

Bishopston News

FROM COUNCILLOR TOM
BROOK

300 deaths a year - Labour Bristol takes action on air quality



Left - Cllr Tom Brook speaks in the Council chamber on Air Quality. Right - Tom and fellow Labour councillors with Bristol's first biogas bus.

Labour Bristol - committed to cleaning up our city's air

Poor air quality is a major crisis in the UK at the moment, and Bristol is no exception, with over 300 deaths a year being attributed to air pollution in the city. The Conservative government's response has been pitiful, and the High Court has now forced it to take action on illegal levels of air pollution.

Despite the government's failings, Bristol's Labour administration is moving forward with a Clean Air Action Plan, which proposes a wide range of possible measures to improve our air quality and bring it into compliance with the law in the shortest possible time.

One of the options is to create a Clean Air Zone, with two geographical areas on the table. One area covers the city centre and Hotwells, whilst the other is larger and extends in the north to the boundary of

Bishopston & Ashley Down ward. Public engagement on these options is underway now, with formal consultation in early 2019. Find out more at: cleanairforbristol.org

In addition to this, Bristol's Labour-run city council continues to focus on reducing our carbon emissions. We've already smashed the council's carbon emissions reduction target, and are on track to be a clean-energy-powered, carbon neutral city by 2050.

We're also taking action in a variety of other ways, including greening the council's fleet, introducing 110 biogas buses, retrofitting the most polluting old buses, installing more electric vehicle charging, improving air quality monitoring, and investing £millions in renewable energy and heat networks.

Councillor Tom Brook - working for you

✓ ASHLEY DOWN STATION
Labour is moving forward with plans to upgrade our suburban rail network. Tom is working to ensure that Ashley Down station goes ahead as part of this, within our wider project of improvements that include new stations at Henbury and North Filton. The station is planned for mid-2021.

✓ FILTON AIRFIELD
Tom has been working to ensure that the impact of the development at Filton Airfield on north Bristol's road transport network is minimised. Bristol's Labour-run council plans to spend £millions on improvements BEFORE the development is built, to ensure our transport network can cope.

✓ ROAD SAFETY
Tom is lobbying within the council to get improved signage on and around Ashley Down Road, to increase safety for residents and pupils at Brunel Field school. Citywide, the council is also currently consulting on the 20mph road speed limits to improve how they work. Visit bristol20mph.co.uk

✓ ISSUES BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS
Tom has been working to combat issues some residents have been having with their neighbours. From noise to waste, most problems can be solved by having a chat with your neighbour. But if that doesn't work, get in touch with Tom for advice on how to resolve the issue.

✓ PLANNING APPLICATIONS
There have been some notable and contentious planning applications in the ward recently, including a Wetherspoons pub on Gloucester Road and a Lidl supermarket on Muller Road. Tom continues to make the case for better and more sustainable development.

Making Our Streets Cleaner

Labour Bristol has committed to making Bristol measurably cleaner by 2020. That means less litter, fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti, and dog fouling. It also means more reuse, repairing and recycling.

We've launched a Clean Streets campaign encouraging individuals, community groups, schools and businesses to take collective responsibility for keeping our streets clean and tidy, and supporting everyone to reuse, repair and recycle more.

However we acknowledge that for some people, encouragement to keep our streets clean is not enough. That's why we've introduced fines of up to £100 for dropping litter.

We can all do our bit to improve our neighbourhoods. Why not get together with some neighbours and organise a litter pick? Bristol Waste can provide free litter picking packs. Go to: bit.ly/2rZVGpK



Tom leading a litter pick in Bishopston & Ashley Down

Fighting For Our NHS



Hospital waiting times are getting worse and worse

70 years ago on the 5th July, Labour created the NHS, on the principle of universal public health care for all. This Conservative government has forgotten that principle, with the NHS in the midst of a staffing, funding and organisational crisis. 12 hour waits at A&E across the country are at their worst ever, and Southmead tops the list. Bristol has lost 600 beds since 2010, contributing to a worsening crisis in social care.

The last Labour government saved the NHS from disaster, and the next Labour government will do

so again. Labour has committed to repeal the disastrous changes to our NHS, banishing privatisation and restoring a universal, public National Health Service with democratic oversight and a functioning organisational structure.

We've seen changes to health care provision within our own ward recently too, with the Bishopston Medical Practice being taken over by the BrisDoc company. If any patients feel that there is a drop in service or standards then let Tom know and he will hold the practice and NHS to account.

Better Homes For All

In the 2016 local election, Labour Bristol ambitiously pledged that we would get the city building 2000 homes a year by 2020, at least 800 of which will be affordable. We are on track to not only meet that target, but to greatly exceed it. We have embarked on Bristol's largest council house building project in a generation, with sites being developed across the city. We're also being tougher on developers, holding them to account to get them to include more affordable homes in their developments.

Building more homes is only one aspect of our efforts to tackle the housing crisis. We're also improving standards, for instance by consulting on extending licensing of rented properties. This will help to protect tenants, improve

neighbourhoods, and hold bad landlords to account.

Whilst building more homes and improving standards are important ways to tackle homelessness in the long term, we're also doing more to help those who are homeless at the moment. We've recommissioned the council's homelessness services to make a more effective joined-up service. We're also improving communication between agencies, and have increased the amount of temporary accommodation that's available, including working with churches to open their halls during extreme cold weather.

Get In Touch



Tom Brook

Councillor for Bishopston & Ashley Down

@_TomBrook

@ cllr.tom.brook@bristol.gov.uk

07584 370 425

Tom is your Labour Councillor for Bishopston & Ashley Down ward, which covers Ashley Down, the north of Bishopston, and part of Horfield. You can keep up to date with what Tom is doing as your Councillor on his website here: bishopstonlabour.org.uk



Thangam Debbonaire

MP for Bristol West

@ThangamMP

@ thangam.debbonaire.mp@parliament.uk

0117 379 0980

Thangam is your Labour MP for Bristol West, which covers most of the ward. If you live in the area marked BIAA on the map at this link then you're in Bristol North West, otherwise you're in Bristol West: bit.ly/2FhWvG You can keep up to date with what Thangam is doing as your MP on her website here: debbonaire.co.uk



Darren Jones

MP for Bristol North West

@darrenpjones

@ darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk

0117 959 6545

Darren is your Labour MP for Bristol North West, which covers part of the north of the ward. If you live in the area marked BIAA on the map at this link then you're in Bristol North West, otherwise you're in Bristol West: bit.ly/2FhWvG You can keep up to date with what Darren is doing as your MP on his website here: darren-jones.co.uk



Mayor Marvin Rees and Labour councillors at one of the council's new housing sites