

ON KNOWLE FOCUS

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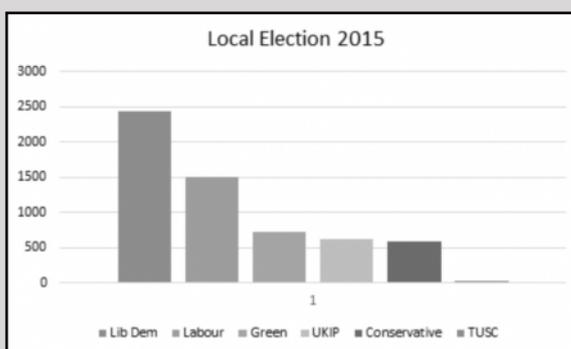


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May 2015

THANK YOU!

Congratulations to Chris who, against all the odds nationally and locally, was re-elected, with an increased majority, to continue as Councillor for Knowle. "Many thanks to everyone that voted for me, keeping the Focus team together, and showing they appreciate what we have been trying to do in Knowle for the past 13 years. I am really delighted to be able to continue working to keep this a great place to live. I am grateful to all those people who help by delivering Focus. Our job gets bigger next year as a number of



roads in Filwood ward will be transferred to Knowle ward due to boundary changes. There will be another local election with both Gary and I seeking to be re-elected again in May 2016. We would be very grateful for any additional offers of help for the election and throughout the year."

In addition to being ward Councillors Gary was re-elected unopposed as Lib Dem leader on the council and Chris has taken on lead responsibilities on Licensing and Public Safety and Protection, so they have involvement across the city and can ensure the best for Knowle. However, "You don't know what you've got until you lose it!" Since overall bad results for the party on election night there has been a united public reaction with over 12,000 new members joining the party. Many in Bristol. If you want to join the fight-back please follow the link www.libdems.org.uk/joining or contact Chris or Gary.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO KNOWLE!

**Shaun the Sheep - visiting for the Summer!
Putting Knowle on the tourist trail.**

He will be here from Monday 6 July inside our shopping centre. Sponsored by Broadwalk



Centre Management he will be one of 120 created by artists, designers and celebrities, across London and Bristol. The design of our Shaun is a closely guarded secret! Come and find out on 6 July and enjoy competitions and events throughout his visit.

TALBOT RD TRAFFIC SAGA

Much to the annoyance of local residents the period of the work had to be extended. A lot of through traffic has heeded the signage we asked for, but some insisted on driving through the narrow streets. There have been blockages and some intolerant behaviour. This is one of those situations where there is no right solution. Blocking Leighton Rd on either side of Buller was suggested, but after asking around locally it was decided to cone some areas instead to make places to pass. Not perfect, but at least locals haven't a long drive around. We have managed to get the police along at a few key times and we even had Chris directing traffic on the spot one evening!



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Gary led changes to Bristol waste collections/treatment from 2005/6 until 2012. Recycling went from 12% to just short of 50% with quality recycling recouping money when sold. Then the mayor took over. He appointed a Green Party Councillor over waste, environmental services and policy. A recent enquiry showed the scale of what has been going wrong. If the council reduces waste put out for collection, a huge amount is saved. The whole process has to be designed to reduce waste and recycle as much as possible. 10,000 tons waste costs over a £1 Million every year. Unfortunately, the massive improvement (one of best in country) fell sharply under the Green Party Councillor. - environmentally and financially costly. During Gary's time the un-recycled household waste dropped from nearly a ton per year per household to 1/5th of that. Unfortunately that figure has started to rise again.

We were heading for ZERO landfill but this progress stopped. Working with other councils Gary signed a contract for most black bin waste to be treated by New Earth solutions at Avonmouth. They recover recycle and compost and use advanced thermal treatment to recover energy from the remainder. An acceptable treatment plant was given planning permission at Avonmouth, but unfortunately with unwanted intervention from Eric Pickles it was cancelled. An incinerator is likely to be built instead! Not using the New Earth contract or finding an alternative the Mayor and his assistant did nothing for 2 years, and then decided to use a company called Boomeco who ship the waste to a Swedish incinerator! "Surely", I hear you say, "A Green Party councillor treating our environment so badly must be a one off." Sadly no. The only council Green party controlled was Brighton, where they were elected promising to produce a 70% recycling rate. It dropped by 16% with Brighton ranked 302 out of 326 councils for recycling.



Similarity. Before the mayor, Bristol froze council tax. Now the mayor increases it by practically 2% every year, throwing away a government grant rewarding councils that freeze tax. All other parties in Bristol voted for the increase, only Lib Dems voted against. In Brighton the Green party proposed a 4.75% increase, which needed a referendum - costing £300,000. They backed down when central government threatened to take over. In Bristol over the last 2 years council tax has increased annually to pay for extra waste and more damage to our environment.

YOU COULD NOT MAKE IT UP!

For fuller stories on this and other items - receive our eFocus - just send us your email

'FIRST' AND THE 36 BUS

Gary met with James Freeman the new local boss of 'First' group. This was about local and citywide issues. The new boss is a vast improvement on the previous position holders. 'First' both nationally and locally have had the negative and short-sighted way of running their business by grabbing the profits on the main routes, made possible in part by public investment, and demanding subsidies for less profitable parts of the network, or closing them. There are signs of change at a national level and, although it will be a while before it becomes obvious, at a local level as well. It will obviously take some time for the legacy of distrust to fade away as there is a move towards providing a public service. The changes on the 36 have not worked as they hoped and there is a possibility of a change of strategy. Commuters on main routes need a quick service, those with more time and wanting to get around South Bristol are more focused on having a service, and it turning up, not speed. There will be a major input of new buses with a consequent upgrade down the pecking order.

CYCLE EYE - Having examined the trial results and spoken to drivers as well as the inventor, Gary has been promoting this radar device, developed in Bristol, which enables bus drivers to be alerted to bikes on the nearside. Fitting these to the Bristol fleet (hopefully followed by a national roll out) would be a significant step forward in road safety, and James was happy to hear the arguments for the device. James comes with a good record from Reading, but it is a pity that when we get 'First' improving, the council administration seems to have lost interest.



**SOUTH BRISTOL SKYLINE
WALK
Another Tourist
Attraction!**



Launched as part of Bristol Walk Fest 70 people joined in. Chris, Gary and Friends of the Park met them at Redcatch where they stopped for tea and band "Fools on the Hill" and "Cathoola Hoopers". Chris and friends joined the walk through Perrett's Park, Northern Slopes, Malago Greenway, to Victoria Park where they left for

home due to post-election exhaustion! An amazing nature walk of discovery with fantastic views and snippets of history, a great way to see South Bristol. Details and leaflet to accompany the walk on www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk/skyline see the film <https://vimeo.com/128259778>

OUR AMAZING OPEN SPACES

Redcatch Park

Courtesy of Friends of the Park some outdoor gym equipment will be installed shortly and a further new bench installed beside the gravel path. Plans for improved car parking and a small entrance from Redcatch (where once was a stile) are being costed ready for possible new funding stream. 1000 plugs were recently planted at a community event to create a new wildflower meadow..

Community Fun Day on Sunday 21 June 2015 1 - 5 pm. We know how many people enjoy the day and how it symbolises the community spirit of Knowle. Sue Davies and John Scott have done the organisation and management for some years John is stepping down and it's a big task for one. It is now running so well it is a good time for a small Fun Day team to easily take over and run it for the Friends . The job can be broken down into easy sections and Sue will still be on hand to give advice and provide all that is needed. Contact Sue sjdavies43@gmail.com 9777764 or have a chat on the day if interested - or why not help with setting up or stewarding and see what fun it is.

Callington Road Nature Local Reserve

Chris attended their meeting earlier this year. A constitution is being completed with officers appointed so that applications can be made into

new funding streams. New people would be welcome- meetings in staff room at Tesco - ask at customer services. Info at <https://sites.google.com/site/focrnr/> Come along to the Family Nature Day on Saturday 25 July.

Perrett's Park

The wonderful new zig-zag path provides easy access for buggies and scooters - and a great way to keep fit if you run up and down! Many thanks to COPP. Don't forget to go along 6 - 9 August to watch the Balloon Fiesta from the best spot in town.

Northern Slopes - The Bommie

Conservation Volunteers run a Green Gym to get you physically and mentally healthier by taking part in activities on the Slopes. All are welcome. Go to the gate to the Bommie by 105 Wedmore Vale any Thurs at 10.15am. Start with a warm up, then vegetation clearance/improving paths - meet people during the tea break. details from c.dinsdale@tcv.org.uk - 07739447995. Sessions are free. Please come prepared with suitable shoes and clothes for the weather.

Volunteering in Knowle

Lots of ways to get involved - details on line or contact Chris - Entertaining Local Knowle - Knowle East Youth Projects - Key Teas - Redcatch Community Association - Friends of Redcatch Park - Friends of Callington Rd Nature Reserve - Northern Slopes Initiative - Community of Perretts Park - FORP Community Fun Day - Andy's Haven Nursery at The Park
Let us know of others!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15/00646/F Somerdale Ave Proposed 2 storey building adjoining property - 2 self-contained flats.

15/02342/H Stockwood Cres 2 storey rear extension.

15/02108/H Wells Road erection of amateur radio mast and antenna in garden

ALLOTMENTS

We are lucky to have allotments all around us. Contact 9223719 steve.clampin@bristol.gov.uk or apply on www.bristol.gov.uk/allotments if you are interested in a plot. Healthy exercise and healthy food! Sites - Broadfield Rd - 'Springfield' Andover Rd - Talbot Hill - Wedmore Vale - Beckington Rd - Bayham Rd - Wingfield

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Mayor to attend NP Meeting in Knowle!

Tuesday 16th June 6 - 8 pm at Knowle Park Centre, The Square. Mayor Ferguson has been invited to attend at 6.30pm and questions will be put to him about the local effects of the Arena and other decisions and how we can improve matters.

Neighbourhood Wellbeing Funding Appns approved by panel.

Arnos Vale Trust, St Martin's Guides & Brownies, Knowle East Youth Projects, Knowle Women's Institute, St Martin's Scouts Knowle, Church of the Nazarene, Friends of Redcatch Park, Knowle Library, St Martin's Community Hall, Redcatch Community Assn, Knowle Senior Moments, St Martin's Scouts, Knowle Library, Knowle Townswomen's Guild St Martin's Youth Crew

SNIPPETS

1 Redcatch Road - Chris has been pressing planning enforcement to board up this unsightly building site. Due to Chris' persistence, unusually planning have ordered hoarding (bill going to the owner), who has now suddenly cleared the site! We are pleased that the estate agents' office is being taken by **Parson's Bakery**. We have no influence over businesses moving here so are always happy to see more facilities and jobs coming to Knowle.

Old Library Site - Chris has been in touch with the manager of the Broadwalk Shopping Centre, who has been very helpful in getting the grass cut, but still needs to clear litter. At Chris' suggestion he is investigating new fencing to improve the appearance of the site.

Knowle Hotel - Every success under new management. Drop in and support them.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 27 May Wildflower planting Redcatch Pk

Tues 16 June NP Meeting Knowle Pk Centre

Sun 21 June Fun Day Redcatch Pk

Sat 25 July Family Nature Day Callington Road Nature Reserve

Mon 6 July Shaun the Sheep in Knowle

6-9 Aug Balloon Fiesta Perrett's Pk

Sat 30 May Urban Escape projects Roundhouse Opening event 11- 3pm Northern Slopes

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS - We are available every day not just at elections

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