

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

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>
CS01	Councillor Richard Eddy	Abuse of South Bristol Crematorium
CS02	Councillor Hopkins	Protecting Our Park and others
CS03	Councillors Dyer, Bradshaw, Fitzjohn and Townsend	Joint Statement on controlled parking in Bedminster and Southville Wards
CS04	Councillor O'Rourke	Ukraine and the Climate Emergency'

### **CS01**

#### **Members Forum statement from Cllr Richard Eddy**

#### **Subject: Abuse of South Bristol Crematorium**

Bishopsworth Ward and its two councillors are proud to host South Bristol Crematorium - off Bridgwater Road, Bedminster Down - and we have been closely involved, and support, its current expansion plans to meet the city's needs in the coming decades.

However, it is imperative that the Crem is responsibly run, does not contribute to lawlessness locally and is not a magnet for criminal environmental damage.

Sadly, a recent funeral (the third I believe during this pandemic) proved far from satisfactory and was utterly unacceptable.

A 20-year South Bristol motorcyclist unfortunately died on Saturday 15th January 2022 following a collision involving two others, including his passenger and a pedestrian, in Winterstoke Road, Ashton, near Ashton Gate Stadium.

His funeral at South Bristol Crem on 22nd February 2022 echoed the scenes of hooliganism and thuggery we experienced 18 months ago at a similar 'biker-funeral'. Alleged 'mourners' drove their bikes recklessly along nearby residential streets, doing 'wheelies' and riding on pavements. They endangered the lives of any children (it was during the school-holidays) and elderly people and the infirm especially.

As happened previously, the green outside Bristol Water's headquarters was trashed by so-called bikers and the verges outside the entrance to the Crem were utterly destroyed.

Residents who sought to intervene were abused and threatened. The Police response was slow and, sadly, ineffective at dealing with the main problems.

We have had ongoing problems with individual bikers abusing the open-spaces on Bedminster Down. To date, we have tried to work closely with the Police in combatting this menace and, last July, the Police & Crime Commissioner Mark Shelford met with me on site to discuss the problems.

I would like to see the Mayor's Administration instruct Officers to take a more robust approach to booking and supervising funerals at the Crem, liaising with the Police to

forewarn them of possible problems where this is identified and even 'surcharging' families for any damage where family or friend 'mourners' are identified as being responsible.

## **CS02**

### **Members Forum statement from Cllr Hopkins**

#### **Subject: Protecting Our Park and others.**

You will see a large number of statements and some questions regarding objections to planting a 70 ft mast and sizeable concrete base station in Redcatch Park in Knowle.

Most parks are well loved but I would suggest that Redcatch Park is even more so as the community have literally made it what it is with the community garden tree planting, new paths, tennis courts muga etc etc. all put in with local effort and money. As soon as the Council does the paperwork on the asset transfer there will be a much improved Pavillion.

The mast company lost a site a few hundred yards away 3 years back but instead of working with the community to agree a new site they have sought to bully the way into our park by misusing emergency powers given to them by Central Government. These powers are to make certain users get a service and not to make it easy for companies to maximise their profit by reducing costs. They have at our instigation been offered the roof of the Broadwalk Centre for a mast.

3500 residents and more have signed the petition but because of the extremely short timeframe we will not unfortunately be having a debate. This issue was raised by my colleague Cllr Davies in this chamber in early January and we need to ensure that council lawyers stand up to these bullies on behalf of residents. If they fail it will be open season on all of our parks.

## **CS03**

### **Members Forum statement from Cllr. Dyer**

#### **Subject: Joint Statement on controlled parking in Bedminster and Southville Wards**

As the Councillors elected to represent Bedminster and Southville Wards, we welcome the amendment to the Budget providing funding for new controlled parking measures.

There is growing pressure in our Wards resulting from commuter parking and additional vehicles owned or used by people in new residential developments, sub-division of houses and visitors to Ashton Gate, now and, in greater numbers, if Ashton Gate is expanded further.

Public opinion in support of controlled parking in the area has shifted and as Councillors, we have a responsibility to support our residents. Indeed, the Administration appeared to recognise this pressure and local support during the May 2021 Council and Mayoral election when a pledge was made to bring forward resident's parking measures in the area.

Previously, we have commissioned independent research on local attitudes and specific highway safety concerns, such as emergency access. The Council has done some informal consultation but this has not progressed towards implementing a scheme.

We now need to have clarity about the steps, evidence and timeframe required to move forward to complete the Southville RPS area (as it borders Bedminster Ward) and introduce a new Bedminster (West) RPS. We need to make a start on the initial shaping of this work leading to formal consultation and implementation.

We now need officers to meet with us to agree what is required to address the problems faced by our residents and move forward with proposals to improve our local environment.

Cllr Tony Dyer

Cllr Christine Townsend

Cllr Tessa Fitzjohn

Cllr Mark Bradshaw

Bedminster and Southville Councillors

#### **CS04**

#### **Members Forum statement from Cllr Paula O'Rourke**

#### **Subject:**

Bristolians are facing three major crises at the moment: the rising cost-of-living crisis (especially energy costs), the war in Ukraine, and the climate emergency.

How individuals prioritise these three problems will vary as to personal circumstances but it is at times like these that the old metaphor about fighting the 'wolf nearest the sled' comes into play. It is hard to concentrate on further-off danger if there are dangerous beasts snapping at your heels!

For those on a low income who are having to make a choice between heating and eating, the 'wolf nearest the sled' will be fuel bills and the need to reduce them. We urgently need government action to support people in fuel poverty – why not pay for this through a windfall tax on the huge profits currently being made by energy companies?

For those who fear loss of life in Ukraine, the wolf – to extend the metaphor – is Putin. And they want to show solidarity to the citizens of that fellow democracy who are being invaded.

For those who know that the climate emergency is a real threat to us all, we worry that while we are beating back the two young wolves at our sled, the real and further threat is gaining momentum, advantaged by our preoccupation elsewhere.

So, I have a suggestion for a simple action which could help with some of this – although I do not in any way pretend that it is the only solution to these systemic problems.

I call on the Mayor to use his influence and his – very effective comms team – to urge those who can afford it, to turn their heating down by one degree. This will show solidarity with the Ukrainians, reduce our need for Russian oil, and reduce our carbon output.