

Councillor Tom Davies & Councillor Richard Samuel

LOCAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS FOR **WALCOT**



Dear resident,

Cleveland Bridge Closure

The Council has just announced its revised timetable for the Cleveland Bridge repair works. The works were originally planned for Summer 2020 but were cancelled as a result of the Covid pandemic. The revised timetable will see the work on the Bridge start in mid April 2021 and be completed by the end of October 2021. During this programme the Bridge will be closed to all vehicles for a twelve week period from mid May. It will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists throughout the programme of works in all but exceptional circumstances.



Tom and Richard are acutely aware of the potential for traffic to be displaced as a result of these works and the potential impact this could have on us all locally. Whilst there will inevitably be some disruption, Richard and Tom are continuing to meet regularly with the Council Officers overseeing this project and the contractors so as to ensure that all efforts are made in both the planning stage and throughout the time of the project to ensure that this disruption is kept to the lowest level possible.

You can keep up to date on the Cleveland Bridge works by visiting the Council's project web page [here](#).

Campaigning to introduce Liveable Neighbourhoods in Walcot

Following the overwhelmingly positive response to the Public Consultation last year, the Lib Dem Administration has now approved the new Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy. Liveable Neighbourhood projects are those designed to help reduce traffic through our residential streets, cut rat running, provide better parking for residents and provide an environment in which people are able to walk, cycle and use public transport more readily.



Tom & Richard have spent much time listening to local residents and working with them to identify the key issues our area faces. Under the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy, they are submitting a vision for our area which includes plans to:

- Improve residents parking in Snow Hill and a number of other residential streets;
- Reduce rat running along Camden Road and roads between it and the London Road; and
- Introduce new cycle lanes along the London Road connecting it safely with Walcot Street and the City Centre

If successful, it is likely that these projects will be introduced on a phased approach, with residents consulted widely, but we hope to see the first set of projects implemented in Summer 2021.

Combined with the Clean Air Zone which starts on 15th March 2021 and which we hope will have a dramatic impact on levels of traffic and pollution along London Road, these Liveable Neighbourhood projects will help transform our area, how we travel and the volume of traffic we experience.

Supporting local causes through the restored Ward Empowerment Fund

One of the Lib Dems' first actions when we took control of the Council was to reinstate the Councillor Ward Empowerment Fund which had been cut by the Conservatives.

This provides each Councillor with £2k to give to good causes in their own Wards. Tom and Richard have pooled their funds and over the last few months have been distributing the funds to local organisations.



During the current pandemic, the support from these funds were all the more important. Recent beneficiaries from the grants Richard and Tom have made in our local area include:

- Mentoring Plus (based at the Riverside Centre) where a grant funded a laptop for their new part-time practitioner to directly support some of their highest-need young people;
- Snow Hill – Where the newly formed Residents Association was awarded funds for new noticeboards throughout Snow Hill so that relevant information can be shared with residents
- The Hub at the Oasis centre on the Paragon which received funding towards new kitchen equipment to support Addiction Groups
- The Friends of Kensington Meadows who received funding to purchase a new bench for the Meadows.
- The Friends of Hedgemoor Park who were awarded funds for a new noticeboard (pictured above).

Clean Air Zone launches on 15th March

Businesses and individuals are being asked to check whether they will need to pay to drive their vehicles in Bath's Clean Air Zone ahead of its launch on 15 March. **Private cars and motorbikes will not have to pay**, but daily charges will apply to higher emission buses, coaches, HGVs, minibuses, taxis, private hire vehicles, LGVs and vans.

People can check whether they will need to pay a charge to drive in a clean air zone using GOV.UK's vehicle checker below:

[Vehicle Checker](#)



Residents may also have noticed that some automatic vehicle counters are in place around the city. These have been in place each year since 2018, and will help to provide information on vehicle movements before and after the zone is introduced.

Councillor Lucy Hodge & Councillor Mark Elliott

LOCAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS FOR LANSDOWN



Dear resident,

Lucy and Mark confident they have been heard by Cabinet on future of High Common

"We have made strong representations to Cabinet members to ensure they are aware of the strength of local feeling regarding the High Common. They are completely clear that neither we as ward councillors, nor local residents, can accept non-traditional golf-derived sports on this special site.

"One of the options available to the Cabinet, as outlined in the decision paper, **is to not proceed with the preferred bidder process. This is the option we have urged them to consider and we are confident that we have been heard.**"

"As ward councillors we feel strongly that we should take great care of this unique asset in the World Heritage setting where golfers, dog-owners, walkers, tobogganers and visitors of all ages enjoy exercise and happily coexist."

"We are pleased that the Cabinet are listening to us. In our view, there should be a low cost maintenance option for the time being and a pause, until market confidence recovers after the pandemic, to find a suitable provider."

Kind regards,

Lucy and Mark

Lansdown Lib Dem councillors

