

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

	Name	Subject
CS01	Cllr Emma Edwards	Concorde Way Diversion
CS02	Cllr Gary Hopkins	Redcatch Community Garden
CS03	Cllr Chris Davies	Redcatch Park

CS01

Members Forum statement from Cllr Emma Edwards

Subject: Concorde Way Diversion

While the news of work starting on Ashley Down Train station is very welcome, there are sadly many concerns about the diversions put in place for cyclists who use Concorde Way. While we appreciate and accept that Concorde Way has to be closed in part for the duration of the project, we don't accept and appreciate the diversions put in place, and pedestrians and cyclists have been so poorly thought of.

The diversions send cyclists onto a section of busy road, a lane prone to flooding, and in some parts make cyclists dismount. Concorde Way sees over 1,000 cycle journeys a day. It is a commuter route for Ashley Down, Lockleaze, Horfield, Southmead, Filton and beyond. It serves Fairfield School and is used by pupils there. Pushing these cyclists, some of whom may be children, or less confident cyclists, onto a busy road puts them at risk. Active Travel England provide guidelines for cycling infrastructure in their LTN/120 document. This diversion is not LTN/120 compliant. This diversion is not for a few weeks or even months, it is for at the least a year, likely more, and therefore should come under the same guidelines as any permanent cycle route would.

This poorly thought-out diversionary route shows the council's current disregard for cyclists and its commitment to active travel. We have asked in meetings if during the closures the cycle lanes could at least be improved, upgraded with lighting and the flooding dealt with, but have been told there is no case to do so.

Please stop treating cyclists and pedestrians like an afterthought. Cycling is as valid and important a form of commuting and travel as cars, buses and trains. With our ambitious plans for the city to be net zero by 2030, you could even say it is more important. Please review and improve the Concorde Way diversion route.

CS02

Members Forum statement from Cllr Gary Hopkins

Subject: Redcatch Community Garden

Some members are already aware of the remarkable work done by the Redcatch Community Garden which started with crowd funding and is not subsidised by this council.

The ground-breaking work that it does in terms of education and health service support is something that this council should be learning from and valuing. Remarkable things have been done on a previously unused bowling green with 200,000 visits a year and 40 volunteers.

Instead after recent visits from the Mayor and the cabinet member for parks they got warm praise and a shocking rent demand increase of over 5,000%. The "profit" from their self-converted caravan that sells tea/coffee, etc. actually pays the minimum wages and costs but parks department saw it as a cash cow. Some backing down has followed but we still have misdirection, ridiculous assertions and confusion from the council side.

We all know that this council's finances are strained and nothing illustrates why better than the Redcatch Pavillion, less than 5 yards from the community garden.

Nearly 3 years ago after the parks dept announced that they could not renovate it, it was to be transferred. An immediate bid went in from the garden in partnership with our national award-winning football organiser Mike Alden and his club. Despite numerous reminders there has been a complete failure to engage. Disabled and female footballers have nowhere to change when using the park pitches.

We have now found from a professional report (pro bono) that the council are spending between 6k and 10k a year heating this derelict shed that's only use is as a lunchtime canteen for some parks staff. The garden have offered to save the cost and environmental pollution but apparently that would not count in calculations as "it's a different council budget". You could not make it up.

Unless an agreement is reached the garden could have to close and the footballers remain without changing rooms and the council and local citizens left with nothing. Incompetence and vandalism of this sort must be stopped.

When previously raising this at full council it was conceded that a meeting was needed. As this has not happened yet we will if stalemate continues have to push this to a special meeting of council with the motion.

This council urges in the strongest possible terms the executive to take action to resolve the redcatch asset transfers. By accepting the reasonable offer from the community garden for the old bowling green which will produce local improvements and funds for the parks service both locally and across the city, and transfer the pavilion on a long lease to the garden/football club consortium at a pepper corn rent to enable use by the community to resume.

CS03

Members Forum statement from Cllr Chris Davies

Subject: Redcatch Park

Gary and myself have been involved for many years with wonderful parks volunteers in Redcatch and other Knowle parks. Thank you to all those who supported our amendment at full council to allow us to recover local parks funding. Campaigning on that issue took several years to come to fruition and we hope to tie down the detailed mechanics on distribution later this week.

Local satisfaction with parks in the ward are, according to the quality of life survey, much higher than the Bristol average.

Improvements have been made using volunteers and locally raised funds including a new MUGA, resurfaced tennis courts, repaired and new paths, the community garden, tree and shrub planting, new car park with disabled spaces, new park entrance and attractive murals.

This has not been matched by parks dept and we now need them to stop frustrating much needed improvements that will actually save this council money.