

Eastville Ward FOCUS

serving parts of Eastville, Whitehall, Fishponds & Stapleton



LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

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Focus Editor



Steve Comer

SOCIAL SERVICES SHAMBLES COULD LEAD TO PANIC CUTS!

Social Services departments in many parts of the country are feeling the pressure. Government actions to move responsibilities from the National Health Service to councils are clashing with tight budgets. The budget for Social Services, and other departments, was forced through by the City Council Labour group when they refused to agree to a cross party budget originally presented to the Cabinet. The inability of Social Services to meet this budget was concealed by Labour executive members. The dam has finally burst, with admissions of more than TWELVE MILLION pounds of shortfall - and rising!

An expensive consultant has been brought in to sort out the mess. The meals on wheels service could be axed, and day centres closed. As the full story emerges, it is likely that other departments may be forced to make cuts. Services that could be under threat include grounds maintenance, bus subsidies, libraries and public toilets. In their leaflets Labour are claiming that the cabinet member responsible "...has been sorting out the mess he inherited when he took over the department last June". So who did he take over from? Another Labour Councillor of course! In fact Labour have held the Social Services portfolio ever since the cabinet system came in in the 1990s.

Focus editor **Steve Comer** declared "Labour's mismanagement is to blame for this debacle. Our senior citizens could suffer due to their incompetence, and that is a disgrace." He called for a radical overhaul of the Social Services department, and expressed opposition to any panic cuts in services being rushed through.

Liberal Democrats have made a commitment to save the meals on wheels service.

We know what a lifeline it can be for many of our older citizens, who worked hard and paid taxes all their lives. However, we fear that many essential services and key structures could be destroyed before a Lib Dem victory in the May council elections can bring some sense back to Bristol City Council.



BRISTOL COMMUNITY SPORT ~ IN THE SWIM!



Bristol Community Sport was the pseudo-independent organisation set up by the City Council some years ago to run our swimming pools, and sports centres. Council staff were transferred to new company, but the Audit commission and the public slated their performance. When competitive tenders were eventually sought to operate our new pools the BCS plan did not even make the short list. The 'company' is now going bust and the City Council are picking up the tab, to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers money from the already sickly sports budget. Meanwhile the poor staff who have been shunted from pillar to post will also now face losing years of their pension. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** said "When Labour make decisions just for political reasons, staff, customers and taxpayers all lose out." *We now face several weeks of uncertainty while we wait to see what the effect will be on local facilities such as Speedwell baths and Easton sports centre.*

Speedwell Baths - could it be under threat due to the latest financial crisis?

IS TEAM ~ WORKING FOR YOU!



BAY GARDENS - RETAINING WALL

Residents in Bay Gardens asked Focus Editor **Steve Comer** to look at the retaining wall and railings in the area. A car went through these some time ago, and the railings were welded. The wall was never completely repaired, and bows in places. Many of the railings are now rusty and broken, and some are loose. Steve has taken this up with the Council, and we'll report back when we have further news.

TRIM THAT TREE!

This tree in the lane behind **Fountain and Juniper Court** has got so overgrown that people cannot use the Lane. Local Lib Dem Councillor, **Muriel Cole** said "the tree looks sound, but it is sprouting everywhere and is badly in need of a good prune". We have asked the open spaces team to look into the problem.



IS THIS A RIGHT OF WAY?

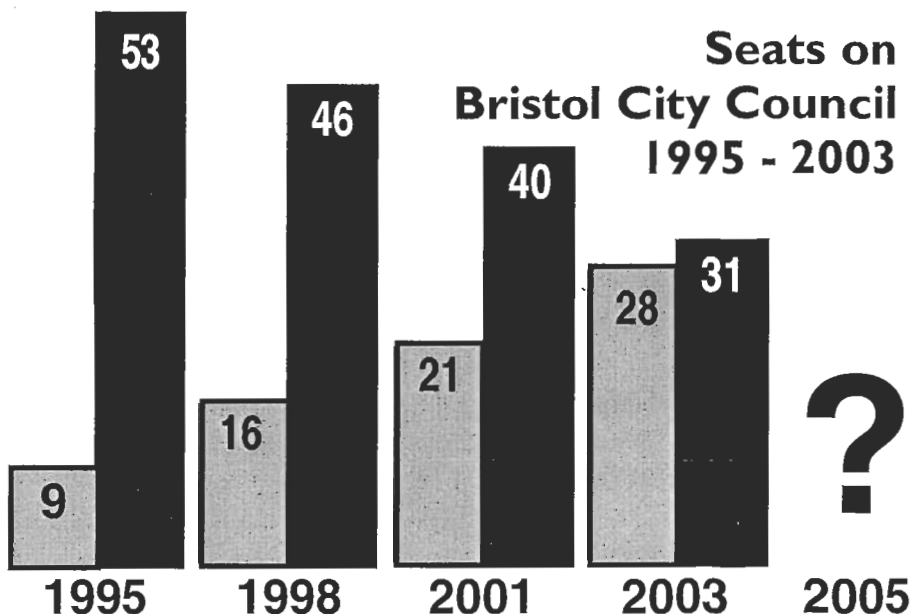
Well it probably should be! This is the scene at the lane running along the rear of **Rosemary Lane and East Park Drive**.

Dumped rubbish and broken fences have completely blocked the lane, and created a health hazard.

Focus Editor **Steve Comer** has asked for the lane to be cleared for local people to use again.

Liberal Democrats - Winning here!

Labour Losing & **Lib Dems Gaining** **Remember!**

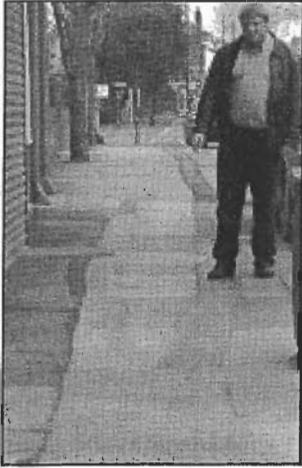


✓ Only the Lib Dems work all year round, *not just at election time.*

✓ Only the Lib Dems can challenge Labour here in Eastville Ward.

? ✓ Only the Lib Dems can bring an end to years of Labour misrule on Bristol City Council.

DANGEROUS PAVEMENTS



FISHPONDS ROAD

We received a lot of complaints about the state of the pavements in Fishponds Road, especially those near the junction of Alexandra Park. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** has been in touch with the Highways Department who have told him that remedial work is scheduled for the new financial year, so we hope for action after April.

WINEBERRY CLOSE

Focus Editor **Steve Comer** took up residents' complaints about the state of the paving stones at the junction with Gordon Rd. They had been smashed up by lorries mounting the pavement and were broken and loose. We're pleased to say that they have now been repaired and replaced.



DUMPED CAR LEFT TO ROT!



The City Council web site has a space on it where residents can report abandoned cars. Focus Editor **Steve Comer** used this to notify them of this car, which local people had already reported abandoned in Clay Bottom. *Six weeks later the car was still there!* It has flat tyres, and the drivers door is damaged and open to the elements. Steve expressed his anger at this lack of action. "As well as being an eyesore this must be a health hazard.

"Local residents have reported this, and the authorities should now act to get it taken away". Is there an abandoned car causing a nuisance in your street? *Contact the FOCUS Team, and we'll work with you to get it removed.*

What do you think?

Our recent residents survey produced a great response, but we would like to hear more views on these two issues.



GORDON ROAD/ROYATE HILL JUNCTION

The revised road layout is certainly safer for pedestrians, but some say the junction is more dangerous for cars. The problem seems to be drivers coming up Gordon Rd., speeding up to get under the bridge before traffic coming down Royate Hill (which has right of way) gets to the junction. Some have suggested that traffic lights would work better. We'd like to hear your views.



THE BRISTOL-BATH CYCLE PATH

The cyclepath forms much of the boundary of Eastville Ward. It should give cyclists and pedestrians a pleasant, traffic free route into the centre of Bristol. Yet many people have said they fear being attacked, and told us they are reluctant to use it. Do you use the cycle path? Do you feel safe doing so? If not, what could be done to make it safer for people to walk and cycle on? Let us have your views and we'll pass them on to the Police and the Council.



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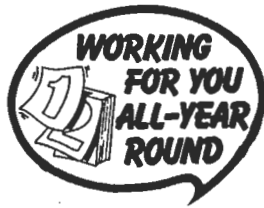
BUY FRESH PRODUCE

Visit the Bristol East Allotment Association's own Trading Shop in the Pavilion, Nicholas Lane, St George. Open Saturdays 09:00-12:30, Sundays 09:00-12:00

Your Eastville Ward Liberal Democrat Focus Team



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City Councillor



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Can we help you?

My problem, complaint, or query is:

Name:.....
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.....
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Can you help us?

Could you help your local Liberal Democrats by:

Delivering Focus in your area

Displaying a poster at election time

Helping us contact residents

Becoming a member (min £5)

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