

## **Full Council Petition Responses**

### **Councillor Petitions**

#### **CP01 – Keep Baltic Wharf in the Harbourside: Halt All Plans**

Any conversation about development in the Harbour needs to reflect the reality of the housing crisis we are grappling with. We have over 16,000 people on our housing waiting list, and over 900 families living in temporary accommodation. Where and how we deliver affordable homes will not only determine how we will meet this challenge, but also our impact on the planet as we respond to our climate and ecological emergency. In this context, any responsible administration would leave no stone unturned in terms of developing the brownfield land that we have available in order to deliver homes to help us meet this need.

In preparing our plans for Baltic Wharf, we have consulted widely with local residents, businesses and key stakeholders, including the previous ward councillor for Hotwells and Harbourside, and the Bristol Tree Forum.

As a previously developed piece of land, the Baltic Wharf Site accords with the definition of brownfield land as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. As with all development, we will carefully consider the ecological and environmental impact of any plans that come forward.

#### **CP02 – Sort out parking problem in BS10 7DN/Parking on Passage Road**

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

We acknowledge there are particular circumstances in this area and will be exploring more joined-up solutions in the immediate area to protect local green spaces in the longer-term. I have instructed officers to look at potential options to resolve the issue.

## **Public Forum Petition**

### **PP01 – Horfield Lack of Secondary School Provision**

I recognise the challenge that you raise, and share your concern for ensuring that all children within the city are allocated an appropriate secondary school place. This is a commitment which is particularly challenging following changes in the national policy landscape governing school admissions over the past decade.

Across the city, demand for secondary school places has been rising, and we have worked with schools to ensure there is a space available for every pupil. Despite rising numbers, the vast majority of places are offered at a school named as preference.

School catchment areas form part of a school's admission arrangements. The process of consulting on and determining those arrangements is set out in the School Admissions Code, published by the Department for Education. All of the secondary schools in north Bristol are academies, and are therefore responsible for setting their own admission arrangements, which must be determined annually. The city council is not the admission authority for these schools.

Each school in the area will be consulting over the next few weeks on the arrangements for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2023. Individual school websites will have details and most will also use the Bristol City Council Citizen Space to advertise their consultations. Any changes, including to catchment areas, must follow this process.

We will continue to work with schools in this area to help them review the areas served to ensure a balance between the demand for the most popular schools, and the need to ensure all pupils receive an offer of a place.

## **Petition Debate**

### **Petition Debate – Disabled Adult Play Parks**

Thank you for bringing your petition to Full Council and for the speech you made in support of the proposal.

I appreciate the benefits that having access to play settings provides for disabled people and their families. I am particularly grateful to you for sharing the challenges Declan encounters when accessing your local park.

We are committed that all public spaces, amenities and activities in Bristol should be accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities. This may necessitate specific equipment that some people might need, or offering specific sessions (which make available equipment and support to accommodate different people's needs) at parks facilities. This may offer a more inclusive approach over and above any specific facilities for disabled adults which the council could explore.

We will ask council officers to consider the proposals as set out in the petition. In the meantime, however, we will ask officers to explore ways we can improve the accessibility of our parks and green spaces, and particularly our city's play equipment, for adults with disabilities.