

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

	Name	Subject
CS01	Councillor Ed Plowden	Discontinuation of Hillcrest School's School Crossing Patrol on Wells Road
CS02	Cllr Katy Grant	Avon Pension Fund Investments
CS03	Cllr Andrew Varney	Scrap the Mayor
CS04	Cllr Jos Clark	A4 Consultation
CS05	Cllr Alex Hartley	Waterfront Square Plans
CS06	Cllr Gary Hopkins	Asset Transfers

CS01

Members Forum statement from Cllr Ed Plowden

Subject: Discontinuation of Hillcrest School's School Crossing Patrol on Wells Road

I am very concerned by the proposal to save a miniscule amount of money by discontinuing the School Crossing Patrol on the Wells Rd.

Whilst I agree that most engineered crossings do not need a patrol, this site is an exception as was recognised in 2017, being by far the busiest crossing with a high proportion of HGVs and a high number of road users not respecting the lights.

There was a substantial outcry from the local community when discontinuing this site was last proposed and in the end the post was continued for two reasons – firstly the very strong local feedback and safety concerns, and secondly due to the fact that at this site there is a PV2 (i.e. volume of pedestrians and especially vehicles) that is so high that it is a significant outlier. For these reasons it was decided not to apply the policy and make an exception for this one site using this evidence. There was no backlash to this decision from other sites.

As a former parent and Chair of Governors at Hillcrest School I have personally witnessed many incidents of appalling and unsafe driver behaviour at this site, even when patrolled. I note in the November members forum that [Cllr Graham Morris \(Conservative Question 13\)](#) is concerned by a significant increase in HGV traffic on the A37, perhaps due to displacement caused by the Bath CAZ. The Mayor's reply indicates that there is no monitoring taking place, so this SCP decision can not be said to be based on evidence, unlike the decision NOT to discontinue this site and make an exception here.

I am astonished that Bristol's Labour administration have decided to end protection for this crossing without the slightest form of communication or consultation, for example via the School's newsletter. This could also have been used to try and recruit a replacement when the last officer, Paul, retired after an impressive 17 years of service. I am sure that if this is now undertaken then you will receive a clear message to maintain this site.

For all these reasons I fully understand the local concerns and urge that this decision is reconsidered.

CS02

Members Forum statement from Cllr. Katy Grant

Subject: Avon Pension Fund investments

In the wake of COP26, it is more urgent than ever that we accelerate the city's commitment to net zero. A really significant contributor to this consists of where funds are invested. The Avon Pension Fund, where Bristol City Council's staff pension investments are held, has made some commitments in recent months, but still holds 3% of its funds in fossil fuels. This amounts to many millions of pounds.

Bristol City Council declared the first climate emergency in 2018, and should be leading the charge on divestment. Instead, we are under-represented on the committee and to date have led no advocacy among other members for accelerated, meaningful divestment. As a C40 city, this is inexplicable, and needs to be addressed with urgency.

CS03

Members Forum statement from Cllr Andrew Varney

Subject: Scrap the Mayor

Back in September 2018 I came to City Hall for the very first time. It was on the occasion of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting to discuss the location of the Bristol Arena and I made my first speech from the Public Gallery.

In my speech, I pointed out that a city centre location would be a lot more sustainable than an out of town one. It would promote public transport and active travel, it would boost tourism, it would support the city centre economy and it would provide much needed employment opportunities for South Bristol, so often overlooked.

Pretty much everyone who spoke cited Temple Meads as their preferred location. Members of the public wanted Temple Meads, our local MPs wanted Temple Meads and Bristol city councillors overwhelmingly wanted Temple Meads, as we saw in the subsequent vote.

Yet the very next day the mayor completely disregarded the wishes of the people of Bristol and cancelled the city centre arena. It was pretty clear the mayor had made up his mind well before the Emergency Full Council meeting so the whole occasion had been a complete waste of everyone's time.

Of course, under the directly elected mayoral system, the mayor was absolutely entitled to do so and that is why the mayoral system is so wrong. It puts too much power into the hands of one person, who can ignore debates, motions and votes in full council and who can make decisions behind closed doors with unelected city elites who face no scrutiny or accountability. And when the decisions are bad ones, as is so often the case with this current incumbent, there is nothing we can do about it.

And well over three years later, what has happened at the Temple Meads site? Absolutely nothing. We have a muddy marsh with two expensive bridges to nowhere. What a fitting metaphor for a mayoral system that has delivered so little for Bristol and wasted so much money.

The motion to be debated later this evening proposes giving Bristolians a chance to have their say on the mayoral system following the ten-year experiment. I would urge all councillors to let the people of Bristol have their say. It's time for a people's vote.

CS04

Members Forum statement from Cllr Jos Clark

Subject: A4 Consultation

It is no surprise to say that Brislington West residents are understandably anxious to find out what is being proposed along the A4 corridor and the former Brislington Railway Line, known locally as the Brislington Greenway or in the City Transport Department as the Callington Road Link.

Many residents took the opportunity to get involved in the consultation this summer. We are now approaching the end of the year and again local people are asking us what is happening. Cllr Varney and I told residents that we would be able to give them an update after a councillors' briefing, which was due to take place on Tuesday 30th November 2021. Unfortunately, at very short notice and without any real explanation, the meeting was cancelled, to be rearranged on an unspecified date. This leaves all of us in limbo and makes our residents wonder what is going on behind closed doors. In the spirit of transparency this meeting needs to be rearranged as soon as possible.

However, we are grateful for Cllr Cheney's response to Cllr Varney's question at Member's Forum on 9th November 2021, when Cllr Cheney was deputising for Mayor Rees. Cllr Varney asked for a public confirmation that the Brislington Greenway would not become a road as part of the A4 alterations. Thank you Cllr Cheney for stating for the very first time on the record that the long-planned road scheme has been scrapped. This is testament to the success of the Brislington Liberal Democrat's 5-year campaign opposing the Labour council's Callington Road Link.

Local residents have repeatedly told us that they want an active travel route along the former Brislington Railway Line, which will encourage more people to walk and cycle, rather than building more roads, which only serves to divide communities with more congestion and more pollution.

CS05

Members Forum statement from Cllr Alex Hartley

Subject: Waterfront Square Plans

I would like to formally register the displeasure of the residents of Hotwells & Harbourside over the recently published plans for Waterfront Square. Echoing Historic England, many people I have spoken to in the surrounding area feel that the building plans lack the ambition necessary for such a prominent site. I would like to further add the highly irregular process, with the Mayor keeping the design entries secret, rather than making them public. I would encourage all members of the planning committee's to look at all of the objections to the plans, and to reject the application itself.

CS06

Members Forum statement from Cllr Gary Hopkins

Subject: Asset transfers

Two of the most successful community organisations in the city are based in Knowle ward. The Redcatch community garden and the Park Football Club.

They formed a partnership to take over and manage the Pavilion in Redcatch park. They have the assets, skills and community support to make a great success of what has been a failure by BCC.

The long drawn-out process has ground to a halt because the council apparently do not have the legal capacity to complete the transfer.

By contrast Jubilee pool is set to be transferred to the excellent friends of jubilee pool. They have huge support and pro bono professional backing. This Bcc are demanding must complete in a few months and there is then the ludicrous demand for a share of profits which are needed for investment.

Parkwood are working closely with the friends and there is record membership and full sessions. They are making monthly profits but despite promises Bcc has failed to agree the extension after March 22 needed to bridge the gap until the transfer can complete.

Can the mayor please get his act together on these two issues.