

# REPLIES FOR FULL COUNCIL PETITIONS, STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS – 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## Agenda item 6 – Public Petitions

### **PP01 – Emma Edwards, Holm Oak Tree on Ashley Down Road**

We recognise residents' concerns surrounding the removal of this tree and how tree removals can become symbolic of wider climate and environmental issues. Unfortunately, there are occasions when tree removal is unavoidable due to damage to property or much-needed housing developments. In the case of the Holm Oak Tree on Ashley Down Road, our Parks team, in consultation with the Housing team, have carefully considered all the options to avoid removal, but they have found it is impossible to alleviate the significant continuing risk posed by the roots of the tree to the adjacent house. However, the tree will be replaced nearby as soon as possible.

I appreciate your comments regarding the role of trees in combating pollution and carbon emissions. We are committed to tackling the Climate Emergency and improving the quality of air and community life within Bristol's wards, which is why we have an ambition to double the city's tree canopy by 2045. Last year, Bristol was awarded a share of £10 million from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Forestry Commission in the first round of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. Over 500 street trees and 10 small woodlands (an additional 3,000 trees) will be planted as a result of the project involving local communities in the selection of the trees and encouraging volunteers to plant them and help with care and watering. We also have our [Meadow Bristol](#) project, which aims to support our pollinators in a sustainable way.

As the first Local Authority in the country to declare a Climate Emergency in 2018, followed by an Ecological Emergency in 2020, we understand the important role of trees, wildlife, and ecological diversity in our city. We follow the tree replacement standard, which guides the re-planting of trees that are felled as part of a development. We carefully evaluate and consider environmental impacts when planning new developments within the city and we also work closely with the Environment Agency to discuss and combat any environmental damage, risks or obstacles that we may face. We are mindful of how we interact with our built environment as a city and you can find more information about our citywide approach in the recently updated [One City Plan](#).

### **PP02 – Simon Stafford-Townsend – Change the names of Colston Street and Colston Avenue**

Thank you for your statement. You can contact the History Commission at [history@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:history@bristol.gov.uk) for an update on this matter.

## Agenda item 6 - Public Statements

### **PS47 – Rob Dixon – Bonnington Walk Open Space**

**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?**

As a city we must tackle the housing crisis and this means supporting the building of homes. Councillor Beech and I are working hard to ensure the maximum number of affordable houses are built in each development in line with our housing policy.

New initiatives were announced at the November Cabinet meeting where it was agreed a £4m financial package to fund a three-year Climate and Ecological Emergency programme will help deliver the Council's aim to be carbon neutral for direct emissions by 2025 through its estates, capital projects and staff training. There will also be small grants for community-led climate action projects. This sits alongside building new sustainable affordable housing, improving travel options and reducing car use. I also appointed a cabinet member dedicated to Climate, Ecology and Sustainable Growth, Councillor Afzal Shah, to ensure that tackling the climate crisis is at the heart of everything the Council does.

We also follow the tree replacement standard, which guides the re-planting of trees that are felled as part of a development. We carefully evaluate and consider environmental impacts when planning new developments within

the city and we also work closely with the Environment Agency to discuss and combat any environmental damage, risks or obstacles that we may face. You can find detailed information regarding planning policy and the tree replacement standard on our website: [Supplementary planning documents, practice notes and other planning guidance - bristol.gov.uk](#). We are mindful of how we interact with our built environment as a city and you can find more information about our citywide approach in the recently updated [One City Plan](#).

With regards to Bonnington Walk specifically, there has been a long process of public consultation on this site and we have carried out a number of public consultation exercises in Lockleaze and have taken on board many of the residents' concerns, alongside the requirements of planning policy and technical stakeholders. The local councillors have worked closely with the Lockleaze Residents Planning Group to pick up issues of concern and ensure good communication between the Council, developers and the local community.

The development proposals were granted by the Planning Committee in November 2020 after the following of due process and consideration of all information and concerns raised.

**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?**

Following the initial public consultation, the design team removed one four storey building completely and reduced a further two buildings to three storeys. The remaining two taller buildings are located in the centre of the site, away from existing boundaries. The topography of the site, sloping from north to south, means that these two buildings, in the centre of the site have a reduced impact upon the skyline from surrounding dwellings.

The design team have tried to balance the requirements of the brief and affordable housing density targets by producing a largely two storey development. If all of the four storey buildings were reduced to three storey, then the density target for the site would not be achieved. Given the scale of the site, we feel that four storey buildings are appropriate in this location. And there is more public green space around the buildings.

The existing Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) has been fully retained, with no development within this zone. In addition to this, the wildlife corridor running the full length of the western boundary has been retained and will be enhanced with biodiversity and habitat improvements. A large public open space has also been included for both new and existing residents to use within the site. The community orchard has also been retained to the south of the site. Existing hedgerows have been retained around the perimeter of the site where possible and where they can be maintained long term.

**PS52 - Jen Smith - Mayoral Referendum & Facebook Messages**

The role of Mayor is a democratically elected role by the citizens of Bristol. The needs of a modern city like Bristol outgrew the old model of operation, be it on climate change, delivering homes or tackling child hunger. It was an organisation of invisible meetings that did not make real decisions at the pace in which they needed to be made. That led to a growing frustration in the city as residents could see that the council was not meeting the needs of the population. In 2012, the people of Bristol voted in a democratic referendum for the election of a Mayor into the model of governance. Since this time, Bristol has had a democratically elected leader who is visible and accountable and able to represent the city on both the national and international stage. We have a growing population, we need to get out of recession, we have rapid urbanisation and existing crises and we need an organisation that can respond at pace with the flexibility that's needed.

I agree that accountability is a hugely important part of being a leader and I also believe it is important for the people of Bristol to have their say on things happening in our city which will impact them. This is why I have made a point of being as visible and accessible as possible as Mayor of Bristol. Members of the public, elected Councillors and journalists are able to put their questions, concerns and hopes to me in formats such as Cabinet Meetings, Full Council meetings, Facebook Live Q&As, press conferences and by emailing my office directly at [mayor@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@bristol.gov.uk). We also make space for ample public consultation when embarking on any new development or schemes within the city, which ensures that residents always have the opportunity to make their voices heard. You may also be interested to learn more about our [Citizens' Assembly](#).

The motion of a Mayoral Referendum was put to a democratic vote in the Full Council meeting of 16th March, and elected representatives of Bristol democratically voted against the motion. I'm pleased that Full Council endorsed the position of the Mayor.

**PS58 – Mick O'Neill-Duff – Brislington Cemetery**

Thank you for your statement. One of our Officers will respond to you directly in writing on this matter.

**PS63 – Sally Kent – Bristol SEND**

The post in question was published on my Facebook page by my campaign team.

**PS64 – Kay Galpin – Bristol SEND**

The post in question was published on my Facebook page by my campaign team.

**PS65 – Clean Up SEND – Bristol SEND**

The post in question was published on my Facebook page by my campaign team.

**Agenda item 6 – Public questions:**

**PQ01 – Penny Beeston – Legal Costs and Stoke Lodge Playing Fields**

We have made enquiries of Finance and have been informed that this is not a calculation that has been calculated for Legal Services (or other individual services within the Council) due to the number of services, complexity with different working patterns and places plus other variables.

**PQ02 – Penny Beeston – Legal Costs and Stoke Lodge Playing Fields**

Officers have now responded to you in writing regarding this matter.

**PQ03 – David Redgewell – Graffiti removal**

Our street cleaning contract with Bristol Waste includes graffiti removal. Since April 2020 approximately 1,500 graffiti tags have been removed. As part of this service Bristol Waste will remove graffiti from historic buildings and monuments. For private properties the council requires an indemnity form to be completed and returned before the graffiti can be removed. The Council is trialling removing the requirement for completed indemnity forms to see if this increases the amount of graffiti removed.

**PQ04 – David Redgewell – Graffiti removal**

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team has dealt with 72 graffiti cases resulting in the issuing of 16 Community Protection Warnings, 3 Community Protection Notices and 1 Fixed Penalty Notice. There are no formal agreements in place with the bodies referred to in the question. Discussions are taking place with a number of partners. Through the City Office we have many partners from enforcement to business to the VCSE sector who are looking at quality of life in the city and the attractiveness of Bristol as a destination city. We are focused on the quality of our public space, but it is a challenge.

**PQ05 – Christy Braham – Unlawful Evictions**

Thank you for your contribution at the meeting. I've agreed to a meeting with yourself and Councillor Helen Godwin and my office will be in touch to organise.

Avon and Somerset police need to answer the main part of this question and you should approach the Police and Crime Commissioner for a response. The issue of unlawful evictions is clearly something that we would want to raise with their leadership. Councillor Craig and I have been meeting with leaders of the police for some time on a number of issues from street conflict to knife crime to inequalities in stop and search. We have built an effective working relationship with Avon and Somerset Constabulary about dealing with overt and covert racism within the structures of the system.

In terms of the background of Bristol City Council's legal power in these matters:

Services provided by Private Housing include:

- Negotiating between landlords and tenants to prevent an illegal eviction happening - if a client is happy for us to intervene. Over the last two years, 340 tenancies have been saved.
- Prioritising enforcement action against those who commit offence(s) under Prevention from Eviction Act.
- Work closely with Association of Tenancy Relations Officers UK to oversee and support the work and training of Tenancy Relations Officers.

Powers that BCC has to prevent/intervene or tackle retrospectively those landlord behind illegal evictions:

- BCC have powers (but not a legal duty) under Protection from Eviction Act 1977, to investigate and take enforcement action for illegal eviction and harassment cases.
- The final decision to take forward an enforcement case is made by Legal Services. The case that this question refers to was closed following legal advice and the team explained that in detail in writing to yourself.
- Although these powers are not a statutory duty upon local authorities, BCC prioritises such cases to investigate and take enforcement action where there is sufficient evidence to do so. The cases must meet the public interest test as set out by Code of Crown Prosecutors.
- BCC is one of the few Local Authorities that is proactively prioritising such cases.
- The legislation above puts a burden of proof on the Council. The criminal standard of proof is 'beyond reasonable doubt'. That is a heavy burden to discharge and the Council can only take cases forward, in line with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, when they are satisfied that there is a realistic prospect of conviction.
- Investigation Powers for Officers taking action under Protection from Eviction Act are limited compared to other legislation such as trading standards, Environmental Health legislation or health and safety legislation for example.

#### **PQ06 – Lee Starr-Elliott – Hartcliffe Farm**

I am really pleased that Hartcliffe City Farm will be taken forward with a new vision which has been formed by South Bristol organisations Windmill Hill City Farm and Heart of BS13, following an open invitation for expressions of interest late last year. The site will keep its roots as a farm, remain free to the public and host many activities for the local community to get involved in. It will also be an important driver of the local economy; providing jobs, training and enterprise opportunities.

The total cost of fees directly associated with the process of seeking to regain possession to date is £671. More costs could be incurred in the future if the current tenants do not leave voluntarily. These could include the cost of vets, animal transport, bailiffs, further Court fees, external legal advice, and a lot more Officer time. These costs do not include charges for staff time, e.g. Council Officers in Legal Services, Parks, Corporate Property, Animal Health. The refusal of the current tenants to vacate the property has resulted in fewer Expressions of Interest from applicants interested in taking over the farm. The delay in vacating the site has also affected the period of time that the farm will be 'fallow' before it will re-open to the general public.

### **PQ07 – Ted Powell – Supply Teachers/SEND pupils in Bristol**

Many local authorities moved away from a model of an Local Authority run supply pool due to the administrative burden and also ongoing reduction in LA maintained schools over the last 10 years. Whilst establishing an LA pool isn't a priority that Bristol is considering at this time, the pandemic has highlighted how fragmented the system is and the impact of the high cost of supply cover on school budgets. The Council continues to work closely with education leaders and will engage in local discussions and decision making about access to high quality supply, supporting where it can.

### **PQ08 – Ted Powell – Supply Teachers/SEND pupils in Bristol**

Bristol City Council has been working closely with all education unions throughout the pandemic to ensure schools are able to operate safely and make decisions within the context of their individual health and safety risk assessments. The Education and Skills team have worked closely with our educational settings throughout the pandemic. This has included meetings with all head teachers, including head teachers of our specialist settings, weekly updates and joint problem solving. The ethos of this work has been to enable local leaders to discuss and make difficult decisions in a collaborative and supportive environment.

The issues faced by our specialist settings have been raised and addressed by the Education and Skills team. Multi-agency task and finish groups have been established at crucial times with key partners, such as Public Health, social care, and health colleagues. For example, a specialist group met weekly over the summer to plan for the return of all pupils to specialist settings in September. The specialist educational services have worked flexibly using technology to support children, young people, families and schools. For example, the Autism Team have published resources for families and schools and the Educational Psychology Service have run webinars for families throughout the pandemic.

To date 86% of the 175 milestones set out in the agreed action plan have been delivered. The full progress updates are published following each of these monitoring visits: [Ofsted updates - Bristol's SEND Local Offer - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/education/specialist-education/updates)

### **PQ09 – Clive Stevens – Policy Development Scrutiny in a Mayoral System**

We've been asking Scrutiny to get involved in policy making for a long time, but unfortunately Scrutiny focuses more on asking me questions than generating policy. The agenda for Scrutiny is set by Scrutiny.

There is a challenge that if you want to be the setters of policy and make decisions which are implemented, the city needs to know who you are. One of the features of a democracy is the visibility of decisions makers. That's what makes the mayoral model so democratic. For example, if Bristol had followed Scrutiny on the arena and gone ahead with that, we would have had to open a £200m arena in the middle of a pandemic. The city would have blamed me, not the councillors who wanted it. If Scrutiny is to have a role, it needs to also have accountability to the city for those policies – often it wants me to implement something and make me accountable for it. So there is a challenge for Scrutiny to be much more visible and accessible to the public so that it is accountable for any decisions that it wishes to make. Making decisions from positions of invisibility is not supporting of democracy.

As a Council we need to deliver for Bristol and there is a tendency within the old council culture to spend its time asking questions over cups of tea, but with no focus on delivery. I've seen it, I worked here. In the pre-mayoral model, the relationship between Officers and councillors was not healthy. When I was Director of the Local Strategic Partnership in 2010, I approached the head of Scrutiny at the time to develop a collaborative working relationship in which Scrutiny could work on policy development. The Scrutiny work programme is a matter for them, but of course I hope to have a genuinely constructive approach where they lead in the city, not just one which involves party political point scoring from the side-lines with no responsibility. We need to ensure that Scrutiny is focused on getting things done for Bristol and I have not seen evidence of that. There are a number of issues that Scrutiny could look at: housing, child poverty, hunger, transport, decarbonisation, economic recovery, gentrification etc. At any time, Scrutiny can begin to develop policy related to these issues.

### **PQ10 – Clive Stevens – Policy Development Scrutiny in a Mayoral System**

Scrutiny can decide to spend its time on whatever it chooses – that is its decision to take. I would suggest there are a number of policy priorities as referenced in my answer to the previous question that would be a better use of Scrutiny's time than focusing on constitutional matters.

It is important to keep in mind that much of the responsibilities and powers of the role is set out in legislation by Parliament. I am wary of the Council Chamber's desire to create processes to make itself feel important, instead of delivering for the city. That was why many people voted for the mayoral position in the first place, because they were tired of a council structure that didn't deliver.

In terms of checks and balances the Council currently employs a Monitoring Officer and a Section 151 officer. We are also monitored by MHCLG and our Public Health team publishes an independent annual report. We have had two corporate LGA lead peer reviews, with an action plan to drive change. We are about to have third peer review which will look at the Council's approach to inclusion and equalities. We are also planning a Public Health peer review (which was sadly delayed because of the pandemic). On top of this we have invited teams from LGIU and MJ to assess us for 'Council of the Year', where we short-listed.

Ultimately, the constitution is a matter for Full Council.

### **PQ11 – Jonathan Hucker – Car Clubs in Suburban Areas**

The Car Club operators are all commercial companies and they choose which areas of Bristol they want to operate in. Car Club provision is generally in denser residential areas of the city where there is a more viable market for the operators. Suburban areas are typically regarded by operators as commercially unviable.

The Council does not have a contract with the Car Club operators to provide services and does not determine which areas they operate in. It does not have any powers to require operators to serve all areas of the city. If there is enough demand from local residents requesting Car Clubs in an area then operators will look at the potential for new Car Club locations.

Bristol currently has three Car Club companies operating in the City, which combined provide one of the largest Car Club operations in the UK.

### **PQ12 – Suzanne Audrey – Backbench and Opposition Councillors**

We shouldn't be asking about what impact the elected mayoral system has on local councillors, we should be concerned about the impact it has on the city. Bristol is not here to serve councillors or me, we are here to serve Bristol and we fulfil that by getting things done. Under the city leadership we've brought in, the city has been able to get things done.

We need a sense of humility here. Councillors in and of themselves are not synonymous with a functioning democracy. I grew up in the city and worked here and this has not been a high-functioning participatory democracy in the past. Political learnership is now more visible and more accessible than it ever has been.

I don't deny that the mayoral model required a new set of skills and culture from councillors – I've said that since 2012. But if you go and talk to our city partners and members of our commissions; to members of our thematic boards setting city priorities; talk to the people that own homes; or even the children who are growing up with a visible city leadership - people are engaged.

People can approach me and my Cabinet outside of formal structures. If they're willing to get things done, we'll back them. Just last weekend we heard the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly which Councillor Asher Craig and Councillor Paula O'Rourke worked on together. The Extraordinary Full Council earlier this month was developed with community groups and councillors from the Chamber.

The motion of a Mayoral Referendum was put to a democratic vote in the Full Council meeting of 16th March, and elected representatives of Bristol democratically voted against the motion. I'm pleased that Full Council endorsed the position of the Mayor.

**PQ13 – Jonathan Hucker – Bristol Beacon**

Costs have not “escalated” but have been discovered. These could only be understood once the building was opened up. The project is fundamentally different now.

The opportunity of a GMP type Contract was investigated by the BCC client team and its professional advisers at a very early stage. Soft market engagement of appropriately qualified building contractors identified that a GMP style arrangement would not be sufficiently attractive to attract compliant contractor bids (the market would not have responded to this style of contract).

BCC procurement guidance identified the Southern Counties Framework as the best framework through which to procure the works. This utilises a form of competitive two stage tendering to obtain a fixed price for the Works which only changes if the Works Information changes.

Unfortunately, the Works Information has needed to change substantially to respond to the extensive issues discovered.

**PQ14 – Stephanie French – Bristol’s Tree Management Policy**

The council does not prune its trees for light, and we would not give consent to a third party to do that either. Private landowners have a common law right to prune back other’s trees and foliage that overhang their property to their property ownership boundary line. The Council's Tree Management Policy Framework and more detailed information on what is permitted and not permitted is provided online: [Tree+management+policy+2016 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/tree-management-policy-2016)

**PQ15 – John Pauling – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

Whilst planning enforcement is a non-executive function, particularly with regard to specific cases, and does not come under the Mayor’s direct remit, I have been briefed on this case.

I understand that the development has been partially built for some time and the resulting condition of the site is of concern to local residents. I am aware that an amendment to the previous planning approval was granted recently and that a resumption of building works on site was promised within one month. Whilst I am also concerned that building works have not resumed at the site within this timescale, I have been informed that the developer has been waiting for access to Building Regulation information in order to be able to proceed from a position of certainty. This is a legitimate reason for works not commencing and we have received reassurance that this information will be available very soon and that the developer has contractors ready to commence work within the next couple of weeks.

At this time, it would be a better use of public money to wait a month for works to take place. If this does not happen then the Planning Enforcement team will proceed with a completion notice.

**PQ16 – Duncan Laxen – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ17 – Maureen Phillips – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ18 – Mr J Bishop – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ19 – Philip Lidstone – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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**PQ20 – Deborah Walpole – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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**PQ21 – Caroline and John Davenport – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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**PQ22 – Sylvia Dodd – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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**PQ23 – David Wilcox – Bristol Airport**

No. The Full Council meeting of December 2020 “called on the Mayor to lend his support to any Bristol City councillor that would like to write, individually or collectively, to the Planning Inspector hearing the appeal, asking them not to overturn the decision of North Somerset Council to reject airport expansion.”

**PQ24 – Andrew Lewis-Barned – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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**PQ25 – Heather Mack – Bonnington Walk land clearance**

This issue is covered by two elements of legislation: the Wildlife and Countryside act and planning legislation. The Wildlife and Countryside Act protects nesting birds all year, but the period between mid-March and the end of August is the most important time to be avoided with regards to protecting nesting birds. Tree removal and scrub clearance can happen at any time of year. The key mitigation is to make sure there are no birds nesting before the site is cleared. Work was carried out by an ecologist to ensure there was no presence of nesting birds badgers and hedgehogs and this continues to be monitored by the appointed ecologist.

We acted immediately after the all clear from the ecologist to ensure that our priority was the protection of birds, badgers and hedgehogs – I acknowledge this has meant there wasn’t the best communication with residents, but I am sure you’d agree our priority has to be the wildlife in line with our Ecological Emergency Strategy.

The developer is in the process of setting up a newsletter and internet link where information about activities on the development can be viewed and we will be liaising with ward councillors to coordinate engagement.

**PQ26 – Judith Sluglett – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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At this time, it would be a better use of public money to wait a month for works to take place. If this does not happen then the Planning Enforcement team will proceed with a completion notice.

### **PQ27 – Stephen Noreiko – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ28 – Caroline Graham – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ29 – Heulwen Flower – The Chocolate Path**

Site Works on Cumberland Road commenced on 15th June 2020, post the partial river wall collapse in January 2020. The breakdown of current expended costs on this specific project to date is as follows:

Full Detailed Design, Tender Documents and ongoing Works Site Supervision and design duties for BCC including previous years costs.	£1,314,000.00
Detailed Geotechnical site tests and investigations before works commence to determine nature of ground and reasons for failure	£245,000.00
Enabling Works, post collapse	£178,000.00
Total awarded Tender Value	£1,205,000.00

The Contractor for the Work is being supervised and there is also a dedicated (Project Specific) Council employed Project Manager dealing with any issues raised. The contract is currently on schedule with the agreed contract programme.

Within the new Chocolate Path projects, there are other improvements to the overall stability of the river wall as well as new drainage and surfacing improvements. The New Cut retaining wall is included in a New Cut Harbour Asset Project, which will identify any further areas of concern and to implement repairs or interventions as

necessary. This is part of the infrastructure challenges we face as a city as so many bridges and flood defences come to the end of their life span.

We inherited a whole collection of city structures that are at the end of their life - that was decades in the making. For example: harbour walls; bridges, including St Philips Causeway; and the 1960s flyover in Western Harbour, which will cost £40m to restore without taking the opportunity to improve homes or flood defences. As we approach COP, I'd suggest spending £40m of money to live as we currently do is not acceptable.

### **PQ30 – Cathy Warne – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ31 – Christine Townsend – Kingsweston to Blaize Stone Bridge**

We're stuck between the heritage and the access on a number of issues. We need to raise the bridge to make sure it isn't hit again. This would then require us to make it accessible with our statutory duties, with ramps. Heritage England will not accept the plans for the ramps, and our planning application was rejected in 2019. We are refining a revised Planning submission to take into the account and to resolve the issues raised by the Planning Authority and Heritage England. This revised submission aims to enable the bridge to be fully reinstated at the proposed raised height and also to incorporate suitably landscaped approach ramps on either side.

The bridge is in the capital programme, and once the refined submission is approved, we will look to make funding available. The existing capital spend is on critical areas, such as the harbour walls and main transport network.

We inherited a whole collection of city structures that are at the end of their life - that was decades in the making. For example: harbour walls; bridges, including St Philips Causeway; and the 1960s flyover in Western Harbour.

### **PQ32 – Christine Townsend – St George and St Pius primary sites**

The main St George site will be available to education once the school has closed at the end of the academic year. The small 'annex' site is owned by the Diocese of Bristol and the diocese will dispose the site and will re-invest at least some of any capital receipt into the new school on the St Michael on the Mount site.

The education capital board will review how the main site could be used to meet BCC priorities, including the provision of SEND places. As this site has only just become available, no decisions have been made yet. It is unlikely the site will be used for SEND places as no discussions have yet taken place with potential providers.

The buildings and playground of St Pius, together with part of the playing field, is under the ownership of the Clifton Diocese. The diocesan trustees will commission a feasibility study prior to considering future use of the site. The remaining part of the playing field is owned by Bristol City Council. Officers will work with the diocese on future use, including the potential to increase specialist places in the city. Again, due to the timing of the decision, any decision to provide specialist places is unlikely to deliver places for September 2021.

### **PQ33 – Peter Champion – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ34 – Huw Owen – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ35 – Tina Owen – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ36 – Kathryn Bristow – Colston Four**

I think it is inappropriate for politicians to be involved in cases in the judicial system. The Crown Prosecution Service makes the decision without fear or favour of politics. As you note, the Council provided a purely factual statement when asked by the investigating officers. It would be unacceptable to do anything but state the truth: no permission to move the statue was given.

### **PQ37 – Roy Sanders – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ38 – Christina Biggs - CAZ**

The question supplied is very technical and detailed. We don't have all the information to hand as it was not required for the OBC, but officers will respond in writing.

The legal compliance year for the proposed CAZ D scheme is 2023. Based on the data available, the removal of the Cumberland Basin from those routes is expected to push compliance back into 2024. We will endeavour to provide total NOx values for you once we have completed technical work required to ascertain these figures. We know by delivering cleaner air the scheme will deliver significant health benefits, but have not carried out further work on the HAZ ratio as this data is not a requirement for the business case process - we have had to focus our time and resource on developing the most suitable scheme for Bristol in the time available. We were under a legal direction to submit by the end of February, so the work had to fit that timescale.

### **PQ39 – Philip Barker – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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### **PQ40 – Kevin Chidgey – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ41 – Andrew Varney – Sorry state of Sparke Evans Bridge**

A detailed Principal Inspection was undertaken on this footbridge structure in July 2020, so we possess a full condition report as to the overall state of this footbridge and are aware of the issues you raise. We're looking for additional new funding and we are exploring other funding streams to refurbish this footbridge along with other identified bridge structures which span the New Cut River within the City.

A full Report paper on this particular footbridge (along with others), will be presented to Cabinet in the summer 2021, explaining the current position and also looking for available funding streams to undertake the recommended works required to refurbish this footbridge along with the others identified. In the meantime, the Council inspects this footbridge on a regular basis and will undertake any necessary safety critical repairs as and when this is required. Please be assured that this footbridge remains safe for public use and that the Council is now looking to find the necessary funding and will explore all available avenues for this required funding to undertake these necessary refurbishment works.

We cannot at this stage give any specific dates as to when this footbridge will be refurbished, but the intention would be to refurbish this footbridge back to its original architectural style.

We inherited a whole collection of city structures that are at the end of their life - that was decades in the making. For example: harbour walls; bridges, including St Philips Causeway; and the 1960s flyover in Western Harbour.

#### **PQ42 – Grace Dalley – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ43 – Andy Leeming – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ44 – Rob Stewart – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ45 – Ed Plowden – One City Approach**

The One City Approach has an emphasis on delivery, and has been convened to bring a range of multi-agency partners together across the public, private, voluntary and education sectors to collaborate on tackling some of Bristol's most complex challenges, and working towards collective goals for the city across the short, medium and long terms. It sets out to ensure that what citizens receive from the city is more than the sum of its parts. The One City Approach has been central to the coordination of the city's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to ensure a joined-up approach to issues such as climate change, digital exclusion, homelessness, and health inequality.

Delivery on the One City Approach is a collective endeavour with hundreds of city partners across Bristol, driven by partnership boards and advisory committees which do not receive payment from Bristol City Council, with the local authority acting as one city partner among many. The core City Office team currently consists of six members of staff: a Head of City Office role, two Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Managers and, on a fixed term basis, an Operations and Engagement Adviser, a part time Communications Officer, and a Business Support (administrative) Officer, who are the only team directly overseeing and administering the One City Approach. The team has a small discretionary budget. As the One City Approach is the overarching framework for a number of citywide projects and initiatives, indirect costs are not directly calculable.

For detailed information on the impact and delivery of the City Office on a range of city initiatives over the past two years, please see their 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports, which are available on the One City website alongside the latest and previous versions of the One City Plan, the coordination and delivery of which is enabled by the City Office: [About the One City Plan - Bristol One City](#)

#### **PQ46 – Simon Stafford-Townsend – Bristol History Commission**

We have recently created a page on the BCC website: [We Are Bristol History Commission - bristol.gov.uk](#)

This website includes the Terms of Reference, and the agendas and minutes for the meetings since the Commission was constituted in September 2020 will be added when they are ready for publication. An email address is also available, enabling citizens to write to the commissioners. A separate webpage on the We Are Bristol platform is being constructed and should be ready by mid-April.

The selection of historians, other academics and professionals approached to join the Commission have been picked as those best placed to consider a number of different topics and questions. Part of the work includes establishing a

process for recruiting more members to the group, so that it is representative of the city's inhabitants. This includes invitations on an ad hoc basis for each theme. Work is continuing on this process.

At the end of each topic the Commission will produce a report of recommendations for presentation to me which will be considered and acted upon. At the moment what is clear is we don't have shared understanding of Bristol's story and the meaning of individual within Bristol's story. Education about our history has often been flawed and there are gaps and mistruths. Greater accuracy about our city's history, which is accessible to all, will help us understand each other, our differences, our contradictions and our complexities. We as a city need a better conversation about our history, the fullness of our story, and who we give places of honour to. Understanding our city's history will mean we are able to understand our differences better and the Commission is there to help us understand Bristol's history in all its fullness and how we became the city we've become – who are the heroes, be they women, union organisers, abolitionists, Black people, Asian people, gay people?

Disagreements are a part of democracy, but we need to disagree well.

#### **PQ47 – Simon Stafford-Townsend – Bristol History Commission**

Right now it is powerful to have an empty plinth. We are a city which has paused and can think about what we are and where we go next.

The statue will be temporarily displayed once museums are allowed to safely open from late May to engage the city in a conversation about the future of the statue. My office and the Council have received lots of ideas for what could go on the remaining plinth, including another statue of a notable Bristol person, or revolving art projects. Any decision about how the plinth should be used will be decided democratically, through citywide consultation. The History Commission will be a part of that process.

As in my answer to your previous question a separate webpage on the We Are Bristol platform is being constructed. In the first instance a page on the BCC website has been created which is now live: [We Are Bristol History Commission - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/we-are-bristol-history-commission). An email address is available at the same time enabling citizens to write to the commissioners. Citizens have always been able to write to my office with suggestions as is demonstrated by the thousands of emails received since June 7th. These suggestions have all been recorded.

#### **PQ48 – Joanna Mellors – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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#### **PQ49 – Lily Fitzgibbon – Students in privately-owned accommodation**

I've already written to the Universities minister regarding this. I have to share my disappointment with you as a Green Party candidate that at the previous full council Councillor Denyer and Green Party councillors voted for a rent rise for council tenants struggling with many of the same issues you've just set out. However, during this meeting, want rent relief for students. By freezing the rents that we do control, we gain the moral authority to speak to other private landlords about the rents they are charging and take the lead. It is disappointing as it leads people to

conclude that the Green Party want to prioritise students over council tenants, when we should be working to protect everyone who has had their lives and livelihoods upturned by the pandemic.

#### **PQ50 – Lily Fitzgibbon – Use of harmful pesticides**

We are really pleased that through the work of the One City office and, in particular, the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy, we are working closely with partners to bring institutions in the city with large estates, such as the universities, together to reduce use of pesticides in Bristol by 50%.

Bristol University Masters students are researching Bristol residents' use and attitudes around pesticides. Bristol Waste will be monitoring pesticides that are being deposited at their waste centres. Bristol Waste are also intending to speak with garden centres. All this work will be brought together to a roundtable event to discuss what effective intervention might be in time for promoting as part of Festival of Nature June 5th-12th.

The Council are committed to the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy goal, and to keep trialling solutions to reduce use of harmful pesticides while maintaining paths and other structures. We are commissioning a review of the Council's use of pesticides and will progress the search for alternatives, identifying the benefits and costs of each.

The twelve-month trial use of acetic acid unfortunately made little impact and the cost of use is quite prohibitive given the frequency needed to keep growth at bay across the city and the financial challenges the council still faces. We have been in touch with Councils from other cities and boroughs who have and are exploring feasible non-chemical options and we are looking at the best solution for Bristol City Council use, which includes trialling the use of pelargononic acid and other naturally occurring herbicides. As an early measure, our Parks Service will be reducing the treatment of weeds and grasses around obstacles in parks such as fences, signs and bins and grass here will be left to grow in these locations. We also have our [Meadow Bristol](#) project, which aims to support our pollinators in a sustainable way.

#### **PQ51 – Alderman Mike Wollacott – Pandemic impacts**

There have been 29,723 positive cases of Covid-19 in Bristol between March 2020 to the end of February 2021. There is some evidence of higher numbers of positive cases in the more income deprived areas of the city, although isn't a strong association relationship. Cases at a ward level vary week by week. Sometimes high numbers in a ward or neighbourhood are linked to known / contained outbreak, in a care home, workplace or education setting. Neighbourhoods and wards in South Bristol, North Bristol and East Bristol have all seen 'spikes' in cases as a result of community transition, which is when the virus is spreading between households with no obvious source. Focused neighbourhood action is taken in these cases by deploying additional testing, communication and contact tracing.

There have been 591 deaths from Covid-19 in Bristol between March 2020 and February 26th 2021. We receive information about deaths from the ONS retrospectively and we currently have details of deaths up to the end of December 2020. The highest number of Covid-19 deaths has occurred in Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze. It should be noted that this ward has a high number of care homes. There has only been one ward in Bristol not to experience any Covid-19 deaths (Hotwells and Harbourside). For the deaths up to the end of December 2020 there is no obvious correlation between income deprivation and the rate of Covid-19 deaths within Bristol. However, replicating national trends in local data is often difficult due to the relatively small numbers involved. Aspects such as age structure in different areas of the city and locations of care homes and nursing homes will have an effect of numbers of deaths.

#### **PQ52 – Alderman Mike Wollacott – Pandemic impacts**

Council teams have been working collaboratively with the Avon and Somerset Police on a range of issues and within a number of different environments related to the pandemic and Covid-secure behaviour. For example, we have recruited a team of Covid marshals who have been working across the city, including public parks. The role of the marshal is not to enforce Covid-19 regulations, which will remain the remit of the police and designated local authority compliance and enforcement officers. Instead, marshals explain Covid-19 secure guidance and encourage/help people to comply. The policing of anti-social behaviour remains the remit of the police, but Bristol

City Council Officers and Covid marshals are able to escalate incidences to the police if they see fit. I would also encourage you to report any anti-social behaviour that you witness to the police directly so that they are able to investigate. We recognise the difficult balances that residents have had to navigate in the past year. We know that most people in the city have followed the rules and behaved in a Covid-secure way and we are hugely grateful for their efforts.

**PQ53 – Valerie Williams – Derelict Property in Westbury Park**

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