

# Eastville Ward FOCUS

serving parts of Eastville, Whitehall, Fishponds & Stapleton



LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS

www.bristoleastlibdems.org.uk

Focus Editor



Steve Comer

## RESIDENTS RESPOND! *local people demand action*



Steve & Muriel say  
a **big** thank you!

The residents survey in the last FOCUS produced a great response, from all corners of Eastville Ward. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** said "It shows that people really care about this area, and their City". Issues raised have included traffic problems, dangerous pavements, and open spaces. Transport issues have also been high on people's agenda, including the bus service, traffic congestion, and speeding traffic using side streets as short cuts. Residents also expressed concerns about crime (especially in the Fishponds Road area).

Thanks to everyone who responded.

*in this Focus:*

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### Bristol City Council to cut day centres and meals on wheels service for older people

Bristol City Council faces a severe cash crisis. The Social Services department has overspent its budget to the tune of up to TEN MILLION POUNDS! So who might lose out as the Council desperately seeks to balance its books? Well it looks like it'll be the elderly and vulnerable!

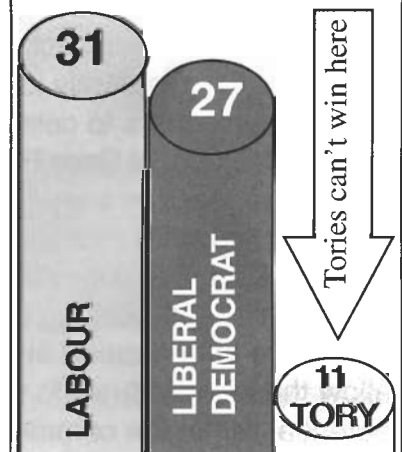
Plans are being made to cut day centre places and they are also "reviewing" the meals on wheels service. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** expressed his anger at the news. "Day centres and Meals on wheels are a vital service for many older residents in this area" he said. "These services help many of them to live in their own homes, where they feel safe and comfortable." "That is what they want, and it's also better value for tax payers." He commented: "Labour have run Social Services in this City for years. They must now answer to the people of Bristol for their mismanagement."

**- The Liberal Democrats have pledged to reverse cuts in meals on wheels, if they win the City Council elections in May 2005.**

### BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

*It's a 2 horse race!*

Councillors elected



# Transport in Bristol

## ~ have your say!

The Government Office for the South West (GOSW) has commissioned a Strategic Transport Study to address the current and future transport needs within the Greater Bristol area. It's stated aim is to 'prepare recommendations for a range of practical measures aimed at addressing transport problems and realising Greater Bristol's potential for economic growth'.



Copies of a leaflet have been distributed to libraries and community centres throughout Bristol. Full details can be also found on their website at: <http://www.gbsts.com/>

We know from the results of our residents survey in the last FOCUS that traffic and transport issues are important to most people on this area.

Make sure you let the planners know your views about transport in Bristol over the next few years.

## New Care Home opens



Focus Team members Steve Comer, Cllr Muriel Cole, and Phil James, prospective parliamentary candidate for Bristol East, recently joined local residents and community leaders to celebrate the opening of St Mary's Residential Care Home on Fishponds Road. Muriel Chester, the owner, and John Macdonald, the manager, showed everyone around the new home, which will provide care services for adults with behavioural and learning difficulties. St Mary's will be able to offer support around the clock if needed to allow these individuals to make the most of their own potential within the community.

## We say No to ID cards!

### No to a 'database state'

New Labour's latest 'project' is to make us all have identity cards. *Just another bit of plastic to carry around you might think?* Well no – it's much more than that. The Identity Cards Bill shows that the government is planning to establish a vast, complex and far-reaching database with over 50 pieces of personal information about all of us. This could be read from a chip on the card. There is no provision for Parliament to decide what information will be stored on the card, the Home Secretary will do as he sees fit..

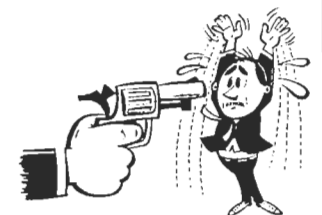
*Under New Labour's plans, you could even be sent to prison if you move house and forget to tell the Government!*

**Phil James**, who will contest **Bristol East** at the General election, told FOCUS, "this measure will bring little benefit, at the enormous cost of **£3 billion**. Given the Home Office's track record for managing large and complex computer projects, the actual costs are likely to be higher". **Steve Comer**, Focus Editor said "I would rather have more police on the streets to deter a robbery than the right to ask a mugger for his identity card, so I can report him!"

Liberal Democrats are opposed to the plans to introduce identity cards. We believe the money would be better spent on recruiting 10,000 more police officers. That would really help the fight against crime and terrorism.

Government should be the servant of its citizens, not the other way round.

For more information on the truth about ID cards, check out this website, or contact one of the Focus Team.  
(details on the back page)



**This is the only form of ID I need!**

[www.No2ID.net](http://www.No2ID.net)  
Stop ID cards and the database state

# Trendlewood Topics

*A number of Stapleton residents have been in touch about a number of issues in and around the Trendlewood Park estate, some of the issues we have taken up are detailed below:*

## The lane at the back of Earls Mead

After Cllr Muriel Cole followed up a number of complaints, this lane was cleared for people to use. Residents contacted Steve Comer about the poor state of the concrete posts bordering the path. The Park's Dept agree that these need to be removed or replaced, but say won't be in the foreseeable future, as it is not a health and safety problem (yet!).



## Timber Dene and Wickham View

The edge of the green at the rear of these cul-de-sacs is in need of repair. Steve Comer has reported this to the Council, and we await a reply. Local residents have told us if this repair is delayed it will just get worse, and be more expensive to fix.

## Electricity Sub station

The wall on this electricity substation is badly cracked in places, and local people were concerned that it might fall and cause injury. Focus Editor Steve Comer got in touch with Western Power, who have checked its safety, and told us remedial works will be carried out early in 2005.



## Small Lane - parking and traffic

Many students attending UWE's Glenside Campus in Blackberry Hill are now parking in Small Lane. This is blocking the lane, and forcing the buses to pick up passengers in the middle of the road. Cllr Muriel Cole has taken this up with the Council, and the Police. We are also getting in touch with the University to see if they can help find a solution.

*....and finally!*

## Raised and broken pavements

A number of these have been reported including these examples at Wickham View..

In many parts of the estate some minor repairs now could stop someone being injured this winter.



*The general fabric of Trendlewood Park is showing its age. Some attention now would improve the area. It would also be cheaper than waiting months and years for problems to get worse. What about where you live? Are there any roads, pavements, or open spaces which need attention? If so contact the Eastville Liberal Democrat Focus Team, and we'll work with you to seek improvements.*

# 2005 ~ will we see a change?

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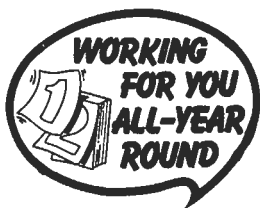
At the beginning of every New Year a lot of publications like to look forward to the months ahead, most of the national and local press are agreed that there will be a General Election this year, and are trying to guess the date.

We won't speculate on that, but we do know the date for the next City Council Elections in Bristol – Thursday May 5th 2005. Many people tell us they're fed up with just 'smiles and spin' from Tony Blair's New Labour, in Parliament and on the Council. Already we've heard that some Labour Councillors have been de-selected. They've not just been dumped for failing to represent their local voters, but for criticising the costly and illegal war in Iraq or just not toeing the party line dictated by the leadership. *Could 2005 be the year we see a real change in Bristol at last?*

## Your Eastville Ward Liberal Democrat Focus Team



**Muriel Cole**  
City Councillor



**Steve Comer**  
Focus Editor



**Phil James**  
Parliamentary Spokesman

## Can we help you?

*My problem, complaint, or query is:*

Name:.....  
Tel no:.....  
Address:.....  
.....  
e-mail.....

## Can you help us?

*Could you help your local Liberal Democrats by:*

- Delivering Focus in your area
- Displaying a poster
- Helping us contact residents
- Becoming a member (min £5)

Name:.....  
Tel no:.....  
Address:.....  
.....  
e-mail.....

*Get in touch with your Eastville Liberal Democrat Focus Team:*

**Steve Comer** Tel: 902 2204 e-mail: [stevecomer99@hotmail.com](mailto:stevecomer99@hotmail.com)  
**Muriel Cole** Tel: 951 0930 e-mail: [muriel\\_cole@bristol-city.gov.uk](mailto:muriel_cole@bristol-city.gov.uk)  
*or by post to:* 21 Stonebridge Park, Upper Eastville, Bristol, BS5 6RP

