant long-term change from introducing just this intervention, after allowing motorists to experience delays in the short term and hopefully changing their journeys for less polluting ones. We recognise the exasperation felt by business delivery drivers in particular when the measures were first brought in, but urge Bristol City Council to continue the Bristol Bridge trial past the end of the current lockdown – and in conjunction with the new Clean Air Zone – to ensure a continuing improvement in Bristol's air quality.

It is unfortunate that one effect of the lockdown has been to deter citizens from using public transport and this has led to significantly higher vehicle traffic levels than expected. We believe it is important, therefore, that these experimental roadspace removal changes are continued for a further period of at least six months to enable proper evaluation of their effect when city-centre movements have returned to more typical levels. We are aware that there has been opposition to both the Bristol Bus Gate and the charging Clean Air Zone, so we recommend that BCC should message the big picture, especially the potential gains to air quality and the possibility of the charging clean air zone becoming unnecessary in the longer term as travel habits shift towards active and public transport, and promote the use of cargo electric bicycles and electric delivery vans.

As a vital “carrot” to the “stick” of road traffic restrictions we would like BCC to ensure that the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) delivers the long-awaited MetroWest Phase 1A half-hour service from Avonmouth to Westbury in the December 2021 timetable.

In the longer term we would like to see BCC support WECA with MetroWest Phase 2 to Henbury and Gloucester, and to fast-forward the WECA mass transit plans as an overground light rail network that displaces car traffic and leads to further improvements in air and noise quality in the whole of Bristol and the travel to work area. With this as the goal, we would further urge BCC and WECA to implement workplace charging levies and further roadspace removal plans.

#### **Technical note**

One metric of air quality that has been little talked about is the total NO<sub>x</sub> (and particulate) air pollution over the whole of Greater Bristol. We would continue to urge BCC to monitor air pollution and continue to track this crucial metric as this will translate directly into the number of excess deaths per year, currently the much better known figure of 300, via the “HAZ” metric, being the calculated percentage of all deaths that are premature and attributable to air pollution, currently 8.5%.

#### **Extending the Clean Air Zone concept to particulate pollution**

Although the current government directive for a clean air zone is solely focused on nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), we would also commend that the concept of Clean Air Zone be extended to include particulates, particularly from domestic wood-burning stoves, now reported as the highest contributor to particulate air pollution in the UK and responsible for 168 of the 300 premature deaths. Traffic is only responsible for 13% of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, whereas domestic solid fuel is responsible for 38% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the remaining 49% from industry. BCAA therefore calls for an immediate enforcement of the existing regulations on burning wood in domestic wood burners and in the hospitality trade as well as immediate steps towards a total ban. Citizens of Bristol should be made aware that to receive the benefits of a modern city they should accept the responsibility for those other citizens downwind of their chimneys.

Graphic comparing asthma in children in Bristol from 2012-2017 (top left) with NO<sub>2</sub> levels (bottom left), indoor pollution from smoking (top right) and particulates from all sources including industry (bottom left).

Data published by Bristol City Council’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) unit.

Note: Grey coding for Hotwells in asthma map is due to lack of data as this ward was created after the data was collected.

## **STATEMENT PS 52**

**Submitted by Jen Smith**

**Title: Mayoral Referendum**

The last five years have shown us that it's time to focus on the role the directly elected Mayor plays in Bristol.

Not just one Mayor in particular, but any future Mayor to come.

The Mayoral system clearly isn't working in the better interests of the residents of Bristol.

We are in a situation where residents and even some local councillors are suspicious of the system.

This is due to a lack of scrutiny, accountability and an overarching and validated feeling of not being able to have voices heard or have any say in both major and hyper local issues, development, planning and vanity projects.

This is not only fragmenting local politics, it is actively delivering a system which Bristol residents no longer have faith in.

Now is the time to approve this motion and turn it to the democratic vote.

## **SEND**

On Friday 12 March 2021, Marvin Rees posted a video about how he would be engaging remotely with the public in the coming months for 'public health' reasons.

But on Saturday 13 March 2021, a series of inoffensive questions and comments made by Bristol SEND parents engaging remotely on the Mayor's Facebook page were removed from public view. Why is elected Mayor Marvin Rees silencing the voices of Bristol Send parents in a period of remote engagement?

## **STATEMENT PS 53**

**Submitted by Andrew Brown**

**Title: Mayoral Referendum**

Statement on Motion 1: Mayoral Referendum

The introduction of the Mayoral system in 2012 was, at the time, irreversible. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my Lib Dem colleagues, and others, in effecting the change in legislation that provides a mechanism for Bristolians to reverse this decision, should that be their democratic will.

Advocates for the system promised greater accountability and increased funding.

Unfortunately, the experience has seen the concentration of power, a bloated Mayoral office, the suppression of scrutiny, and the marginalisation of Councillors.

Meanwhile, various responsibilities have been transferred to the West of England Mayor and the Combined Authority. Whilst that system is also far from perfect, it is clear that this is where resources for the region will be channelled – the City Deals and accompanying funding envisaged when the City Mayoral system was advanced have not materialised. Those who supported the Mayoral system on that basis may well be rueing their decision.

Having had a chance to “suck it and see”, and taking into account the new circumstances arising from the establishment of the West of England Mayoral role, I believe that the residents of Bristol deserve the chance to decide whether the current system is one they wish to continue with.

Personally, I favour reverting to a Leader and Cabinet model coupled with looking to establish “urban parishes” to move community spending and investment nearer to residents it affects. However, I would note that restoring the Leader and Cabinet model would not preclude a committee system being introduced future should elected members wish this. I would urge members who support the latter approach not to let “perfection” be the enemy of the good when deciding on how to vote on this motion.

## **STATEMENT PS 54**

**Submitted by Nicholas Coombes**

**Title: Mayoral Referendum**

Bristol should be allowed to scrap the position of Executive Mayor.

The concentration of power in the hands of one person, with few checks or balances, is too risky. Allowing a single individual to make decisions on behalf of the whole city, resisting scrutiny or oversight, invites disaster. Every person is fallible, especially those who think that they are not.

Under two different Executive Mayors, Bristol has suffered from unchecked bad decisions. The colossal costs of Bristol Energy, the shame of Special Educational Needs provision, the ham-fisted Cumberland Basin plans, the fiasco of the Arena site, and the secretive staff payoffs could have all been avoided. A Mayor who is empowered to ignore criticism will continue to make mistakes. A collaborative process identifies risks before they become disasters.

There is no guarantee that a different Mayor wouldn't make the same errors. Bad decisions are a feature of the Executive Mayor model, and the inevitable outcome of unchecked power. Bristol must be allowed to change the system, so we don't keep suffering from the same mistakes.

## **STATEMENT PS 55**

**Submitted by David Redgewell**

**Title: Public transport network for Severnside and for mass transit network in the Bristol Bath city region.**

Whilst we welcome the mass transit project its is our view that this should be a light rail system with overground and Underground sections.

Between Bristol city centre and Bath calling at Bristol Temple meads Arnos vale  
Brislington,Keynsham,saltford,

Newbridge,Weston ,Bath spa bus coach and Railway stations and across the city to Batheaston and Bathford.

Bristol city centre to East Bristol.

Via Lawrence hill station Easton Eastville Fishponds Staple hill mangotsfield Warmley Kingswood  
Oidland common Bitton Kelson Weston,RuH Bath city centre.

Bristol city centre to south Bristol and Bristol Airport.

We hope this route will serv Highridge yandley witywood Hartcliffe Hengrove whitchurch Brislington  
Callington road and Bristol Temple meads city centre.

The route to North Bristol and cribbs causeway via the m32 Eastville uwe Bristol parkway,patchway,  
Bristol Arena

Henbury and cribbs causeway.

It is very important to set up a fixed railway system.

These systems operate in Greater Manchester metro link,west Midlands,metro , Sheffield super  
tram and Tram train Newcastle Tyne and wear metro (underground overground system)Blackpool  
trams ,Nottingham trams .Edinburgh tramway,Dublin light rail system.

We welcome the metro bus extension to Bath spa bus coach and railway stations interchange.

Via Arnos vale Brislington,Keynsham,saltford Newbridge Weston and Bath spa, bus coach ,Rail  
station

Bristol to Yate bus station .

Bristol to East Bristol.

Bristol to Thornbury.

Bristol to Nailsea and clevedon.

South Bristol metro bus from Hengrove Whitchurch Hartcliffe witywood Highridge and long Ashton  
park and ride Bristol Temple meads and the city centre.

The metro bus system with quality Double decker buses work well .

With bus lane Priority measures bus lane and interchange s .

and 2 wheelchair space.

We need to invest in a proper light rail system.

I have been involved in bus based trans

Glider type bus services .

The swansea metro system I did equalities work on this system and because of street design issues all bendy bus are withdrawn as is the scheme in leeds and Bradford.

and the Birmingham west Midlands Bus rapid transit system. for access to the commonwealth games is now a Double decker bus rapid Transit system operated by National Express Group

We need a proper light Rail system. With overground underground sections

The other big gap is public transport in Severn side we need Bus links from south Bristol from Hengrove Whitchurch Hartcliffe withywood yardley South Bristol link via the Portway parkway and ride station To Avonmouth Severn Beach cabot park and Severnside

Bus link from Portishead to Avonmouth and Severnside

The Bristol Temple meads Lawrence hill Stapleton road,Ashley down,Filton Abbey wood Filton North platform ,Henbury for cribs causeway and Bristol zoo with park and ride site. the service need to continue to Avonmouth change for st Andrew road ,Severn Beach( New car park ) and cabot park bus link.

Pilning station needs regeneration with platform lighting disabled footbridge waiting room shelter s, car park and bus interchange.

We need bus links to Severnside from patchway Southmead, Lawrence Weston Patchway, cribs causeway new neighbourhood .

We need an urgent Transport plan for Severnside with North Somerset council which needs to join weca mayoral combined authority South Gloucestershire county council The city and county of Bristol and the west of England mayoral combined authority and western gateway Transport board and western gateway partnership.

Links for Severnside are very important

union connections from Bristol Temple meads Lawrence hill Stapleton road Ashley down Horfield Filton Abbey wood patchway new car park pilning station for Severnside Newport and Cardiff central.

Bus links to monmouthshire and Newport are very important from Bristol Clifton down Cribbs causeway bus station to chepstow bus station and Newport bus station

Operated by Trans cymru Coaches for Transport for wales.T3

We need to build back better in Bristol and south west.

With investment in Bristol Temple meads station south west gateway public transport hub

Metro west railway services

Bristol to Portishead line .

Bristol to Henbury loop railway

Bristol to Bath spa and Westbury. Via St Anne's park station keynsham Salford and oidfield park.

Bristol to Gloucester and Cheltenham spa via Charfield and stonehouse Bristol road.

Bristol Temple meads to weston super mare and Taunton.

East junction work s

Better tourism bus service s including open top buses in Bristol.

Harbour ferry services.

We need to build back better with public transport.

David Redgewell south west transport network and Railfuture Severnside.

## **STATEMENT PS 56**

**Submitted by Jackie Hawken**

**Title: CAZ on North Bristol**

### **SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION**

In your very important role of scrutinising decisions taken by the councillors on the executive or cabinet, I respectfully request that you support the CAZ motion today and put the citizens of Bristol above party loyalty. I myself am an ordinary Bristolian (born and bred) and long-time Labour voter. I am supporting the motion because not to do so will ruin my City in the following ways:

- North Bristol will be polluted by HGVs and diesel vehicles leaving the Portway at Sea Mills and Clifton
- North Bristol Roads will be even more congested (and are yet to experience the dreadful effects that excess development in South Gloucestershire is causing and will cause even more in the next few years)
- Dangerous rat runs will be created
- An important ring road (The Portway) will become a barrier between North and South Bristol
- South Bristol shops and enterprises will be extremely adversely affected
- Many people with diesel cars who cannot afford to change them will be penalised by this arbitrary North/South divide.
- Working people will have an elevated expense just to get to work
- There will be traffic jams and hold-ups caused by people finding ways to avoid the area
- The Suspension Bridge will be over-used which eventually could cause it to have to be shut for repairs

And, please note:

- The CAZ document was rushed because it had been allowed to slide and was completed in a knee-jerk fashion
- the Mayor is including the Portway/Cumberland Basin in order to make money for the National Treasury and make the scheme 'viable': this is unconscionable.
- I fear that Darren Jones, M.P. For Bristol North West, may be choosing to support his Labour colleague, the Mayor, rather than fight hard for his constituents (thus throwing the citizens/constituents of North Bristol under the bus (or rather a polluting HGV)
- The Portway/Cumberland Basin is not part of Central Bristol and should never have been included in the CAZ
- Darren Jones stated in his zoom session that officers in the Council allege that modelling has been carried out and that there will be no detrimental effect to North Bristol by encouraging the most polluting HGVs and other diesel vehicles to use Sylvan Way, Roman Way and Bridge Valley Road to avoid the bottom of the Portway. This is untrue and needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Please be assured: I don't have a personal vendetta against anyone: I am not a politician, just an ordinary citizen. I simply feel I must take a stand against what I see is an erroneous decision (including the Portway/Cumberland Basin in the CAZ) by the Mayor, unopposed by my M.P. We in Bristol deserve more. This is a plea for fairness and common sense. I have many many people in Bristol supporting me.

**(END OF SUMMARY)**

## MAIN TEXT

It makes no sense as far as pollution and the effect on Bristol and its citizens is concerned, to include the Portway and Cumberland basin in the CAZ.

The Mayor is on record (answer to a recent formal question) admitting that he wishes to include it so that he can 'catch' the vehicles at the end of the Portway - thus producing money for the National Treasury (not Bristol) and making the scheme 'financially viable'.

It appears that my M.P. - Darren Jones, (Labour, Bristol North West) may have decided to back the Labour Mayor, thus throwing his constituents under the proverbial bus (or should I say a polluting HGV?), much to the disgust of every one of his Constituents that I have discussed this with. The feedback on 'Next Door' is highly critical of this inclusion.

Darren Jones' official letter to the Mayor, forwarded to me and other constituents who opposed the inclusion of the Portway in the CAZ - was full of hand-wringing and impotence, implicitly backing the Mayor because apparently nothing could be changed to stop inclusion.

Worse, in the letter he did not mention:

- That this will result in unacceptable pollution in North Bristol
- That this will result in unacceptable and unnecessary road congestion in North Bristol
- The massive strength of feeling against this inclusion

This issue is perhaps the one that has affected the greatest number of Darren Jones' constituents since he was elected as an M.P. and has infuriated us. His letter is appended as Appendix 1. In effect, I believe that he may not be abiding by his official responsibility as an M.P., which is to put his constituents above loyalty to his party - in this case represented by a Labour Mayor. (see Appendix 2 'Duties and responsibilities of an M.P.').

The Mayor himself is also at risk of failing a huge swathe of Bristol Citizens and therefore potentially his duties as an Elected Mayor (See Appendix 3).

I have no doubt that what Bristol's constituents/citizens think about this will eventually be reflected in the ballot box.

Darren Jones held a zoom call wherein he listened to his constituents, reminded us not to make comments about the (Labour) Mayor "in an election year" and heard complaint after complaint about how including the portion of the Portway in the CAZ would adversely affect everybody living in both the North and South of the City, and how the encouragement of allowing polluting large vehicles to leave the Portway at Sylvan Way and others at Bridge Valley Road (Appendix 4) would congest and pollute all of the area around, including many schools.

Following the zoom call, many comments were placed on the CAZ post on his Facebook page, some of which were challenging and people posed questions to him, which remain unanswered.

I had kindly sent him, in advance, my arguments against the scheme (Appendix 5) so he would be prepared to be able to answer my concerns. He didn't really address the major concerns raised by his constituents, but appeared to use some of them to inform his rather 'weak' letter to the Mayor. There was supposed to be an officer from the Council at the zoom meeting but no one turned up. This does not surprise me as there is really no excuse for including this area in the CAZ and the Council officers must realise this. I wonder what their remit was? As a former solicitor at Bristol City Council I know very well how the Council functions.

There is no sensible reason to include the bottom of the Portway in the CAZ. The ONLY reason appears to be so that the Mayor can rake in more money for the National Treasury but at a major cost to us all. The fact that neither he nor my M.P. appear to be prepared to fight to have this removed (remember, it is officers at the Council who draw up these plans - perhaps some of the same ones who drew up the ridiculous and discredited plans for the A4018, also supported by the Mayor), speaks volumes as to how they regard their duty to their citizens/constituents and I am very upset by this.

The effect:

- pollute North Bristol roads, schools etc
- Throw even more traffic on North Bristol's heavily used roads (including the problems of the dangerous Kingsweston Road that I cannot get the Mayor to address: his office has not responded to any of the e mails I have sent him this year)
- Throw unnecessary expense on people living in one half of Bristol and working in the other. Many bought diesel vehicles because the government told them they were cleaner.
- Dangerous rat runs created all over the place, including people trying to get to Bristol Airport and South Bristol and the reverse
- Disastrous effects on South Bristol businesses: notably Riverside Garden Centre which is literally just off the bridge over the Cumberland Basin and those businesses on and around Winterstoke Road etc

To conclude, please take this section of the Portway/Cumberland Basin off the final plan. It should NEVER have been included and does not warrant, in any way, being included in the CAZ, the stated aim of which is to reduce the pollution in Central Bristol. Since when was the bottom of the Portway/Cumberland Basin considered to be part of 'Central Bristol'? It is not - this area is a ring road that enables traffic to flow between the North and the South. Please let it stay that way.

#### **APPENDIX 1**

'Official' letter from Darren Jones, M.P. To Bristol Mayor



**DARREN JONES**  
Member of Parliament for Bristol North West  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Mayor Marvin Rees  
Bristol City Council

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Marvin –

### **Bristol's Clean Air Zone**

Last night I hosted an online roundtable with constituents and businesses in Bristol North West on the proposed Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in Bristol.

There is wide recognition that steps need to be taken to tackle air pollution in Bristol, as well as an acknowledgement that Bristol City Council is mandated to implement the CAZ by Government, who in turn is obligated to take action due to breaches of air pollution legislation.

However, constituents have asked me to raise a number of concerns and questions with you, in the hope that these considerations can be taken into account. It is understood that, at this stage, it's too late to make immediate changes, but the hope is that through periodic reviews, future changes might be made to the CAZ.

The most significant concern raised by a North West Bristol perspective is the inclusion of the Portway in the CAZ. Many constituents have raised the point that users of the Portway are not always intending to travel into the city centre, but to travel to Bristol Airport or into North Somerset. Additionally, whilst the CAZ doesn't apply to vehicles driving up the Bridge Valley Road, concerns were raised about the ability for vehicles (especially larger vehicles) to make the hard left turn at the bottom of this road.

The second most widely shared concern was the 'knock on effect' of the CAZ on neighbouring communities. Concerns were raised about the potential use of Sylvan Way and/or Roman Way as 'rat runs' due to their status as the final two left turns before the Portway charging zone kicks in.

It was noted that removal of the Portway from the CAZ would solve this issue. In addition, concerns were raised from residents who live beyond the current Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) boundary that drivers would park in these residential streets to avoid both the RPZ and CAZ areas.

**Your Voice in Parliament. Your Champion in Bristol.**

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**DARREN JONES**  
**Member of Parliament for Bristol North West**  
**House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

Additional points have been raised with me, including:

- Whether the CAZ needs to be 24/7 or just during peak working times
- The 'knock on' effect for traffic flows (i) across the Clifton Suspension Bridge; and (ii) on the M5 (Southbound) (and as a consequence, through local areas such as Shirehampton and neighbouring communities)
- Working to include health and social care workers, and resident visits to NHS and related services within the city centre, in exemption or mobility credit schemes
- Confirmation of periodic reviews of the functioning of the CAZ, including wider use of time-based pollution sensor data

Lastly, there was wider interest in how the CAZ aligns with broader investment in clean affordable public transport networks, including expansion of bus and rail and the proposed Mass Transit System. Constituents wanted any funds raised from the CAZ to be directly invested into this work, not to be returned to central Government.

I understand that you're unable to make any immediate changes to the proposed CAZ and that you're mandated by Government to take action, but I hope this feedback can be built into the future development of the CAZ in Bristol.

**DARREN JONES MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, BRISTOL NORTH WEST**

**Your Voice in Parliament. Your Champion in Bristol.**  
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## APPENDIX 2

Duties & responsibilities of an M.P. From the government website:

MPs

Their primary responsibility is to act in the national interest. They must also act in the interests of their constituents where this does not override their primary responsibility. Finally, **if they belong to a political party, they may act in the interests of that party, subordinate to the other two responsibilities.** [My highlighting and underlining]

Parliamentary Behaviour Code

...

11. Members shall base their conduct on a consideration of the public interest, avoid conflict between personal interest and the public interest and resolve any conflict between the two, at once, and in favour of the public interest.

## APPENDIX 3

Duties of Bristol Mayor (From the BCC website)

“The Mayor of Bristol is directly elected by the people of Bristol. The Mayor leads the council and its councillors, to provide services for the people of Bristol. The Mayor also performs a broader role representing the interests of Bristol’s citizens on a national and international level.”

## APPENDIX 4

Text on the CAZ map advising HGV and diesel motorists how to leave the Portway (to pollute North Bristol) and not pay the toll

“CAZ D covers the eastern side of Bridge Valley Road

- This allows drivers travelling southbound on A4 Portway to be able to turn left into Bridge Valley Road without entering CAZ D
- Note that large vehicles may not be able to turn left here. Therefore, their decision point is likely to be at Sylvan way, approximately 2.3 miles before this point
- Drivers on A4176 Clifton Down will enter the CAZ D at the top of Bridge Valley Road”

## APPENDIX 5

E-mail sent by Jackie Hawken to Darren Jones on 24 February giving him the heads-up of what I was going to ask

Dear Darren

I have extracted the following short preamble and question (which I should like to read in its entirety) from the entire e mail that follows (therefore you will find it repeated below within the body of the e mail), because there is obviously limited time. I am sending this e mail as a matter of courtesy so you are prepared for what I will ask:

## ABOUT THE CAZ

Whereas I understand the requirement to find a solution to reduce pollution in Bristol, Bristol's public transport provisions and links are lamentable and the team who make road proposals seem to create unnecessary havoc. This scheme risks cutting North and South Bristol off from one another for people who, like me, bought a diesel car because the Government told them they were cleaner.

The "Clean Air Zone" document is rushed and haphazard, because Marvin Rees allowed this to slide and has now been pushed by Central Government. This latest decision to allow polluting vehicles to flow into North Bristol up Sylvan Way and Bridge Valley Road with impunity off the Portway is totally unacceptable. The irony of this - pollute North Bristol to make South Bristol cleaner!

What the document actually says (small box on left hand side of the document that people might not even read):

"CAZ D covers the eastern side of Bridge Valley Road

- This allows driver travelling southbound on A4 Portway to be able to turn left into Bridge Valley Road without entering CAZ D
- Note that large vehicles may not be able to turn left here. Therefore, their decision point is likely to be at Sylvan way, approximately 2.3 miles before this point
- Drivers on A4176 Clifton Down will enter the CAZ D at the top of Bridge Valley Road"

This is absolutely outrageous and is just a general pattern of literally not caring about the roads in North Bristol. The intention is to DELIBERATELY send more diesel polluting traffic into Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Henbury, Stoke Bishop, Clifton and Redland and I do not believe that Marvin will care.

Question:

Do you agree that the CAZ should be removed from the bottom of the Portway and the Cumberland Basin and allow traffic to flow out that way, rather than send it up Sylvan Way or Bridge Valley Road?

## APPENDIX 6

Text of e mail I sent to 19 Councillors, the Mayor and Darren Jones, M.P., before the Cabinet Meeting that ratified the scheme [Only 3 Councillors responded. The Mayor and my M.P. have never responded to this e mail]

[My argument re the CAZ is at the beginning of this e mail. You may wish to ignore the rest of the e mail that addresses the frustrating and potentially dangerous issues relevant to Henbury Village/Kingsweston Road that the Mayor's office has not addressed or responded to, despite being lobbied many times by local Councillors, myself and many other Bristol citizens]

Dear Mayor, M.P, relevant local Councillors and relevant Councillors in the Cabinet

Forgive me for sending this e mail to you late this evening (after an enlightening zoom call with my M.P.) but I cannot simply sit by and watch the ratification of the CAZ tomorrow when it includes a ludicrous proposal to include a quarter of the Portway with all of the devastating impact this will have on North Bristol by increasing pollution and congestion.

In the almost five years since Marvin Rees became Mayor of Bristol he has allowed a cloud of negativity to hang over North Bristol - both by act and omission - and I am concerned that he may

suffer from unconscious bias towards the area in which I live and it needs to stop. Sanctioning the inclusion of the Portway in the CAZ is just the latest bombshell.

Whereas I understand the requirement to find a solution to reduce pollution in Bristol, Bristol's public transport provisions and links are lamentable and the team who make road proposals in BCC seem to create unnecessary havoc. This scheme risks cutting North and South Bristol off from one another for people who, like me, bought a diesel car because the Government told them they were cleaner, but this is not the worst impact.

The "Clean Air Zone" document is rushed and haphazard, because this was allowed to slide and BCC has now been pushed by Central Government. This latest decision to allow polluting vehicles to flow into North Bristol up Sylvan Way, Roman Way and Bridge Valley Road with impunity off the Portway is totally unacceptable. The irony of this - pollute North Bristol and make Central and South Bristol cleaner!

The document actually says (small box on left hand side of the document that people might not even read):

"CAZ D covers the eastern side of Bridge Valley Road

- This allows drivers travelling southbound on A4 Portway to be able to turn left into Bridge Valley Road without entering CAZ D
- Note that large vehicles may not be able to turn left here. Therefore, their decision point is likely to be at Sylvan way, approximately 2.3 miles before this point
- Drivers on A4176 Clifton Down will enter the CAZ D at the top of Bridge Valley Road"

This is absolutely outrageous and follows a general pattern of not caring about the roads in North Bristol. The intention of the CAZ is to DELIBERATELY send more diesel polluting traffic into Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Henbury, Stoke Bishop, Clifton and Redland and I do not believe that the powers that be at BCC will care. In this scheme each HGV will have to pay £100 to enter the bottom of the Portway, so of course they will use the residential roads in North Bristol to avoid this.

This will affect many schools (that the government say should be protected from pollution). Instead, North Bristol schools will now be receiving more pollution. How many schools are in the actual city centre CAZ compared to all of the schools in North Bristol that will be further polluted because of this one non-sensical inclusion in the plan?

I now understand from the zoom call with Darren Jones, that the Council alleges it has carried out modelling and is saying that by allowing the most polluting HGVs and other vehicles to use the Sylvan Way, Roman Way and Bridge Valley Road to avoid the bottom of the Portway there will not be a detrimental effect. What a load of codswallop. This needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency because it is simply not true!

The Portway is a major arterial through road and has nothing to do with the City Centre or the Clean Air Zone.

I had thought this was a way the Council could collect money from motorists but I have also just learnt that this revenue will go directly to the National Treasury. There is therefore no local need to include this odd 'spur' at the bottom left hand side of the map and ruin peoples' lives.

SO WHY INCLUDE THE PORTWAY AND BRIDGE OVER THE CUMBERLAND BASIN IN THE CAZ?

On top of this, more motorists will be forced to cross the Suspension Bridge, potentially causing further maintenance problems. Then it will have to be closed for repair, creating even more problems...

Over and over again this evening, Darren's constituents were expressing their alarm and criticism of this ridiculous inclusion.

This inclusion also adds more issues to another serious local issue that I wish to mention here to illustrate the frustration of trying to get the Mayor and BCC to understand the danger that Kingsweston Road, running between Lawrence Weston and Blaise Castle Estate represents:

Over several years my local Councillor, Mark Weston and I have, without success, attempted to get the Mayor and BCC to do something about Kingsweston Road before more motorists, cyclists, horses and wildlife are killed. The road - used as a race-track by many people who flout the speed limits all the way along, including a ludicrous number of polluting and road-blocking HGVs has seen an increasing amount of traffic

Much of the traffic is on its way to South Gloucestershire and given the new 'CPNN' (Cribbs/Patchway New Neighbourhood), the Arena, thousands of houses built by South Gloucestershire on our border etc etc there will be a nightmare increase of traffic on this road if nothing is done. The Portway issue in the CAZ will add even more polluting traffic to this road.

It was never made for this traffic and the recent accident where a car smashed into a local house (not the first time this has happened) is proof again of its unsuitability. This was rapidly followed by another accident at the entrance to the car park. HGVs should have been banned years ago and that would have prevented damage to the Iron Bridge (4 years and counting since it was damaged and still no action)

Thanks to Marvin Rees and Asher Craig (who proudly told me she was in charge of the initiative, just after she had given a speech at a Women's Day breakfast that I attended, ironically praising the importance of neighbourhoods) car parking charges will be put in place in Blaise thus adding to the further destruction of MY neighbourhood (Does Asher Craig actually know my neighbourhood?) clogging up all of the local roads, including Kingsweston Road, and making my road (Woodgrove Road) the car park of choice with more danger from motorists zooming up and down the cul-de-sac all day and weekend angrily looking for parking spaces.

So now the Mayor and the officers who drafted the CAZ plan suggesting sending more vehicles into this area off the Portway appear happy to see even more traffic flowing along Kingsweston Road so more cyclists, motorists, horses and wildlife will be killed. I have now reached the end of my tether with this and will be monitoring all accidents to suggest victims sue BCC and the Mayor, because they have been put on notice several time over many years of the dangers of the road and refuse to do anything at all to help.

Are the people who drafted this plan the same ones behind the ludicrous plan for the A4018 that I opposed at Full Council with my 5 page document and 129 questions? Is there anyone in BCC that can be trusted to come up with road schemes that do not ruin the lives of the people in North Bristol?

To summarise the issues caused in North Bristol by the CAZ and the attitude of the Mayor and BCC (with apologies if I seem to go on a bit but this is an illustration of the frustration of what we are facing in my area. This appallingly-drafted CAZ is now the last straw):

- The CAZ should be removed from the bottom of the Portway and the Cumberland Basin and allow traffic to flow out that way, rather than send it up Sylvan Way, Roman Way or Bridge Valley Road and beyond or over the Suspension Bridge
- The A4018 proposals which I vociferously fought, were signed off by the Mayor and they are still far from perfect. The thousands of people living along this road are still at risk from future stupid decisions as this is not over yet.
- The Arena should not have been moved to the North of Bristol without any extra money to support the transport system and consideration of the residents of North Bristol
- The Mayor and BCC should deal with the travellers and van dwellers on the Downs. BCC moved them from East Bristol and now the Mayor and BCC do not seem to want to know, now that they have shifted the problem to North Bristol
- There is a traffic problem at the junction of Hallen Road and Kingsweston Road but Mayor still hasn't agreed to hold a meeting on it
- HGVs should be banned from Kingsweston Road
- Kingsweston Road should be made safer for cyclists and pedestrians to avoid further deaths
- It is time the Mayor kept his promise to local Councillors to discuss the deaths and accidents on Kingsweston Road
- Kingsweston Road's speed limit should be reduced from 40 to 30 and 30 to 20 in the 2 relevant areas
- Speed calming measures should be installed on Kingsweston Road
- A pelican crossing should be installed on Kingsweston Road
- A speed camera should be installed on Kingsweston Road
- The iron Bridge on Kingsweston Road should be repaired as a matter of urgency, and not lifted to allow for even taller HGVs to go through. After four years of waiting this has now become a scandalous situation, seemingly ignored by BCC and the Mayor
- There should be a reduction in the charge to collect household bulky waste items to reduce flytipping, which is a real problem in this area, notably on Napier Miles Road, off Kingsweston Road
- The damaged sign, hit by an HGV, at the junction of Napier Miles Road and Kingsweston Road should be reinstated and not just left lying on the road along with the fly tipping
- The proposed parking charges at the Blaise Estate should not go ahead
- Avonmouth should be prioritised by the Council as far as the problem with flies and air pollution is concerned, notably the toxic and putrid smell that occurs episodically in Wessex Water's secondary treatment plant that reaches many local areas, including Henbury and makes your eyes water.
- Much-needed CCTV should be installed to protect the House in Blaise that has been vandalised. Despite the Mayor being reasonably asked he hasn't authorised it.
- Local traffic should be allowed to go down Station Road off the dual carriageway (S. Glos seem to take pleasure in dictating this on the boundary) rather than go all along the increasingly clogged dual carriageway for no reason, creating more pollution and unhappiness
- The HGVs that turn left out of the oil refinery in Hallen Road should travel right down to Severn Road rather than into Station Road, Henbury. This is an unacceptable anomaly that South Gloucestershire Council need to be pressurised to stop. They say they do not want to send lorries through Hallen and so they send them through Henbury instead, and BCC allows this
- Finally, will BCC stand up to South Gloucestershire Council who seem to do exactly what they want in terms of clogging up North Bristol's roads (see the 2 points above)

On behalf of thousands of people in North Bristol, I beg you to remove the bottom of the Portway and the Cumberland Bridge from the CAZ.

## **STATEMENT PS 57**

**Submitted by Susan Lewis**

### **Title: Statement re Petition for Re-opening the Mardyke Steps**

Concerns over the condition of the retaining wall were raised by our building surveyor with Bristol City Council on 17 February 2016 when the Council was sent photos clearly showing a hole at the bottom of the retaining wall, a large crack in the retaining wall and concerns were also expressed about the large trees (leylandii) at the base of the retaining wall. At the time the Council said that they would carry out an immediate inspection and complete any necessary short term remedial works. A copy of the correspondence is attached for your information.

Questions need to be asked about what happened next. It would seem that the defects have been neglected and allowed to accelerate to the point at which the wall could no longer cope and crumbled. Prompt action would, most likely, have minimised costs and disruption. The wall has now collapsed over the original hole along the crack in the retaining wall and the trees are now several metres taller. This is now much more difficult, complex and expensive to remedy.

Closure of the Mardyke Steps is having an impact on many local, independent shops and restaurants. As the petition states, the Mardyke Steps are an important and well used pedestrian thoroughfare which connects Clifton Village, Cliftonwood and Hotwells, provides pedestrian access to Bristol city centre, Ashton and Ashton Court and provides access to local buses. This thoroughfare is used extensively by local residents as they go to and fro for work and business, for shopping and eating out in the wide range of local, independent shops and restaurants. Students use this route as they go back and forth to Uni, and along the way provide valuable support to local businesses. That's not to mention the numerous visitors to Bristol who use this route to connect Clifton Village, the harbourside and explore our lovely city.

As a first step I would like to see action taken to remove the large trees at the base of the retaining wall; it should be straightforward to identify the landowner and enforce this action. This will prevent these fast growing, thirsty trees causing further damage to the structural integrity of the retaining wall. The last thing we want to see is the remainder of the retaining wall collapsing and causing damage to property or people. For safety reasons, I would like to see this done immediately, and the more complicated arrangements to fully repair and re-open the Mardyke Steps can progress at the same time.

## **STATEMENT PS 58**

**Submitted by Mick O'Neill-Duff**

**Title: Brislington Cemetery**

Brislington Cemetery, at the top of Church Hill, Victory Park Brislington holds the remains of many of our community ancestors. Sadly, it has been allowed to deteriorate into a state of neglect by Bristol City Council. Grass, buddleia, brambles, rhododendrons and holly had been allowed to grow unchecked for years. Headstones have been laid down and some plots had collapsed in on themselves due to poor maintenance for which the plot owner has already paid a significant sum to pay for their love ones.

Why has this been led to be neglected for so many years Bristol City Council?

**STATEMENT PS 59**

**Submitted by Nick Lynn**

**Title: Name change of Colston Street**

"I am a resident of The Three Kings Court on Colston Street. I don't think we should be honouring the slave trader Edward Colston with the continued use of his name. The wealth he amassed was only due to the exploitation of the africans his company enslaved. The name should be changed back to it's historic name 'Steep Street'"

**STATEMENT PS 60**

**Submitted by Erica Dubuisson**

**Title: Colston Street Name Change**

As a family who have lived and worked on Colston street since 1994 we wholeheartedly support the proposal to change the name of the street.

The fact that our address celebrates a man who made his living at the detriment of others is a source of irritation to us. My 18 year old daughter feels embarrassed when she uses her address.

To revert it's name to one used in the past seems sensible. Both Steep street and Lower st Michael's Hill are inoffensive and have been used for our street in the past.

I hope the council manages to listen to the voice of residents who every day are reminded of that darker side of Bristol's past.

Please change the name of our street.

## **STATEMENT PS 61**

**Submitted by Andrew Varney**

**Title: Bristol Quality of Life**

According to the latest Bristol Quality of Life survey, just 22% of Brislington West residents think the mayor is improving the city leadership, and in many other parts of the city that figure is even lower. As an experiment in local governance, the directly elected mayoral system has clearly failed to deliver the kind of leadership people were hoping for. After almost ten years I believe the people of Bristol deserve the chance to express their democratic right in a referendum and if they so choose, scrap the role of Bristol Mayor.

The current, flawed system puts far too much power into the hands of one person behind closed doors, leading to appalling amounts of waste, poor decision making, and a lack of scrutiny and accountability. The directly elected mayoral experiment has failed, and it's time to end the waste and return money and decision making to local communities and their representatives.

## **STATEMENT PS 62**

**Submitted by Claire Mitchell**

**Title: Bonnington Walk Development**

### **STATEMENT**

I want to draw the mayor and council's attention to the lack of consideration shown to the local neighbourhood regarding the very distressing and disruptive works of removing trees at Bonnington Walk Open Space, which is being developed for housing.

Having been assured that we would be given warning of development starting, the first we knew of the clearance works was when the contractors arrived and proceeded to install security fencing around the site, unlike Network Rail who wrote to all local residents at least two weeks prior to the Filton Bank works (albeit night time works) providing a telephone number for residents to make reports of disturbance. They cleared brambles and removed trees, despite local councillors being told that only "removal of rubbish" and old structures was being done. When this was questioned councillors were then told that developers were preparing the site and "would not be removing protected trees". In other words they were clearing the site of anything unwanted, including trees.

Councillor Gill Kirk was told by the developers that they would "give as much notice as they can" of tree removal and aimed to engage with local residents. However residents reported that this commitment was a little late since the last trees were removed from the site that day.

There have been no mitigation measures implemented to reduce the impact of the noise and distress. In fact a diesel generator was installed at the Landseer Road entrance close to houses causing noise disturbance overnight and at the weekends. Following contact with councillors this was simply moved further from most but closer to other houses.

This lack of consideration at the first stage does not bode well for the future development, especially during the current pandemic lockdown with more people required to stay at home, either working, schooling, shielding or trying to relax.

It is clear that local councillors have also been unaware and given partial or incorrect information.

### **QUESTIONS**

- Will the mayor or cabinet advise what noise mitigation measures will be put in place during the proposed development? Please could we request acoustic fencing close to existing houses; restrictions on working times; no generators / machinery left on overnight that will potentially cause sleep disturbance.
- Since residents feel that this is typical of the way that they have been "engaged with" throughout the consultation process, with their concerns largely being ignored and little attempt made by the council to compromise, what lessons does the mayor think can be learned for the numerous other developments in Lockleaze?

## **STATEMENT PS 63**

**Submitted by Sally Kent**

**Title: Bristol SEND Parents**

On Saturday 13th March, some of my comments, alongside other parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, were deleted or hidden on a post on the Mayor's Facebook page.

Despite the subject of this post being about engagement with the electorate, when my comments were hidden or deleted, in effect cancelled, my voice was shut down.

Who accesses the Mayor's account on Facebook and is it appropriate for these people to be deleting or hiding inoffensive comments on a Facebook page promoted and monitored by Bristol City Council? Does the council have a policy on this?

Kind regards

Sally Kent

## **STATEMENT PS 64**

**Submitted by Kay Galpin**

**Title: Bristol SEND Parents**

I would like to ask why my comments regarding issues with SEND provision were removed from a post on the Mayor's FB page last night. Comments were then adjusted to remain visible to my FB friends only without any notification to me. As this is a public page with a post announcing Labour's approach to campaigning this year it seems that removing comments censors opinion which is contrary to the election aims. No rules were broken and when asked for clarification from the moderator on posting rules no response was offered. I ask that my comments be reinstated to public view please.

## **STATEMENT PS 65**

**Submitted by Clean Up SEND**

**Title: Bristol SEND Parents**

I would like to ask why parents' comments regarding issues with SEND provision were removed from a post on the Mayor's FB page last night. Comments were then adjusted to remain visible to FB friends only without any notification to posters. As this is a public page with a post announcing Labour's approach to campaigning this year it seems that removing comments censors opinion which is contrary to the election aims. No rules were broken and when asked for clarification from the moderator on posting rules no response was offered. We ask that comments be reinstated to public view please. Our voices deserve to be heard alongside any other voters in Bristol.

Cleanup SEND - a campaign to highlight the voices of families and young people with SEND

## **STATEMENT PS 68**

**Submitted by Thomas Hathaway**

**Title: Student Rent Relief**

I fully support the motion from Councillor Carla Denyer that calls on the Mayor to aid students striking over rents. This follows a cross party open letter<sup>[1]</sup> to landlords and letting agents asking them to work with their student tenants to help wherever they can.

It is a gross injustice that students across Bristol were encouraged back to campus for blended teaching at the beginning of the year - locking them into housing contracts; before being told to stay away from the city for much of the time since October.

Extortionate rents in the city leave little maintenance loan left to live on, with many students taking up additional work in the hospitality sector that is also shut down. The Mayor and Council must do what it can to get landlords to take up government support available to them and pass this on to their student tenants as rent relief.

### **OPEN LETTER COPIED:**

Dear Student Landlords, Accommodation Providers, and Letting Agents of Bristol,

We are writing to ask for support for your student tenants during these difficult times. COVID-19 has hit all areas of our society hard, but students in the community have been particularly affected by continuously changing guidance on movement and travel.

We write during the third national lockdown, during which many students will be stuck outside of Bristol or potentially the country, advised to not return to a room for which they are paying full rent.

As we are sure you will understand, many students are facing significant financial hardship during these times. The average student maintenance loan is not enough to cover rent in Bristol, meaning that many students rely on part-time jobs in the hospitality sector to stay afloat. With the entire sector closed down, many students have lost this essential income which they rely on to pay rent.

Given the dangers posed by new variants of Covid-19, it is vital for public health that we support students to do the right thing and stay where they are currently based by supporting them in any way that we can. It is clearly a significant burden on students to be paying full rent for properties which some have not been able to access all year, and it is on this issue that we ask for your support.

The University of Bristol has offered concrete measures to support their students in halls with rent.

This includes a 100% rent rebate from 1st February to 26th March for students who do not return to halls. Students for whom it is better that they do not stay in their residence in Bristol have also been offered a no-penalty contract release without

needing to find a replacement tenant. The University of the West of England have taken similar steps, whilst Unite Students have offered a 50% rebate from 18th January to 14th February for students not in residence.

However, students in the private sector cannot access this support, despite facing the exact same issues and hardships. Since the majority of students rent in the private sector, this leaves many still facing significant hardship. We ask that you follow the good practice of the University of Bristol and other individual landlords around the city and discuss with your tenants the measures you can put in place to support them at this current time.

Along with Bristol SU and the University of Bristol, we are asking that you offer your tenants:

- A rent waiver or a significant rent reduction for the period of lockdown if your tenant is unable to return to Bristol.
- A no-penalty contract release without needing to find a replacement tenant if your tenant does not want to return to Bristol for the duration of the tenancy due to COVID-19.
- A significant rent reduction (for example 50%) for students who are losing out financially but remain in residence for the period of lockdown.

We understand that for some of you this is a big financial ask. We urge that you make use of the financial aid the Government has put in place, such as mortgage holidays, to allow you to support your tenants in this way. If these exact requests are not possible due to your individual situation, we ask that you discuss this with your tenants and come to an agreement about what support it is plausible for you to provide.

To letting agents, we know that you do not have the power to set the rents or make financial decisions on behalf of your landlords, however we ask that you pass this letter on to your landlords and urge them to support their student tenants in any way possible. We thank you for considering these measures and urge you to support students who are staying where they are currently and doing the right thing for our city.

Don Alexander, Labour Party Councillor, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston

Kerry Bailes, Labour Party Candidate, Hartcliffe & Withywood

Jennifer Bartle, Green Party Candidate, Easton

Nicola Beech, Labour Party Councillor, St George Central

Marley Bennett, Labour Party Candidate, Eastville

Charlie Bolton, Green Party Councillor, Southville

Nicola Bowden-Jones, Labour Party Councillor, Frome Vale

Mark Bradshaw, Labour & Co-operative Party Councillor, Bedminster  
Fabian Breckels, Labour & Co-operative Party Councillor, St George Troopers Hill  
Tom Brook, Labour & Co-operative Party Councillor, Bishopston & Ashley Down  
Elliott Callender, Labour Party Candidate, Clifton Down  
Eleanor Combley, Green Party Councillor, Bishopston & Ashley Down  
Asher Craig, Labour Party Councillor, St George West  
Carla Denyer, Green Party Councillor, Clifton Down  
Kye Dudd, Labour Party Councillor, Central  
Jon Eccles, Green Party Candidate, Lawrence Hill  
Emma Edwards, Green Party Candidate, Bishopston & Ashley Down  
Lily Fitzgibbon, Green Party Candidate, Bishopston & Ashley Down  
Tessa Fitzjohn, Green Party Candidate, Bedminster  
Martin Fodor, Green Party Councillor, Redland  
Samuel Fox, Labour Party Candidate, Stockwood  
Kieran Glasssmith, Labour Party Candidate, Cotham  
Paul Goggin, Labour Party Councillor, Hartcliffe & Withywood  
Zoe Goodman, Labour Party Candidate, Filwood  
Katherine Grant, Green Party Candidate, Clifton  
Raven Hart, Labour Party Candidate, Clifton  
Tom Hathway, Green Party Candidate, Clifton Down  
Helen Holland, Labour Party Councillor, Hartcliffe & Withywood  
Justin Ibbett, Labour Party Candidate, Stockwood  
Shona Jemphrey, Labour Party Candidate, Lawrence Hill  
Gill Kirk, Labour Party Councillor, Lockleaze  
Sultan Mahmud Khan, Liberal Democrat Party Councillor, Eastville  
Heather Mack, Green Party Candidate, Lockleaze  
Carolyn Magson, Labour Party Candidate, Brislington West  
Mohamed Makawi, Green Party Candidate, Cotham  
Brenda Massey, Labour Party Councillor, Southmead  
Miranda McCabe, Labour Party Candidate, Bishopston & Ashley Down

Olly Mead, Labour Party Councillor, Horfield  
Eileen Means, Labour Party Candidate, Bishopston & Ashley Down  
Will Mountford, Green Party Candidate, Ashley  
Paula O'Rourke, Green Party Councillor, Clifton  
Henry Palmer, Labour Party Candidate, Hotwells & Harbourside  
Barry Parsons, Green Party Candidate, Easton  
Thomas Pearce, Labour Party Candidate, Bishopsworth  
Celia Phipps, Labour Party Councillor, Bedminster  
Ruth Pickersgill, Labour Party Councillor, Easton  
Ed Plowden, Green Party Candidate, Windmill Hill  
Guy James Baiden Poultney, Green Party Candidate, Cotham  
Ted Powell, Labour Party Candidate, Windmill Hill  
Rhianna Prewett, Labour Party Candidate, Southville  
Tom Renhard, Labour Party Candidate, Horfield  
Tim Rippington, Labour Party Councillor, Brislington East  
Bianca Rossetti, Labour Party Candidate, Bishopsworth  
Jo Sergeant, Labour Party Councillor, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston  
Ani Stafford-Townsend, Green Party Candidate, Central  
Simon Stafford-Townsend, Green Party Candidate, Central  
Lee Starr-Elliott, Labour Party Candidate, Hengrove & Whitchurch  
Jerome Thomas, Green Party Councillor, Clifton  
Mhairi Threlfall, Labour Party Councillor, Eastville  
Paul Ville, Labour Party Candidate, Clifton  
Becky Ward, Labour Party Candidate, Horfield  
Jon Wellington, Labour Party Councillor, Windmill Hill  
Louis Williams, Green Party Candidate, Bedminster  
Lucy Whittle, Labour Party Councillor, Windmill Hill  
James Wood, Labour Party Candidate, Stoke Bishop & Sea Mills  
Dylan Woodward, Labour Party Candidate, Cotham  
Sangeetha Wynter, Labour Party Candidate, Eastville

# Full Council -16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## 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 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). If a reply cannot be given at the meeting (e.g. due to lack of time) or if written confirmation of the verbal reply is requested by the questioner, a written reply will be provided within 10 working days of the meeting.



Ref No	Name	Title	Registered to speak?
PQ01 & PQ02	Penny Beeston	Legal Costs and Stoke Lodge Playing Fields	No
PQ03 & PQ04	David Redgewell	Graffiti removal	YES
PQ05	Christy Braham	Unlawful Evictions	YES
PQ06	Lee Starr-Elliott	Harcliffe Farm	No
PQ07 & PQ08	Ted Powell	Supply Teachers/ SEND pupils in Bristol	No
PQ09 & PQ10	Clive Stevens	Policy Development Scrutiny in a Mayoral System	YES
PQ11	Jonathan Hucker	Car Clubs in Suburban Areas	No
PQ12	Suzanne Audrey	Backbench and Opposition Councillors	YES
PQ13	Jonathan Hucker	Bristol Beacon	No
PQ14	Stephanie French	Bristol's Tree Management Policy	No
PQ15	John Pauling	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ16	Duncan Laxen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ17	Maureen Phillips	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ18	Mr J Bishop	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ19	Philip Lidstone	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ20	Deborah Walpole	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ21	Caroline and John Davenport	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ22	Sylvia Dodd	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ23	David Wilcox	Bristol Airport	No
PQ24	Andrew Lewis-Barned	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ25	Heather Mack	Bonnington Walk land clearance	YES
PQ26	Judith Sluglett	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ27	Stephen Noreiko	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ28	Caroline Graham	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ29	Heulwen Flower	The Chocolate Path	YES
PQ30	Cathy Warne	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ31	Christine Townsend	Kingsweston to Blaize stone bridge	YES
PQ32	Christine Townsend	St George and St Piux primary sites	YES
PQ33	Peter Champion	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ34	Huw Owen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ35	Tina Owen	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ36	Kathryn Bristow	Colston Four	YES
PQ37	Roy Sanders	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ38	Christina Biggs	CAZ	YES
PQ39	Philip Barker	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ40	Kevin Chidgey	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ41	Andrew Varney	Sorry state of Sparke Evans Bridge	No
PQ42	Grace Dalley	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ43	Andy Leeming	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ44	Rob Stewart	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No
PQ45	Ed Plowden	One City approach	No
PQ46 & PQ47	Simon Stafford-Townsend	Bristol History Commission	YES
PQ48	Joanna Mellors	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No

PQ49	Lily Fitzgibbon	Students in privately owned accommodation	No
PQ50	Lily Fitzgibbon	Use of harmful pesticides	No
PQ51 & PQ52	Alderman Mike Wollacott	Pandemic impacts	No
PQ53	Valerie Williams	Derelict Property in Westbury Park	No

**QUESTION PQ 01 & PQ02**

**Subject: Legal Costs and Stoke Lodge Playing Fields**

**Question submitted by: Penny Beeston**

Q1: What is the average cost of a Bristol City Council in-house legal hour, taking into account any overheads and the payroll of other staff in legal services who don't record their time?  
Please provide workings to include grades, maximum and minimum rates of hourly pay, number of employees on payroll and salary costs.

Q2: How many legal hours have been spent on Stoke Lodge Playing Fields since 2012?  
Please note that I received the response below from BCC in June 2019, but subsequent FOIs to determine this question and the costs involved have gone unanswered.

**QUESTION PQ 03 & PQ04**

**Subject: Graffiti Removal**

**Question submitted by: David Redgewell**

Question Q1: Does Bristol waste company limited have a draw down contract to remove graffiti for historic buildings in the city and monuments and statues and can the council explain the update action on removing graffiti from the streets parks and Building in the city and county of Bristol.

Q2: How many fines or Notices have been served on owners of property to remove graffiti and what is the working relationship with Network rail western routes, First group Great western railway, WECA mayoral transport Authority and the British Transport police and the Bristol waste company and the need to Clean up railway corridors on the Severn Beach railway line and on the Railway line through Lawrence hill Stapleton road the Ashley down to Filton Abbey wood station.

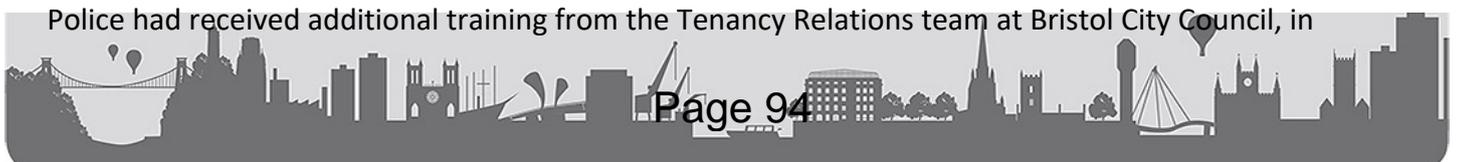
In view of the campaign to clean up Railway infrastructure and remove Graffiti be lead by the secretary of state for Transport Grant shapps.

**QUESTION PQ 05**

**Subject: Unlawful Evictions**

**Question submitted by: Christy Braham**

Christy Braham - a young black woman who came to Bristol as part of her PhD research into healthcare services for refugee women - was racially profiled and unlawfully evicted from her home in Easton by police officers from Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The Police subsequently admitted wrongdoing and lack of knowledge of housing law, and, in June 2020, Christy was assured that the Police had received additional training from the Tenancy Relations team at Bristol City Council, in



order to prevent this from happening again. Yet, since then, there have been a string of similar cases of unlawful evictions at the hands of police officers across Bristol - most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why are Avon & Somerset Constabulary aiding in unlawful evictions in Bristol, and what specific, tangible actions will Bristol City Council take to ensure that unlawful evictions such as these do not occur within their local authority?

**QUESTION PQ06**

**Subject: Hartcliffe Farm**

**Question submitted by: Lee Starr-Elliott**

With regards to Hartcliffe Farm, how much has it cost the city in fees to seek eviction of the current tenants of which have yet to vacate the premises, and what impact has it had in finding a new tenant willing to revive this community asset for local people after years of poor management and neglect

**QUESTION PQ 07 & 08**

**Subject: Supply Teachers / SEND pupils in Bristol**

**Question submitted by: Ted Powell**

Q1: Will Bristol Council introduce a supply pool for supply teachers in Bristol, where teachers are directly employed by the Council and stop using supply agencies? The benefits of Bristol Council having a dedicated supply pool would be that schools are more likely to get teachers subject/key stage specialist because they have access to the database, temporary staff are more motivated as their pay and conditions reflects their qualifications and skills, temporary staff become known to pupils and the school, providing more continuity and consistency for pupils and thus better educational outcomes.

Q2: Will Bristol Council back the NEU's Educational Recovery Plan, specifically its call for more support for SEND students and what extra support is the Council providing for SEND pupils in Bristol?

**QUESTION PQ 09 & PQ10**

**Subject: Policy Development Scrutiny in a Mayoral System**

**Question submitted by: Clive Stevens**

Dear Marvin – I am asking these questions because the motion being discussed today is asking to trigger a mayoral referendum. Through my researches I have concluded that there is nothing inherently undemocratic about whichever leadership system a Council operates as long as there are checks and balances to prevent too much power vested in one person (or small group of persons). Some people praise a Mayoral system as it can “get things done” but a Cabinet or Committee system can also get things done. They just need to be organised well.

I listened to you, Marvin, replying to Councillor O’Rourke’s questions about Policy Development Scrutiny just before OSMB (Overview and Scrutiny Meeting) three weeks ago, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, and it seemed you were not averse to more emphasis on improving Policy Development Scrutiny. It also seemed that OSMB also want to put more effort into that direction next year.



Therefore my questions as they relate to the forthcoming motion are:

Q1: If you are elected as Mayor in May 2021 will you assist OSMB in making Policy Development Scrutiny more effective? (I would imagine that would involve more openness and transparency earlier on, and Cabinet Member support).

Q2: Would you extend your support to Policy Development of the Constitution itself and developing better checks and balances on what would be your own power?

#### **QUESTION PQ11**

**Subject: Car Clubs in Suburban Areas**

**Question submitted by: Jonathan Hucker**

Why are there no car clubs in the suburban areas of Bristol? The nearest one to Stockwood Ward is in Knowle and there are none in Area Committee 6 region at all.

#### **QUESTION PQ12**

**Subject: Backbench and Opposition Councillors**

**Question submitted by: Suzanne Audrey**

##### **Background**

Concerns have been expressed about the impact of the elected mayoral system on the role of local councillors. Ex-cabinet member Paul Smith was quoted as saying: "There is a real problem at the moment in that there is not a clear role for backbench councillors. We need to look at how those backbench councillors and opposition councillors can have more of a say. The mayoral system needs more checks and balances within it. Why have 71 elected representatives on the council if all the decisions are made by just a very small number?"

It looks as if some opposition councillors have been excluded from discussions about key issues in their wards: for example, the discussions about Western Harbour. Councillors of all parties have expressed concerns about being given access to information they need to fulfil their responsibilities: for example, at Audit Committee. Some Labour councillors have resigned before the forthcoming elections. Good councillors of all parties are not standing again.

##### **Question**

How can backbench and opposition councillors have more of a say in decisions affecting their wards and the wider city?

#### **QUESTION PQ13**

**Subject: Bristol Beacon**

**Question submitted by: Jonathan Hucker**



The cost of refurbishing the Bristol Beacon has escalated from £48.8million to £106.9 million. When inviting tenders from contractors, did the council consider negotiating a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract to limit the exposure faced by the taxpayer?

#### **QUESTION PQ14**

**Subject: Bristol's Tree Management Policy**

**Question submitted by: Stephanie French**

##### The Background

In Bristol's Tree Management Policy towards Council-owned trees is stated:

"Light Policy: We do not prune or remove a council owned tree to improve natural light in or to a property including solar panels.

Information and advice:

1. In law there is no general right to light.
  2. If natural light is being blocked by the growth of a hedge then action may be taken to reduce the problem under the High Hedges Act, Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act, 2003.
- For further information please visit the High Hedges section on our website."

##### The Question:

The wording of the Council's light policy towards trees it owns seems straightforward enough – "We do not prune Council owned trees for light".

Residents have interpreted the Policy over the years as meaning that Council-owned trees do not get pruned for Light under any circumstances.

My question is: Does this Policy apply regardless of who does the pruning?

Reason for asking the question: To remove any possible ambiguity in the wording of the Light Policy.

#### **QUESTION PQ15**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: John Pauling**

The owner of the development site at on Devonshire Road, Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do. Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development

#### **QUESTION PQ16**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Duncan Laxen**

A development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park was started over 6 years ago then abandoned; it is still derelict. The owner was recently granted permission for a minor amendment, with a promise that works would start within one month; works have not been started and the site



remains derelict and a major eyesore. Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development in as short a time as possible?

**QUESTION PQ17**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Maureen Phillips**

It appears no development has started on the derelict site on Devonshire Road, Westbury Park, Bristol despite the owners apparently stating to Council Officers that this would happen within 1 month of receiving permission for a small amendment to the planning permission. The month has now expired?

The site is derelict and dangerous and a complete eyesore. It has been like this for over 5 years? Maybe 6?

Will the Mayor support his planning department in taking enforcement action by means of a Completion Notice?

Maybe the Mayor could visit the site and see it for himself.

**QUESTION PQ18**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Mr J Bishop**

Not only has the owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park failed to start construction work within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment - as he had stated he would to officers – but the promised works are only to weatherproof the completely open shell, not to complete the project to when the flats can be sold and occupied. Having suffered this mess for 14 years, we could then suffer it for many more years. **Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of the development to fully complete it?**

**QUESTION PQ19**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Philip Lidstone**

The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park which was started over 6 years ago is still derelict. The developer stated to officers that he would start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment. This the developer has failed to do. As a matter of urgency will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development? This would ensure that an ugly blot on the landscape of Westbury Park is removed.



### QUESTION PQ 20

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Deborah Walpole**

I would like to ask the mayor and the council what if anything they will do about the derelict building on Devonshire road?

As a resident of Devonshire road I have asked myself why the council have shown so little interest in dealing with this eyesore for so long. Surely they could have had the power To enforce some action in this matter long ago but they have done nothing. And another question for the mayor - will he actually answer this question?!

### QUESTION PQ 21

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Caroline and John Davenport**

*The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do. and with the focus on completion four months after that.*

1. One month has now elapsed with no action on site.
2. The contractor is apparently appointed just to make the structure weatherproof, not to finish it. (It could then stand there unfinished for another X years.)

We pass this site every day:

The adjacent back lane is a **convenient, quiet and less traffic-polluted route** to the Downs and bus stop. It is a **well-used route to Westbury Park Primary School** for children and families.

**It should be a safe route.**

However, **there is increasingly rubbish dumped both on the site and outside the perimeter fence.** We have witnessed someone adding a **fox carcass** to the **rubbish on the site** and have also encountered a **rat** in the lane itself.

Recently there was a blatant case of **fly-tipping outside the fence** - a large amount of rubbish which included two **large gas canisters**. (This has since been removed – presumably following complaints.)

The ‘temporary’ moveable fencing does not look particularly secure – and has been there for years. It is questionable how safe the rest of the building work now is, after such a long exposure to the elements. Before some boarding-up was done (following action by local councillors) the ground floor was frequently seen to be flooded.

Apart from Health and Safety issues:

We are told we have a **housing crisis** The **failure to complete this project over 6 years** is **unacceptable** – the site could so easily have provided two family houses - identical to those in the rest of the street. In light of the time frame the pandemic is absolutely no excuse.



I know that local councillors have tried many times to resolve this problem including direct discussion with the owner. It is surely **time for action** on this hazardous eyesore.

***Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?"***

**QUESTION PQ22**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Sylvia Dodd**

As someone who lives very near this eyesore I pass it regularly and see how it is deteriorating into a very large unsightly, unsafe rubbish dump.

I reflect on the number of homeless in the city, the plight of the next door neighbours, and the apparent inability of the authorities to solve the problem.

After past assurances which have proved false, how can anyone now believe that anything will be done without enforcement from the Planning Authority and support from the Mayor?

**QUESTION PQ23**

**Subject: Bristol Airport**

**Question submitted by: David Wilcox**

Did the Mayor or his administration formally notify the gov't's planning inspectorate examining Bristol Airport's appeal that Bristol Council now opposes the Airport's expansion plans, or lodge a formal objection to the expansion?

**QUESTION PQ24**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Andrew Lewis-Barned**

I and many others in the community of Westbury Park are concerned about the eyesore that we have had to endure for many years in our area. The lack of activity on an incomplete building project is a blight.

My specific question to the Mayor is:

The owner of the development site at Devonshire Road in Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do.

Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?

I, and many others besides, would appreciate an answer to this as well as action commensurate with the Council's decision.





**QUESTION PQ25**

**Subject: Bonnington Walk Land Clearance**  
**Question submitted by: Heather Mack**

Considering RPSB say land clearance shouldn't happen between March and September <https://www.rspb.org.uk/.../press.../tree-and-hedge-removal/> why was the space on Bonnington walk cleared on the 4th of March, also without notifying local residents, when the cllrs had promised to keep them informed?

**QUESTION PQ26**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**  
**Question submitted by: Judith Sluglett**

Since the expiry date has now passed for the planning permission granted for the appalling derelict building on Devonshire Road (with the proviso that work on this site should start within one month of the permission which has not happened), will the Mayor support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of the development to complete the development?

**QUESTION PQ27**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**  
**Question submitted by: Stephen F Noreiko**

Work started over six years ago on a development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park, but the site is still derelict. The owner stated to officers that he would start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment.

The month has passed, and no work has started.

Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?

**QUESTION PQ28**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**  
**Question submitted by: Caroline Graham**

As a member of the public who is affected by this blight on our local neighbourhood, I'd like to pose the question:

The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do.

Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?



**QUESTION PQ29**

**Subject: The Chocolate Path**

**Question submitted by: Heulwen Flower**

The Chocolate Path is set to be repaired by autumn, just shy of its collapses's third anniversary.

In the budget shared it was shown that c£2m has been spent on its repair this year 20/21. On most days over the past year no more than 3-5 workers have been on the site when anyone has been working there at all. Can the mayor 1) provide the breakdown of the monies spent on the repair of the path to date to reassure us that the council is managing the costs of the contractors well and 2) confirm what preventative maintenance and repairs are planned for the New Cut in total to similarly avoidable catastrophic failures as the Chocolate Path in the future?

**QUESTION PQ 30**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Cathy Warne**

The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road, Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do. Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?

**QUESTION PQ31**

**Subject: Kingwestong to Blaize stone bridge**

**Question submitted by: Christine Townsend**

Can this administration update the public on the repair/reopening of the Kingsweston to Blaize stone bridge that as been out of use for a number of years - have funds been allocated for repair and what is the current timeline for reopening?

**QUESTION PQ32**

**Subject: St George and St Piux primary sites**

**Question submitted by: Christine Townsend**

How are the soon to be closed St George and St Piux primary sites being used to support the SEN needs of children in the city this coming September?



**QUESTION PQ33**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Peter Champion**

As the contractor has not commenced work on this site as promised and it appears that should there be any work in the near future it will be weatherproofing only, not building completion, will the Council now take enforcement action?

This longstanding eyesore is a serious blot on what used to be a very good residential area, and the situation in my opinion merits a large reduction in Council Tax rate in recognition of the substantial loss of visual amenity it has caused and apparently will continue to cause indefinitely.

**QUESTION PQ34**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Huw Owen**

You may be aware that the property on Devonshire Road, Westbury Park has been left partly complete and exposed to the elements for several years. It is basically an eyesore. As part of a recent minor planning amendment that was granted recently, the owners promised to restart work within a month. Sadly, no such start has occurred within the promised timeframe, so I am writing to ask for a Completion Notice to be issued to expedite the matter. Restoration of the amenity value of Devonshire Road is long overdue. Completion would also mean two additional family homes in Bristol - a small but positive development!.

**QUESTION PQ35**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Tina Owen**

You may be aware that the property at Devonshire Road, Westbury Park has been left partly complete and exposed to the elements for several years. It is basically an eyesore. As part of a recent minor planning amendment that was granted recently, the owners promised to restart work within a month. Sadly, no such start has occurred within the promised timeframe, so I am writing to ask for a Completion Notice to be issued to expedite the matter. Restoration of the amenity value of Devonshire Road is long overdue. Completion would also mean two additional family homes in Bristol - a small but positive development!.

**QUESTION PQ36**

**Subject: Colston Four**

**Question submitted by: Kathryn Bristow**

I believe it is vital for the people of Bristol to know this, now that there is a December 13th trial date set for Rhian Graham, Milo Ponsford, Jake Skuse and Sage Willoughby, known collectively as the Colston four.



I and other Bristolians, especially those of us with ancestors exploited by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, consider these four people to have performed a public service to the city by removing the statue of a man that profited off of such horrendous crimes.

To avoid this long, unnecessary and unjust trial, the council could have refused to provide a comment to Avon & Somerset police. Instead, a statement of fact was provided that no permission had been given to remove the statue of Edward Colston.

What was the process used to make this decision to provide the statement when there was no requirement to do so?

Also, will the mayor consider withdrawing this statement and push for charges to be dropped?

### **QUESTION PQ37**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Roy Sanders**

The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park (started over 6 years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment, as he had stated to officers that he would do. Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action and/or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to fully complete the development?

Not only is the building derelict, dangerous (children have been seen climbing inside), attracting increased fly tipping at front and back, but is an eyesore in a residential area.

### **QUESTION PQ38**

**Subject: CAZ**

**Question submitted by: Christina Biggs, Bristol Clean Air Alliance**

According to the attached Q&A from BCC Cabinet in November 2019, the total NO<sub>x</sub> values for Greater Bristol, calculated from the Jacobs traffic model, were:

Baseline 589.4 tonnes/yr;

Option 1 536.1 tonnes/yr;

Option 2 582.7 tonnes/yr;

Medium CAZ D+ 502.3 tonnes/yr;

Hybrid 523 tonnes/yr.

**Question:** What is the a) legal compliance year for the centre of Bristol, b) Greater Bristol Total NO<sub>x</sub>, c) associated HAZ ratio and d) calculated premature deaths per year (currently 2027, 598.4 tonnes/year, 8.5% and 300 respectively for baseline do nothing scenario) for:

1. Small Area CAZ Class D as approved by BCC Cabinet on Thursday 25 February 2021 for submission of business case to JAQU;
2. Small Area CAZ Class D excluding the Portway and Cumberland Basin as proposed by the Conservative motion at this Full Council?



**QUESTION PQ39****Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park****Question submitted by: Philip Barker**

It is now a month since the developer of this site informed the Planning Department that he would start work on this derelict site. PLEASE would you support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action against the owner/developer of this site to ensure that it is either completed or removed? It has been derelict for some SIX years.

**QUESTION PQ40****Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park****Question submitted by: Kevin Chidgey**

The owner of the development site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park (started over six years ago and still derelict) has failed to start completion works within one month of receiving permission on a minor amendment as he had stated to officers that he would. Will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action / serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to complete the development?

**Background Note**

Permission was granted for a mixed use development (flats and offices) on the site of a former chapel /hall on Devonshire Road in 2014. Building works were commenced in May 2014 and then stopped, leaving an unsightly and potentially dangerous building shell open to the elements: no significant work has been done on the site since 2015. Considerable efforts by the Community Association and local councillors over the years to persuade the owner, to complete the development have been unsuccessful.

A month ago permission was given for a minor amendment to the plans (Planning Application Number 20/05826/X). The Officer Report on the application noted the many objections (over 70) about the delay in completion but pointed out that this was not a planning consideration. The Report did, however, add that *“the applicant has provided a statement (via their contractor) setting out that it is their intention to start again on site within one month of planning permission being granted under the current application, with the focus on completion four months after that”*. The Officer Report went on to say *“This is considered acceptable, however it should be noted that should the applicant fail to complete the development as set out in the submitted statement the Council will take appropriate enforcement action”*.

One month has now elapsed since the permission was granted but there has been no action on the site. Moreover, the contractor may have been appointed just to make the structure weatherproof, not to complete it and so the unsightly building shell could be left unfinished for years to come.

The Community Association will be writing to the Planning Department to urge the Department to take “appropriate enforcement action” as set out in the Officer Report but given the strength of feeling in the local community about the state of the site and the continuing lack of activity on the part



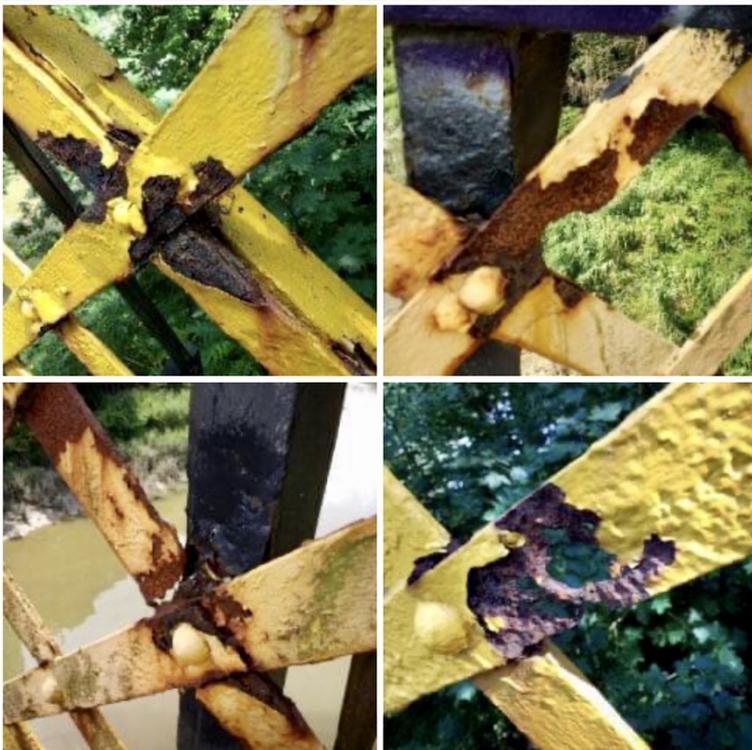
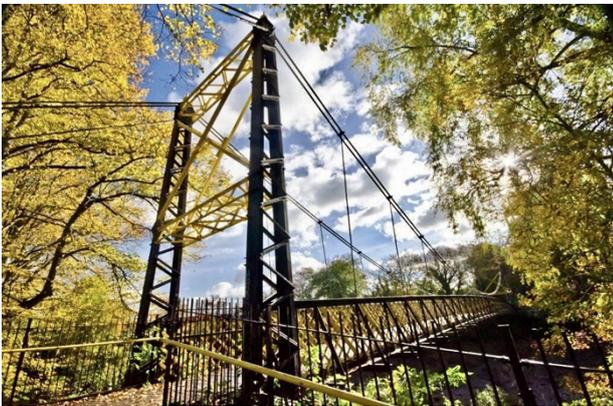
of the owner/developer we would also welcome the support of the Mayor in resolving this long standing issue through the appropriate intervention of the City Council.

**QUESTION PQ41**

**Subject: Sorry State of Sparke Evans Bridge**

**Question submitted by: Andrew Varney**

The elegant Sparke Evans footbridge near the Paintworks development in Brislington West was recently added to the Bristol Local List as an important heritage asset. Unfortunately, the beautiful lattice work railings have become badly corroded and are quite jagged and sharp in places and so are potentially dangerous and also at risk of falling into the river below. Repairs need to be carried out soon. However, it would be a travesty if the railings were replaced with unattractive sheet metal panels, which would also be an invitation to local graffiti artists to grab their spray cans! Therefore, I'd like to ask the Mayor if he can give local residents a date for when this repair work will be carried out and an assurance that the repairs will be done in a sympathetic manner in order to protect the beautiful character of the bridge?



**QUESTION PQ42**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Grace Dalley**

Please would you support the planning department in taking enforcement action against the developer of the site on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park to finally complete this building? This site has now been left derelict for many, many years and is an eyesore to the whole area. Last month a planning application by the developer was granted for a minor alteration to the building and completion work was promised within the following month. This timeline has now elapsed and still no work has been undertaken.

**QUESTION PQ43**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Andy Leeming**

I am asking that the Mayor support the Planning Department in taking enforcement action / serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner of development to complete the development? This 'development' has lain idle for some five plus years, having been started in May 2014 and then stopped. The owner/developer has not complied with his intention to recommence work on site. Members of this community have lost faith and wish for enforcement action to be taken over this site.

**QUESTION PQ44**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Rob Stewart**

I would like to know if there is anything the Mayor can do to encourage the owners to turn this half-finished shell into a habitable home that will give families somewhere to live. no longer be an eyesore and also yield value council tax revenue for the city council to reinvest in essential services and affordable housing.

**QUESTION PQ45**

**Subject: One City Approach**

**Question submitted by: Ed Plowden**

Some people have accused the One City approach of setting up lots of talking shops which do not have much real-world impact but at a significant cost in terms of time and money

Q1:How much have One City meetings, cost the council during the mayor's term in direct and indirect costs - the latter may include PR, meetings logistics and administration, officer time, etc,

Q2: Has any survey of participants or evaluation of its effectiveness been done at all and if so is there any cost to benefit analysis?



**QUESTION PQ46 & PQ47****Subject: Bristol History Commission****Question submitted by: Simon Stafford-Townsend**

Q1. In the wake of the fall of Colston's statue, the Mayor announced he would be forming the Bristol History Commission and charging it with telling the real history of Bristol. Since then, nothing has been forthcoming concerning the Commission's meetings or governance.

On the 18th August 2020 the Mayor responded to a list of questions from the Bristol Radical History Group, asserting, "this is a commission launched by myself that will report action points to me and of which we will find a mechanism for a wider report to the city. I will determine how to engage the city with recommendations and actions and final decisions will be taken in the existing democratic processes". [1]

In September 2020, the Council website announced that "A process for appointing up to 12 commissioners in total as well as terms of service and reference will be among the early decisions that commissioners will make". [2]

On the 8th February 2021 the Council responded to a FOI request seeking to "see full copies of all action logs, minutes, agendas and briefing notes relating to the Bristol History Commission meetings held between September and December 2020" [3]. This was refused on the grounds that "there is an intention to publish the requested information on the Council's website at a future date in the next two months". [4]

On 11th March 2021, a public meeting with residents of Colston Road is due (as of 10th March, the time of writing) to take place that "using Colston Road in BS5 as a starting point... will explore some of the broad questions being looked at by the We Are Bristol History Commission". [5]

In light of the above, please could the Mayor reveal exactly when governance documents and meeting papers for the BHC will be made public, and advise how the Commission will be enabled to remain independent enough of the Administration to produce an organic and authentic history of Bristol?

1 - <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/2020/09/bristol-history-commission-questions-still-not-answered/>

2 - <https://news.bristol.gov.uk/news/bristols-real-history-to-be-told-by-we-are-bristol-history-commission>

3 - [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/bristol\\_history\\_commission\\_meeti](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/bristol_history_commission_meeti)

4 -

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/717118/response/1720506/attach/html/2/13101798%20Response.pdf.html>

5 - <https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/we-are-bristol-history-commission/>

Q2. Further to Question 1, as a resident in Central Ward, please could the Mayor advise on the process for determining what will take the place of the Colston statue in the centre and the associated timescale? If the answer to this is that the matter is being referred to the Bristol History Commission,



please could the Mayor advise on what this referral process is, who can use it, and how they can use it, so that others can refer relevant issues to the Commission?

**QUESTION PQ48**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Joanna Mellors**

It is clear from the lack of action on site that the owner of the development on Devonshire Road in Westbury Park has still failed to get on with the works, despite undertakings given to Officers when his planning permission was slightly altered following a recent planning application. Works originally started on the site more than 6 years ago but were not completed. There has been no further action for many years and the site has remained a derelict and potentially unsafe project ever since.

Please will the Mayor now support the Planning Department in either taking enforcement action or serving a Completion Notice legally requiring the owner now to complete the development.

**QUESTION PQ49**

**Subject: Students in privately owned accommodation**

**Question submitted by: Lily Fitzgibbon**

Students across Bristol have suffered due to the pandemic - many are stuck paying for rooms in accommodation they cannot return to. Those who have returned are paying full price without the support of part time jobs in the hospitality sector - an important source of income for many students. While those who are in university owned accommodation have seen support such as rent rebates, students in privately owned accommodation are still suffering. Councillor Denyer's motion recognises this and presents a clear path of action for the Mayor to take. Can the Mayor tell us what he is already doing to support students throughout Bristol, and commit to using his unique influence in the city when writing to accommodation providers, letting agencies and landlords as outlined in the motion?

**QUESTION PQ50**

**Subject: Use of harmful pesticides**

**Question submitted by: Lily Fitzgibbon**

In your 2016 manifesto you pledged to "stop using harmful pesticides" and in your Ecological Emergency strategy, published 6 months ago, you pledged to "reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50% by 2030". Please could you update us on progress towards these goals?

Labour 2016 manifesto:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/labourclp407/pages/233/attachments/original/1460111184/Our\\_Bristol\\_Plan.pdf?1460111184](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/labourclp407/pages/233/attachments/original/1460111184/Our_Bristol_Plan.pdf?1460111184)

Ecological Emergency Strategy: Strategy: <https://bristolgreencapital.org/bristol-publishes-roadmap-tackling-ecological-emergency/>



**QUESTION PQ51 & PQ52**

**Subject: Pandemic impacts**

**Question submitted by: Alderman Mike Wollacott**

- 1) As we move through the pandemic, it has become clear that income is a key driver to the incidents of Covid in the UK. BBC Newsnight covered this (9/3/21) and showed figures from Sheffield council. Does the Mayor have figures to show the incidents of Covid, and deaths as a result, by ward, and by income decile in the City?
  
- 2) Due to the complex impact of lockdown, some unusual although foreseeable issues have arisen in public spaces. Concerns have been expressed over individuals consuming alcohol in public parks, with children's play areas, such as Fishponds and Vassals park, and the public nuisance attached to this. Can the Mayor indicate what collaborative work has been done with Avon and Somerset Police, and what mitigations have been actioned to defuse any issues arising out of this?

**QUESTION PQ53**

**Subject: Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

**Question submitted by: Valerie Williams**

Please will you ask the mayor to respond to the Westbury Park Community Association question regarding the progress or lack of at the derelict property on Devonshire Road?

This is a long standing issue and the residents deserve better.

