

F Eastville Ward FOCUS

serving parts of Eastville, Whitehall, Fishponds & Stapleton



LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

www.bristoleastlibdems.org.uk

Focus Editor



Steve Comer

"WE NEED A CROSSING!"

Stapleton residents demand action on dangerous Park Road



Focus Editor Steve Comer with Councillor Muriel Cole in Park Rd.

The Park Road and Grove View neighbourhood watch are stepping up the campaign for a pedestrian crossing on Park Road, Stapleton. They also want a comprehensive review of traffic management from the Merchants Arms (Hungry Horse) to the roundabout at Broom Hill.

The volume and speed of traffic through Stapleton has steadily increased in recent years. Accidents have become increasingly common and there are now serious safety issues for those who live and work in the area. In many places the footpaths are narrow or incomplete, and the road cannot be crossed safely.

Drivers find it difficult to pull out from side streets safely, and there have been many near misses and incidents. The combination of sweeping bends, high walls and blind spots mean that the road users and pedestrians alike are at constant risk.

HELP THE CAMPAIGN

Neighbourhood watch volunteers will be raising a petition, they will call to collect signatures, or you can sign it at the garage. They are also asking residents to write to the Council detailing their concerns, and can supply a sample letter. The Liberal Democrat Focus team is giving the residents campaign their full support, Focus Editor Steve Comer has met the organisers and Cllr. Muriel Cole will present the petition at the April City Council meeting. If you can you help the crossing campaign, contact Focus Editor **Steve Comer** (tel: 0117 902 2204).



Steve and Muriel with Andy Bennett from a local neighbourhood watch

WANTED IN WHITEHALL



A LANE REPAIRED

Local residents contacted the FOCUS team about the state of the Lane between Gordon Rd. and Stanley Chase.

It is full of ruts and potholes, and in need of repair.

We have taken this up with the Council, and will report back when we get a reply.



A SEAT REPAIRED

The Focus team took up residents complaints about the broken seat on Rose Green Rd. The City Council have told us they have no budget to fix it, but if a benefactor came forward the work could be done for free!

Any ideas anyone?

WARNING....

Your Council be about to re

The Government's forthcoming revaluation of Council Tax will mean bigger bills for many Bristol residents if Labour or the Conservatives were to win the General Election, warned **Phil James**, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary spokesman for Bristol East. He based his claims on the recent experience just across the Severn Bridge. Labour promised the people of Wales that revaluation would make things fairer. As it turned out, a third of homes have gone up a tax band, but only 8% have gone down. In Cardiff, 64% of homes have gone up, with just 2% going down. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** echoed Phil's concerns; "This shows what could happen here", he said. "House prices in Eastville, Whitehall and Stapleton are much higher than they were in 1991. Local people will be paying much more for the same services if the unfair Council Tax is not scrapped". The Liberal Democrats are the only major party pledged to abolish the unfair Council Tax, Phil James explained. "We support a local income tax, so the size of your bill is directly related to your ability to pay".

EASTVILLE PARK SHELTER - paint needed



Local Lib Dem Councillor
Muriel Cole at the shelter

The Eastville Park Action Group are a body of volunteers working to make our Park a better place to visit. **Cllr. Muriel Cole** from the Liberal Democrat Focus Team is one of their active members..

Recently they have obtained the funding to get the run down shelter in the park renovated.

All they need now is the paint!

Muriel has been actively looking for companies who would provide the paint as a form of sponsorship for the project.

If you know a firm who might be interested, please ring Muriel on: 0117 951 0930.

DUNKIRK



Steve Comer and **Muriel Cole**
next to the proposed access

What a load of rubbish!

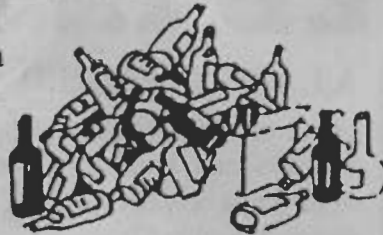
Bristol City Council's rubbish collection services are years out of date and failing to achieve realistic levels of recycling or re-use. A Liberal Democrat led select committee has developed a complete new strategic plan that will avoid Bristol paying vast fines for dumping our rubbish into landfill (over 85% of it at present).

The plan involves enhanced re-use, and a weekly collection of all organic material for composting.

A residual collection every two weeks would go to a brand new gasification/pyrolysis plant that turns it into usable heat, electricity and material for road building. There will also be an education programme with incentives for the public and arrangements for re-use and home compacting.

Steve Comer, Focus Editor says, "This plan is great news for Bristol. We can't just chuck rubbish into holes in the ground any more, and incineration is no real answer either. This will be better for our environment, and save taxpayers money".

For more details contact Steve at the address on the back page of this FOCUS.



BRISTOL'S CASH CRISIS

In the last FOCUS, we reported on City Council's Social Services Committee heading for an overspend. In press reports, the proposed cuts of SEVENTEEN MILLION

Focus editor Steve Comer's investigation to discover how we won't change what happens. Party's plans for a 'cost-cutting' should fall he said. vulnerable people who

Liberal Democrat Council's panic cuts in council services. the meals on wheels service. the City Council election

...il Tax could ... rocket

nts if
vern
a
ne
l
in
ed".
y".



Steve Comer, Focus Editor asks "how much extra tax for local Band C houses like these?"

...RK (Road) SPIRIT!



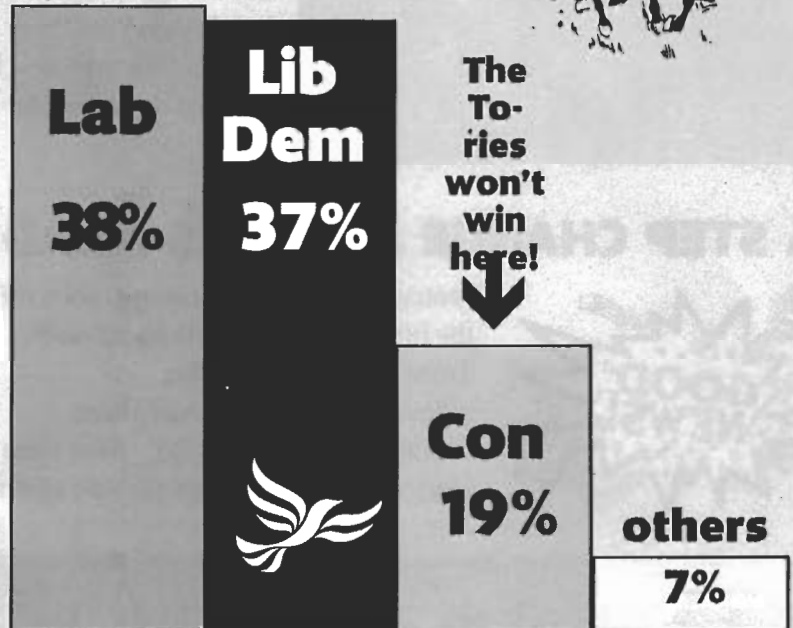
Muriel Cole
...d access road

Developers have plans for houses and flats behind the Roadworthy garage on Fishponds Road. They applied for the access to be from narrow Ernestville Rd. but this was rejected when residents objected. Then they applied to have the entrance from Dunkirk Rd. This has also been rejected on access grounds, and the Focus team have been told it will not be looked at again until March 2006.

...L SOCIAL SERVICES - ...CRISIS DEEPENS!

...US, we covered the cash crisis in Bristol Social Services Department. It was overspend of £12 million, but according to the projected deficit could run as high as MILLION POUNDS next year! Steve Comer repeated his call for a full to discover how this occurred. He said "it what has happened, but it might help to tion". Commenting on the Bristol Labour or a 'consultation exercise' on where the he said "this is an insult to the most ple who need these services."ocrat Councillors have warned against council services, and are pledged to protect wheels service, and day centres if they win il elections on May 5th 2005.

Eastville Ward its a 2 horse race!



City Council elections - 2001 result



ON THE BUSES!

We've had many comments from local people about the bus service, so Focus Editor **Steve Comer** asked for a meeting with First Bus. The route manager in charge of most of our local services explained their difficulties, which are mainly due to severe congestion across the city.

Service 48/49 attracted the most complaints, due to unreliability and late running. The main cause of the problem seems to be the Fishponds Road bus lane, which we are told is up to 80% non-effective! At peak times it fills up with car and van drivers who break the law and drive in it, so the buses get delayed. Further delays are caused by the road narrowing scheme in Stapleton Road.

Keep sending us your views on the buses, and we'll pass them on to First Bus and the City Council.

A major review of bus contracts is scheduled for the the 2005/6 financial year, this provides an opportunity to consider all the existing services, along with any potential new routes.

We will keep you informed in future issues of FOCUS.

Working for local people - fighting for YOU!



LIGHTS ON AT WINEBERRY CLOSE!

In last November's FOCUS we reported on **Muriel Cole's** campaign to get lights installed on Wineberry Close Lane. These lights have now been put in, and the lane is now much safer for local residents.



A STEP CHANGE AT EARLS MEAD!



January's Focus contained this photo of the broken steps at Earls Mead on the Trendlewood Park estate.

After Focus Editor **Steve Comer** contacted the Council, the repairs were carried out, and the steps are safe again.



Get in touch with your Focus Team



Steve Comer, Focus Editor

Tel: 902 2204

e-mail:

stevecomer99@hotmail.com



Muriel Cole, City Councillor

Tel: 951 0930

e-mail:

muriel_cole@bristol-city.gov.uk



Phil James, Parliamentary Spokesman

Tel: 079 7318 1638

e-mail:

bristoleast@tenerus.demon.co.uk

or by post to:

21 Stonebridge Park, Upper Eastville,
Bristol, BS5 6RP



Can we help?

My problem, complaint, or query is:

Name:.....

Tel no:.....

Address:.....

e-mail:.....