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GOOD NEWS SPECIAL EFOCUS

- **Salcombe Road Rec.**
- **Knowle Park School/Bristol's Education Service**
- **Jubilee Pool**
- **Knowle Library and School Crossing Patrols**
- **Contacting the Council**

Salcombe Road Rec.

Many of you will already be aware that, with the support of neighbouring Councillors, Gary and Chris took the decision a few years back to split up the Salcombe Road rec into three sections. The Broadwalk end was fenced off to become a school playing field for the 700 strong Knowle Park Primary school. This has had a very positive impact upon the school and more about Knowle Park later.

The bottom section (which had drainage issues) was sold off to Knightstone Housing Association who are completing 35 shared ownership properties that are about to be occupied.

The middle section had some basic paths put in from the sale proceeds money and the decision was taken to put in a play park and some landscaping. This was all to be paid for from the land sale proceeds as were other local parks improvements. These were all stopped when the present Mayor grabbed our cash, and Chris and I have been fighting to get it back ever since. Other money and the local decision making structures were also smashed but it seems they are gone for good.

The good news is that we now have our local parks money back and we will be getting the Salcombe Road park back on track. Thanks to the Bristol parks forum who supported our stance.

Our aim is to set up a friends group with people from the new houses, neighbouring streets and the school to make sure that the details fit with local priorities and that the new park gets looked after.

We will be putting out a special paper focus around the immediate area to recruit interested people and it will be pleasing to greet our new residents with good news about the park rather than an explanation about how the mayor took their park away.

Knowle Park School/Bristol's Education Service.

I have been a governor at Knowle Park School for 15 years, since becoming a Knowle

Councillor. Originally this was of the Junior and Infants schools and both of them had their ups and downs and at different times were in special measures. Luckily I was uniquely placed, being on both, to support the excellent work of our then schools adviser to effect a merger. The joint school has moved forward since and has a better, and ever improving, inspection record, behaviour record and exam results.

We have some great staff and great strides were made under our previous head Peter Overton, and our present head Andy has continued and accelerated the gains. Many governors contribute positively and it is a very good environment for all.

Sadly many of the great team that had been built up in the Bristol Local Education Authority are now leaving or are already gone, and that means that the support services offered to LEA schools like Knowle Park are thinning. Building up Bristol's education system from it's awful failing state 15 years ago, to making Bristol one of the most progressive areas in the country, was a great 10 year achievement, but a combination of national policy and local circumstances has meant that schools are now having to reassess their positions as LEA schools that buy services from the council.

Knowle Park governors had been very concerned about the forced acadamisation policy put forward by government and have decided that we must take a positive step before the LEA service deteriorates further. Also we did not want to go on to be a subsidiary feeder school for a secondary authority, and did not want the school community exploited. We have therefore agreed to a cooperative venture with a number of other successful Bristol primary schools. There are a number of stages to go through and central government will effectively have to sanction this, but we feel that by banding together with 7-8 other primary schools with the same ethos and record of success we will be doing the best for our area. We will keep you updated and feel that this route will keep the school moving forward as it has over recent years.

We referred to the recent great SATs (exams taken at end of primary school before pupils move on to secondary) results from Knowle Park achieved over the last couple of results. We did not have room for the full table but here it is. The results are truly remarkable in many ways but probably the most pleasing is that in Knowle Park School the disadvantaged children (free school meals) do better at all subjects than the average for all children (disadvantaged and not) around the country.

RESULTS

<https://www.schoolguide.co.uk/schools/knowle-park-primary-school-bristol>

Jubilee Pool

After a long campaign we are now pleased that we have overturned the original budget and cabinet decision of the mayor to close Jubilee pool. There is a new 5 year contract for the existing operators Parkwood. Thanks to all the friends and campaigners who helped with this including the 6000+ who signed the petition.

Knowle Library and our School Crossing Patrols are the next local service under attack from the mayor. We would encourage you to have your say on the council "consultation" which is very narrow and badly designed to try to force respondents to choose one of a short list of unacceptable options. Please write in with your views. We will be putting a more positive alternative to a council meeting.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries-archives/future-of-bristols-libraries-consultation>

Please also sign our petition -

<http://www.saveknowlelibrary.weebly.com/>

Contacting the council

We debated whether to print Jay's kind comments and decided we needed to explain first. Contact with "the council" is increasingly by electronic means and that does make it difficult for a number of people. In addition some of the forms make it difficult to explain certain situations. We know the complicated telephone options system also puts people off. Response times have for many services got longer and the council have also stopped providing some services, sometimes without notification.

All of the above reasons mean that Chris and Gary get a huge amount more contacts about council services than they used to when departments were more responsive.

We would therefore recommend that if the issue is straightforward people try the standard council reporting system first and involve us if it fails. In this example the pavement damage was extreme rather than a bit of a rut and we were glad to get it sorted quickly.

“Recently the pavement on the corner of Queensdale Crescent and Greenleaze Road became badly damaged and several pedestrians commented on how dangerous it had become. Rather than contact the appropriate agency at the council, I emailed Gary and Chris because I knew from past experience that they 'make things happen.' Sure enough Gary visited the site the same day and by the time I had returned from a short holiday the pavement had been safely re-laid. I am confident this would have taken much longer had I approached the Highway Maintenance department at the Council instead of contacting our local councillors. So thank you Gary and Chris for your efficiency and continued efforts in making Knowle such a great and safe place to live.” Jay Wright

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