

# Member Forum

## 6 July 2021

### Statements from Councillors



#### Procedural note:

#### **STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS:**

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



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

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>
CS01	Councillor Jos Clark	A4 Corridor and Callington Rd Link
CS02	Councillor Andrew Varney	Toilets for Bus Drivers
CS03	Councillor Alex Hartley	VOI Scooters

**CS01****Members' Forum statement from Councillor Jos Clark****Subject: A4 Corridor and Callington Rd Link**

Over the past few years the WECA/Bristol City Council proposals to improve the A4 corridor have been the subject of much discussion in Brislington West as the ward is cut in half by the road, and its impact on our ability to move around the area. It is noticeable that the quality of life is affected by constant road noise and high levels of pollution particularly at the top of Brislington Hill.

At a recent briefing Cllr Varney and I were told that the consultation on the improvements/changes to the area would start in the 'summer'. We would like to know when the summer is going to start and more importantly when we are likely to see the consultation made available to local residents to raise their concerns.

Although we realise that the spacial development strategy is a piece of work undertaken in conjunction with WECA and has a very broad reach. Local residents want to have their say about the future of their area.

The Callington Road Link which is the old railway line between Tesco's and Sainsbury's is of particular interest and our residents have told us repeatedly that they do not want another road which will bring more cars and worse pollution to the area. Unfortunately, during the election it appears that people were given misleading information saying that there were no plans for a road along this old railway line and this information was old and out of date. This is very unfortunate as we were told at a recent meeting with council officers that 'everything was on the table and nothing was off the table' when talking about the Callington road link. We were also told 'that they (BCC officers) were still looking at the possibility of two way traffic along this stretch'.

The overwhelming feedback we get is his piece of land could be better used as a safe active travel route with a bit of good will from the council. Thus helping to increase cycling and walking in the area and enabling the residents of Brislington to keep a much needed green lung rather than encouraging more cars and pollution.

**CS02****Members' Forum statement from Councillor Andrew Varney****Subject: Toilets for Bus Drivers**

All councillors would have received an email back in May calling on us to support and lobby for increased and enhanced public toilet facilities for bus drivers.

As we read in the petition text, which has been submitted to Bristol City Council, and as some of us may have read in the local media, bus drivers across our region are routinely having to urinate in bottles and behind bushes because of a lack of toilet facilities, especially at the end of long bus routes in the Bristol suburbs and in neighbouring local authority areas. This is an obvious health hazard and an affront to human dignity.



Over the last few years, we have seen the closure of many public toilets as a cost cutting measure and an attempt to replace them with the Community Toilet Scheme. However, during the pandemic, this scheme was suspended and in any case, these toilets were not necessarily located at bus termini across the region.

I note that the provision of toilet facilities for bus drivers is not part of Bristol City Council's Bus Deal, the national government's Bus Back Better strategy nor the WECA Bus Strategy and I believe it should be. Providing toilets for drivers should be considered just as essential as providing bus shelters, bus lanes and smart bus ticketing. Taking care of bus drivers should be just as essential as taking care of bus passengers. I am calling on all of us to work together to bring an end to this appalling and shameful situation.

### **CS03**

#### **Members' Forum statement from Councillor Alex Hartley**

##### **Subject: VOI Scooters**

Over the weeks since I have been a councillor, the issue that has been raised with me the most is the issue of the new VOI Scooter scheme. While local residents acknowledge there are some benefits to the scheme, there are also significant issues.

The lack of a proper consultation has infuriated residents, who feel that once again local views were ignored. In many places, large swathes of the pavement have become unusable, and I have been sent images of over 20 scooters in one 'parking zone', meaning it was impossible to pass the scooters without walking into a busy main road. This is yet more 'street clutter' that has huge affects on less mobile residents i.e. those with walking difficulties or those with a pram or wheelchair. There are also issues with small side-streets, which are access only, being used by VOI riders to practice, or in some cases, use as a race course. VOI must offer a facility for residents to report such behaviour, and where appropriate they must make these areas 'no-go' zones for the VOI scooter, where the battery turns off via the GPS location data.

In Portsmouth Voi have recently introduced a physical stand for the parking of VOI scooters, with a limited number of bays, covering a smaller footprint, which would be a much better solution, and remove the larger issues around the role out of VOI scooters. I hope that the Mayor and Council will work alongside WECA and work with VOI and residents' groups to alleviate some of the issues that are affecting local residents.

