The Talk of Totterdown

The Newsletter of Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action Community Interest Company
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Three billboards outside Totterdown

Development in Bristol is continuing apace, and as a resident of Totterdown it can sometimes feel almost claustrophic. Bath Road, Bedminster, Temple Quarter and Mead Street have all been earmarked for developments of significant size, and significant height which will impact views in and out of our neighbourhood.

TRESA believes that there are sustainable regeneration opportunities in the area, given our close proximity to Temple Meads and the city centre, but that any plans for development must be well thought through and appropriate in height, scale and massing for the area. Due consideration must also be given to public transport, walking and cycling links, particularly given the difficulties we currently experience with Three Lamps Junction and the narrow pavements along the Bath Road. We would welcome new residents into a sustainable, low carbon neighbourhood, but we also need to ensure that we have the schools, GP surgeries and dental practices which are currently woefully inadequate.

Unfortunately, experience to date with planning applications approved by Bristol City Council, is that we are increasingly seeing high density developments of poor design, with very tall buildings and, it would seem, little consideration or proper consultation with those who live in the area.

In an effort to raise awareness of development proposals being brought forward for Mead Street (former Bart Spices site) residents decided to launch their own campaign. Miranda Walker, spokesperson for the 'Save the Totterdown Escarpment' group, explained.

"Views of the Totterdown escarpment are being threatened by proposals for tower blocks from 6 to 22 storeys high in the proposed redevelopment of the Mead Street and York Road area of Bristol. Although we are not against development in the area, and know there is a need for new housing, we feel that the iconic views of the escarpment are worth preserving. It can be seen from many key points across the city and is a valuable asset, and an iconic feature of Bristol, one that regularly appears in local and national publications."

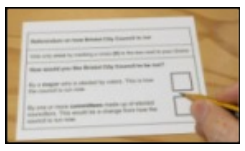
Back in February Richmond Street residents hung sheets out of their back windows to draw attention to the potential loss of the view. A Facebook group called ***'Save the Totterdown Escarpment View'*** was set up and TRESA also got involved, setting up an online petition on the 38 Degrees website 'Save Iconic Views of the Totterdown Escarpment' at ***https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-iconic-views-of-the-totterdown-escarpment***

The group was inspired by the 2017 film 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri' in which Mildred Hayes, played by Frances McDormand, stands up to local law enforcement officers by hiring the three billboards just outside her town. In May, working in partnership with Jack Arts and Buildhollywood, the group created a highly effective campaign to publicise the impact of the impending development on this important local landmark, taking over the three billboards just below the escarpment on St Luke's Road.

Miranda and residents are fully engaged in their plans to protect this much loved view: "The group believe that the view of the Totterdown Escarpment is part of Bristol's history and should also be part of Bristol's future. We would like to see a limit on the height of development in the area in front of the Escarpment to protect the view from the impending development. Residents can keep up to date with our campaign via the Facebook page and get in touch if they would like to help us with the campaign in any way."

TRESA is clear that the development proposals will need to be scrutinised and challenged at every step of the planning process, and will be asking for full and proper consultation as proposals are brought forward.

Bristol rejects the elected mayor in favour of a committee system



On 5 May 2022 a referendum was held to determine how Bristol City Council is run. The majority of those voting in the referendum voted to reject the position of elected mayor in favour of "one or more committees made up of elected councillors".

Despite the fact that no leaflet was distributed by Bristol City Council to explain the two options and generate interest in the referendum, the turnout was 29%. Of those who voted, 59% favoured a committee system, and 41% voted to keep the elected mayor. (For the referendum in 2012, the turnout was 24% of whom 53% voted in favour of having an elected mayor.)

What happens next? Marvin Rees will continue as the elected mayor of Bristol until the next local elections in May 2024, when the council will adopt a new constitution with details of the committee structure.

Under the new committee system, full council will elect a leader and deputy leader. The full council of 70 councillors will be the decision-making body and will be required by law to make certain decisions, but will mainly delegate its powers to committees of councillors with responsibility for important policy and service areas e.g. Finance and Performance, Adult Social Care, Education, Children's Services, Transport, Environment and Housing. The detailed structure of these committees will be agreed as part of the transitional arrangements but membership will reflect the political balance of the council.

As is already the case, there will also be regulatory committees with responsibility for planning, licensing, audit and human resources. Some functions will continue to be the responsibility of the statutory officers e.g. the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer, the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Adult Services.

So, the main difference is that power will no longer be concentrated in the role of an elected mayor but will be distributed to cross-party committees of councillors. Although the change in governance arrangements will not take effect until 5 May 2024, councillors will now start to consider the details of the committees and arrangements for the transition from an elected mayor to the new committee system.

TRESA will continue to take an interest in the governance arrangements for Bristol, which inevitably have an impact on local neighbourhoods including Totterdown. We will update on progress in subsequent issues of the Talk of Totterdown.

Suzanne Audrey

TOTTERDOWN FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION 2022

A reminder to Totterdown residents to spruce up your front gardens, pots and window boxes for the Totterdown Front Garden Competition.

Award certificates and prizes will be given for best front garden, wildlife friendly, best mini-garden (window box, hanging basket, pots), and fun in the garden (something to bring a smile to those who pass by).

This year we have Totterdown Traders vouchers to award to the 'top twenty' gardens (£5 vouchers to spend in a range of Totterdown shops and businesses).

Judging will take place in mid-July, so let's get Totterdown blooming!

FRONT ROOM 2002 - Save the date!

Totterdown Art Trail Friday 18 November: Launch Events and (optional) Private Viewings
Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November: Full Art Trail from 10am to 6pm.

A new committee has been set up to organise Bristol's oldest Art Trail, after last year's organisers Cai and Luci had to hand over the reins, so they could go travelling to Australia for a year.

Adam from ArtPark Gallery, one of the new organisers, said "A big thank you to Cai and Luci, who did a brilliant job, in a very short time and saved the trail from disappearing. This year we have more time and want to organise the best trail ever. But we do need help, so if you have any time to spare, please get in touch."

Pop in to see Adam at ArtPark Gallery on Wells Road or get in touch ***art@artpark.co.uk***

Picnic on a Plate…

The lovely team behind Fox & West and Nook have come up with a fabulous fun way to help you and your family celebrate the best seasonal produce. The desire to offer quality affordable ingredients and delicious fresh and inspirational food is what Fox & West is all about. Nook adds a touch of magic to the party, having space for plants, cards, books, gifts as well as a wonderful deli bar with pre-prepared savoury and sweet treats.

Pick up a 'picnic plate' poster at either store and get creative with paint, crayons, fabrics, collage. Pickles and cheese, veggie filled wraps, gorgeous berries and cream, tasty but weird family favourites… mushrooms, mayo and gherkins anyone?

Winners will receive a 'picnic plate' of goodies, tailored to meet their particular dietary requirements. Closing date for return of entries is 20 July with winners announced on Fox & West/Nook social media, and some of the best designs being featured in Talk of Totterdown Autumn issue.

Celebrating our community!

Together we can make a difference…

TRESAcic brings together residents in Totterdown with the aim of improving and protecting our local environment and to promote a vibrant and engaged community. Members influence the projects we undertake and join us in providing a strong voice in commenting on issues of local significance.

- Membership is for anyone aged 18 years or over, who lives within the TRESA boundary.
- Membership fees help fund community projects and also help towards printing costs of The Talk of Totterdown.

To join or renew your membership (£3 per annum): visit our website www.tresa.org.uk to pay via paypal or complete details below and post with cash or cheque, (payable to TRESAcic), in our letterbox at the Post Office (in Tesco).

Name:

Address:

Email:

Date:

The development mayhem continues all around us - Bath Road, Temple Quarter, Redcliffe and Mead Street. As the local amenity group, TRESA comments on development applications being brought forward, but it is always great to have very active involvement from individuals and groups of residents. The 'Save the Totterdown Escarpment' group have shown how powerful a heartfelt message can be - their 'three billboards' campaign has hopefully sent a very clear message to those on the planning committee that indiscriminate 'high rises' are not acceptable.

It's also hugely encouraging to see the community and local businesses emerging post pandemic with the energy to organise lots of activities in Totterdown. And a big "huzzah" to Adam of ArtPark Gallery who is bringing together a team to organise this year's FRONT ROOM Art Trail in November.

If you are wondering where our Weather Update is this issue, then worry not. Weatherman Barry has spent time hiking uphill and down dale in the Penninnes, enjoying a well earned break and watching a different set of cumulonimbus!

TRESA AGM takes place on Tuesday 12 July, and we hope some of our members will join us to help us set out priorities and projects for the coming year.

In the meantime, you can find out more about TRESA activities via our website - www.tresa.org.uk. There is also an archive of responses to planning proposals and citywide communications, community events and projects. TRESA membership only costs £3 a year and helps us to fund community projects as well as helping pay for this newsletter to be printed. *Carolyn Jones, Editor*

'Human-made objects may now outweigh all of the living beings on Earth'*

Back in 1972, a study entitled Limits to Growth modelled the impacts that population increase and business as usual (agricultural production, non-renewable resource depletion, industrial output, pollution generation) would have on our planet. At that time we were extracting 28.6 billion tonnes (Gt) of virgin resources from the earth.

In 2016, 44 years after Limits to Growth, 26 years after the first IPCC report and the year of COP21, material extraction had more than tripled to 89.9Gt. The Paris Agreement saw 193 parties pledge to slash emissions in an effort to limit the rise in global average temperature to well below 2ºC above pre-industrial levels.

Skip forward to 2021 and Glasgow's COP26, and in those five years we extracted more than half a trillion tonnes of resources, the steepest increase on record – or business as usual. These figures are so extreme because of all the billions of tonnes of minerals, fossil fuels, metals and biomass extracted, only ~9% is circular (i.e. re-used annually), and shockingly, this figure is falling.

We know that human activity is depleting resources - but that's corporate activity right? And governments, don't they make the rules? Maybe, but with 99% of our waste made up of materials less than 6 months old, that's consumer behaviour - albeit shaped by the markets we live and operate in. But it is consumer behaviour that makes and shapes our economy. The more we seek alternatives to the take-make-dispose model that defined the 20th Century, the more our economic systems will develop to support those alternatives. Public demand has shaken up old industries and brought about new ones.

So, get yourself up to speed with what the circular economy is and does (check out the Ellen McArthur Foundation for some amazing resources). Start small, keep things longer, refill where possible, buy local, buy less/better, share more, insulate, look into renewables - turn your whole street into a Power Station! Individual action leads to community action - to the transformation of cities and regions, markets and economies. We hold more power than we think and we need to exercise it.

Scientific American 2020* ***Jenny Ford FRSA*

TRESA Director, Jenny, is Founder & Lead Design Consultant at Materials in Mind, a Sustainability Consultancy for the built environment sector www.materialsinmind.org

Do we need a Conservation Area?

Whether arriving in Temple Meads, standing on the Banana Bridge or staring across the City from the hills of Clifton or Kingsdown, our local colourful terraced houses are a key and well-loved feature of the views of Bristol. But now the wonderful, iconic views of colourful houses tumbling down the steep hills of Totterdown are at risk from high rise developments. Is a Conservation Area a potential answer?

In 2017 Mayor Rees declared his love for high-rise buildings and changed years of careful planning policy. Until that time no building in Bristol was allowed to go taller than the spire of St Mary Redcliffe church. Now developers are being encouraged to build skyscrapers, despite their poor ecological performance and often unsatisfactory living conditions.

One solution might be to declare Totterdown a Conservation Area - a formal status granted by the City Council to protect and enhance the historic character of the area. They protect areas of special architectural and historic interest, such as the characterful houses and hills in Totterdown.

This could mean that not only are the views protected, but also the streets in which we live can be protected. Developers might even be made to pay for enhancing some of our historic features, or certainly made to respect them with better design and consideration of their setting. And even the City Council would have to stop removing our historic lampposts and relocating them to Clifton!

The downside is that Councils, like Bath, have been known to object to changes like installing insulation or double glazing, making the process of maintaining and adapting our homes more complicated and expensive, especially in response to the Climate Emergency, where millions of draughty homes need to be retrofitted.

In deciding, the Council can decide what matters and create a list of what needs to be protected, and what changes can be tolerated. So, we could have a more relaxed approach to making individual changes to individual houses. We could recognise that it is exactly the co-created, hilly mosaic of different houses, colours, and adapting designs that makes the views and streets so charismatic.

We could allow for solar panels, dormer windows and sensitively designed modern houses to become part of this patchwork mosaic of a constantly evolving city. At the same time we can challenge overbearing and insensitive development. Local land needs to be redeveloped well.

As your local councillors, Lisa Stone and I would love to hear people's views about this – we need to know if people think this is a good idea or not. And what would be important to protect, and the changes that can be tolerated? Let us know: cllr.ed.plowden@bristol.gov.uk / cllr.lisa.stone@bristol.gov.uk ***Cllr Ed Plowden***

Bringing Totterdown's history to life

The Road project has developed a number of local community arts and heritage events over the past few years looking into the history of what happened. 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the destruction of the Wells Road high street, and this year will see further events and projects to tease out the tales of this historic and once bustling shopping precinct. The project encourages collaboration from all parts of Totterdown's neighbourhood community to help create something that will grow to become a layered account of the stories, the people, places and events associated with this magical high street.

In March, working with the residual shops that managed to survive the 70s, there was a fabulous display of some of the stories, photos and imaginings related to the, now gone, lower high street. A street gallery was created using shop frontages and windows, alongside hoardings sited on Zone A, Zone N and Higham Green/Hampton Terrace, and there was a series of evening image projection tours.

There is a plan to develop a *Totterdown Oral Heritage Archive* with verbal recollections of this bygone neighbourhood and the intention to create a *Museum of Totterdown,* possibly sited next to Zone A.

For further information, or if you wish to be an interviewee/have amusing or anecdotal insights or memories, contact the project co-ordinator John O'Connor at ***oconnorjohn1957@gmail.com***

BEHIND THE DOOR...

The Mindful Gardener

Gardener, Penny Whittle, moved to Bristol 20 years ago and has spent the last 4 years enjoying gloriously verdant views from her home close to Perrett's Park. Like many, she truly appreciated the calm and rejuvenating qualities of gardens and green spaces during Covid, particularly spending time at her Perrett's Park allotment.

Penny had previously worked in Marketing and Education, before deciding to focus on Horticulture and then start her own business in 2020. "My Nan was a keen gardener and my mum is a skilled and dedicated gardener too, her garden is stunning. I think it's in the genes, so there was probably no escape! I have always loved plants and flowers, and I called myself The Mindful Gardener because I think it's important to garden in a way that considers the wildlife that also inhabit the space. Plus I want to help my clients to have a garden they can truly relax in."

"My favourite projects are the ones where I feel I have made a difference to the client. Someone may have had a difficult time personally leading to them neglecting their garden, which then becomes a huge task to tame. I get so much satisfaction from taking this job off their 'to do' list and getting their garden back to being a place they can enjoy."

Unpredictable weather and water conservation are hot topics for gardeners. Penny suggests using more drought tolerant plants in your garden; Mediterranean silver leafed plants and those used to growing in hotter climates. "I love Fatsia Japonica for its exotic look and ability to thrive in any location. If you don't already have a water butt or three, get one set up so you can use that lovely rainwater on your plants. Don't waste precious water on your lawn, save it for the plants that really need it and do your watering first or last thing to avoid it evaporating in the heat of the day."

"Gardening is a mindful activity that has been proven to be good for your health. There is nothing quite like seeing a plant grow from seed and there is always something to look forward to in the garden, so get growing! To newbie gardeners I would say don't be scared of making a mistake and getting it wrong, because this is how all gardeners learn. Some easy veg crops to try are cherry tomatoes grown in pots on the patio, or lettuce grown in a pot or a tray on the windowsill. Sunflowers are great fun to grow with kids, as you can have a competition to see whose grows the tallest. Pick one area of your garden to focus on at a time and go from there."

For more experienced gardeners, Penny suggests growing Tithonia/Mexican sunflower. It has a profusion of bright orange flowers which are good for cutting and it flowers well into the autumn. Sow from seed and ensure plenty of sun, water and regular potting on.

In the future Penny hopes to do more work on advising clients and sharing her knowledge to encourage clients to try some gardening projects of their own. She is also keen to find opportunities to combine her previous work supporting young people with her knowledge of gardening. In the meantime, the season rolls on and there are plenty of cut flowers, vegetables and soft fruit calling to her from the allotment down the hill.

The Mindful Gardener Bristol can be found on facebook and instagram
Contact Penny on 07730 594638 / themindfulgardenerbristol@gmail.com

Moroccan delights and sheesha nights…

Congratulations to Bridget Holden, and the Assilah team as they move into their 21st year with Assilah Bistro at 194 Wells Road - independently owned, and the longest running Moroccan Bistro in Bristol.

Bridget and her family are long standing business owners and residents in the area and she has many fascinating stories and interesting insight about times past in Totterdown.

As she explains, "I lived on the corner of Bath Road and New Walls Road (my brother was born there) where my grandparents had several businesses next to each other. One of these was a very large transport café name Porteria. It was also a guest house and had around 20 ex-soldiers from the Second World War who lived with us permanently. I remember most of the businesses on the Bath Road and can even remember the fruit market being built and the goat tethered to the green outside the market to keep the grass short!! My grandparents' businesses were all caught up with the compulsory purchase for the proposed 'New road'. They received £10,000 for the lot, not much particularly when you consider they had built up the businesses over the years and were planning to retire on their hard work. My grandfather was a shop steward and engineer at the engineering works just over Totterdown Bridge, and they also owned another café sited by the school where Fowlers motorbike shop now is, as well as a general store and veg shop opposite Cabot Tyres behind the Oxford Pub."

Over the years, the family has continued to run businesses in the area, and when the lease came up on what was then called 'Dishy Diner', she and partner Jak, who is Moroccan and a fully qualified chef, jumped at the chance to stay in Totterdown and continue business in the area. After applying for the relevant permissions the pair were ready to move forward with the concept of an authentic Moroccan Bistro bringing Moroccan spices and herbs to traditional recipes.

"Totterdown was a much more diverse area at this time and gentrification hadn't really started at the time. There weren't really any opportunities for people to meet up unless they chose the pub which didn't take children, so we found that it became a very social space where neighbours were talking for the first time and street meetups were starting to take place. And we could see that quite a few changes were starting to take place in Totterdown and a real sense of community was starting to evolve after 20 odd years of it being regarded almost as a building site that you went past on your way home on the bus. It became a less transient place and more a space that families were moving back to and creating a much more cohesive community. The ethos at Assilah is always to create an environment for all the family, and to keep the costs affordable for all, hence why we have always stayed a B.Y.O Bistro."

The menu and atmosphere at Assilah is a true celebration and passion for all things Moroccan; warmly spiced meat, fish, vegetarian and vegan dishes feature, as well as tagine dishes which are a firm favourite and were voted most popular dish on the menu by regular customers. There are also sheesha available in the summer months and live music and events throughout the year. Over the past 20 years the bistro was the first to introduce Arabic Belly dancing to the area as well as Flamenco and Moroccan drumming.

The bistro is a particularly popular venue for celebration parties for all occasions – the passion and love for community and celebration of the flavours and culture of Morocco makes for a relaxed and friendly vibe, delicious food, and fun for all ages. Outside catering is also available.

Bridget is particularly keen to stress how important local support was during the covid pandemic and lockdown. "We had lots of support from the local community which was soooooo great at the time, as we weren't sure when we could ever open again."

"Due to restrictions, in April 2021 we were able to build the outside covers with the help of A.K. Carpentry and Build, and it made an absolute fantastic start as we started to emerge from the worst of Covid. It was very popular during the summer restrictions; we even managed to arrange live Jazz which everyone enjoyed. Going forward, we have hosted more weddings, birthdays and celebrations than I can remember as well as the outside catering which has been very successful."

Open Thurs, Fri and Saturday from 6pm Find out more at: assilahbistro.com

ArtPark Gallery on the Wells Road celebrated its first birthday in April

ArtPark Manager, Adam Tayler said "Thank you to the whole community, especially the Totterdown artists and other traders who have made us feel very welcome. It's been a very busy year, especially since September when we got our alcohol licence. That meant that, as well as holding exhibitions and art courses, we have been able to hold events like game nights, rum and wine tastings. The 'Blend your own spiced rum workshop' was very popular and will be re-run very soon. Private tastings can also be arranged for six to 14 people for birthdays or other special events."

Adam has also hosted a number of ArtJam sessions, providing an opportunity for local artists to mix and get creative. Very popular with artists is the made-to-order Pro-Gallery Canvas Service. ArtPark can make canvasses, any size from 20cm to 2m, for professional artists. There is a choice of fabrics (eg high grade Cotton Duck or Artists Fine Linen) and even aluminium panels for those who like an amazingly flat and smooth surface to paint on.

You can find the list of events on Instagram and Facebook @ArtParkBristol or on the web at *www.artpark.co.uk*

The view from the Chair…

People sometimes ask 'What does TRESA stand for?' If you do a quick search online, you may find yourself imagining what it would be like to be strolling through Lavena Ponte Tresa, on the shores of Lake Laguna, or to be contemplating autumnal mists on the slopes of Mount Athos, as you read that 'tresa' means 'late autumn' in Greek.

But you'll also see that the name TRESA stands for Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action, and it's worth reminding ourselves of that last word 'action', because our formal job description as a Community Interest Company, is essentially to act for the benefit of Totterdown's residents in protecting and preserving our built and natural environment, and in encouraging and supporting ways in which residents can engage with each other socially in our community.

Just a couple of very recent examples show how TRESA carries out this role, despite being a relatively small group of people. We've recently organized the popular Totterdown Traders Quiz, involving local shops and businesses, and offering successful quiz participants the prize of a £5 voucher. Also gathering a lot of local support was our online petition, seeking to protect views of the Totterdown escarpment, under threat from high-rise development at the former Bart Spices site and elsewhere.

While our focus is on local issues, we inevitably find ourselves drawn into speaking out for residents on wider issues, one of those being air quality. Readers will know that TRESA has long been concerned with local air pollution, and in this issue we're encouraging readers to make use of an online tool which shows you just how clean the air is (or isn't) at your own address.

Here at my address in Arnos St, the score is 7 out of 10 on a scale where 10 is the worst air quality. My air here exceeds three separate World Health Organization air quality limits. For me and my neighbours, the annual average of the pollutant PM2.5 is 11.61mcg/m3, well over twice the WHO limit of 5mcg/m3.

This shocking data once again reminds us of the truly appalling toll air pollution takes on the health of every one of us, especially the young and vulnerable.
It really is 'killing us softly'. So let's act together as a community, and be part of the drive for national action to end this scandal. ***Geoff Allan***

✷Check your local air pollution levels…

Want to get a local weather forecast? Easy. *Want to know how much pollution there is in your local air?* Not so easy. Or at least not until now.

Based on data from Imperial College London, the online tool has been crowdfunded and launched by not-for-profit group the Central Office of Public Interest. It measures not only nitrogen dioxide, the fumes from burning diesel, petrol, and gas, but also the fine particulate matter that comes from a much wider range of sources, including industry, agriculture, wood burning, and the airborne dust given off by millions of vehicle tyres and brake linings.

So if you want to know more about what's waiting for you out there next time you open the front door, you can find out free by entering your address on the website ***https://addresspollution.org***

Lorries on the Wells Road

Since Covid restrictions ended, Wells Road through Totterdown has been busier than ever, and the number of lorries on the road seems be growing. I don't just mean the various 2, 3 or 4 axle lorries, many of which are probably going about their business in Bristol. I am talking about the 44 ton articulated lorries - good for long distances but hardly suited to thundering through an urban area like ours.

The impact on our environment is considerable, so a small group of TRESA members decided to get together and collect some data on the frequency of these lorries and the number using the A37 to drive through Bristol to the M32 and the wider motorway system. We did two counts - each taking count over an hour of the number of '44 ton' lorries going in both directions, on one occasion also posting someone to record the number then accessing the M32. The numbers were remarkably consistent, with approximately 16 '44 ton' lorries per hour in each direction with almost 90% destined for the M32. Recent shorter periods of observation at different times of the day suggest our figures are certainly not an over-estimation. This gives a figure of 32 '44 ton' lorries per hour going through a residential area.

Consider the impact of this on people doing their shopping, children going to and from school, or as a cyclist. A cyclist taking 15 minutes to go up the Wells Road from Three Lamps to Broadwalk would have four giant lorries on their shoulder or overtaking them - *in addition to* other smaller lorries, buses and traffic… and of course there is no continuous cycle lane or alternative without a steep hill.

Finding a solution to this problem is not easy; our MP Karin Smyth and others in the wider community are not in favour of building the link road through Whitchurch. Much of the cargo transported by these lorries includes bulk ballast, animal feed and other bulk farming products. To transport these cargoes by rail would require significant investment in the railways infrastructure. Unlikely that the present government would make that kind of investment, and inevitably there will be vested interests from the specialist transport companies who will not want to change the status quo. Our 'just in time' delivery system relies on lorries to transport everything we need..

Wells Road through Totterdown is not suitable for '44 ton' lorries, but there is no easy alternative for these lorries using the A37 coming up from south of Bristol. The introduction of the CAZ will not reduce the problem, as these lorries are compliant with the CAZ, so will not be charged for driving through Bristol. One way to discourage this 'cut through' to M32 might be to require operators of HGVs over a certain set tonnage to obtain permits to come into CAZ areas, or make the requirements of the CAZ areas more stringent. Perhaps an option of turning at the junction with Airport Road and provision of a link through to the spine road across St Phillips Marsh. I am not seeking to just move the problem onto someone else, but am pointing out that we need a better alternative, and it is something we need to seriously think about.

If you have any views on this problem, then the Wells Road Lorry Group can be contacted at ***hellotresa@gmail.com*** ***Anne Silber***

Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!

Fellow Residents

Thank you for your kind wishes, my hand is healing nicely. I would also like to thank the emergency services for their assistance during the unfortunate incident that occurred while I was out delivering the latest leaflet for my campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste (*Tut, tut!*).

I was keen that the leaflets were delivered carefully, not creased beyond recognition or left sticking out of letterboxes. All was going well until I encountered a particularly awkward letterbox and realised my hand was stuck.

Fortunately, I was aware of the potential for injury, having delivered a health and safety briefing to members of Totterdown Improvement Group the previous week. We discussed the case of a delivery driver in Slough who lost part of his finger when a letterbox snapped back on his hand. The poor man flagged down a passer-by who called an ambulance but, despite the paramedic retrieving the fingertip and putting it in ice, doctors were unable to re-attach it.

While I was trapped, and reluctant to risk injury, Mr Broom was back at Totterdown Mansions with strict instructions to keep an eye on the rich fruit cake I was baking for the church fête. He had settled down to read the newspaper and was completely unaware of my predicament.

Although the streets of Totterdown seemed unusually empty, the police must have been alerted to my 'suspicious' activity because an officer arrived to ask why I was loitering with my hand in someone's letterbox. The officer soon realised that I was not a criminal and assistance was required from the fire brigade. This inevitably attracted a small crowd, some of whom appeared to enjoy the spectacle. (Unfortunately, the photographs in the local press do not show me at my best.)

An hour later I was safely back at Totterdown Mansions, with several grazes but my hand intact. However, the occupants of the house were not pleased when they returned to find their letterbox had been removed.

Who, you may ask, is to blame when such incidents occur? One personal injuries solicitor states: "If you sustained a hand injury delivering the post and it was not your fault, UK claims law states that it is your legal right to claim compensation from the property owner. Buildings insurance usually makes provision for third party personal injuries if the property has been entered legally."

This seems somewhat extreme and, in the spirit of conciliation, we have offered to pay for a new letterbox with the stipulation that it should not pose a threat to anyone trying to use it.

I am not alone in my concerns. Royal Mail workers are aware of awkward and dangerous letterboxes, even arguing for legislation that they should be fit for purpose. One suggestion is that people try posting letters through their own letterbox to see if there is a problem.

May I suggest, fellow residents, that you check your own letterboxes and, if they are bordering on dangerous, you replace them with something more user friendly? *Tut, tut!*

News from your local councillors

Time to get real!

Bristol, we need to change the way we generate power and deliver renewable electricity and people are more likely to make these changes and consent to them if they are informed and involved.

So, let's talk about the city leap project. This is Bristol's journey towards becoming a zero-carbon, smart energy city. It is a based on a partnership between the council and the private sector. This project was set up in 2016 and it has committed Bristol to carbon zero by 2050. It is important we continue this and speed up the process to see a carbon zero city by 2030… and under the new committee model of governance, we can make this happen.

The City Leap Programme provides the financial and strategic planning capacity required to deliver clean energy programmes at scale. Through partnerships with businesses, community groups, and co-operatives like the Bristol Energy Cooperative we can do this. We can put solar panels on all council homes, build run of river generators in our weirs and rivers, remove diesel generation and replace this with battery storage. With Western Power Distribution on our side, we can manage supply to the national grid.

Get involved! We want the people of Bristol on board supporting a carbon free future for the city.

Go to www.bristolenergy.coop to find out more on how you can invest in clean energy for Bristol. They are also looking for community groups or clubs with buildings suitable to install free solar panels to be part of their community benefit scheme.

Transport

Transport continues to be of huge concern locally,

The proposed Clean Air Zone may have adverse consequences for people living in Totterdown, possibly making the air even dirtier and making routes to the east really convoluted for some people. Whilst we support it, we would like to see plans from the Council to identify and mitigate any unintended consequences quickly. We are not confident that this will happen.

Rat running happens throughout our streets, and it is a very difficult problem to get to grips with. Despite being assured by the Mayor and his Cabinet Member for Transport that we will see some progress, no proposals have been made in tackling rat running or delivering a Liveable Neighbourhood.

Parking is a problem locally, with a lot of people telling us that our local streets are an informal Park and Ride for the City Centre and Temple Meads. Despite raising money from developers for parking controls, the Mayor stubbornly refuses to invest in it, simply too afraid of appearing anti-car.

We are really looking forward to bringing in a new Committee System (following the referendum to Scrap the Mayor) to make sure that we have better decision making, more responsive to the concerns of local people.

Councillor Lisa Stone

Events this summer…

Knowle Constitutional Club will be hosting another fabulous fundraising event on Saturday 9 July from 10.30am-6pm.

SummerLand will feature a market in the bar and snooker hall with local artists, makers and traders includng Wow Vintage and Tangent Books. A perfect opportunity to purchase some unique gifts and handcrafted items.

Sausagegenius will be setting up at the front of the Club 10.30pm-2pm and Fanny Tingle will be serving cream teas 3pm-5.30pm. The bar will be open serving Pimms and fruit cocktails as well as the usual range of beers, ciders, wines and spirits.

The event is a fundraiser for the Club, specifically to pay for one of the snooker tables to be refurbished.

Fishstock returns!

Following a two year break, the family friendly community festival will make a welcome return on Sunday 10 July on Zone A.

The event which runs from 12noon-6pm, has once again been organised and supported by Chris Reed of Farrows. There will be food, drink and entertainment throughout the day into early evening.

The 'Fishtruck' will feature fish inspired recipes created by local chef, Tim Owen of Truffled, and there will be a small bar with soft and alcoholic drinks including beer from Bristol Beer Factory. The Happy Cow, a completely vegan ice cream van which Chris launched in October 2021, will also pitch up as a break from its usual home on Narrow Quay.

Expect a chilled atmosphere including live music from some familiar local faces.

TRESA AGM 2022
Tuesday 12 July
7.30pm

Venue: ArtPark, Wells Road
- **Meet the TRESA Directors**
- **Help us to set key priorities**
- **Updates on our latest projects**
- **Get involved!**

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Your local councillors

Councillor Ed Plowden
Cllr.Ed.Plowden@bristol.gov.uk

Councillor Lisa Stone
Cllr.Lisa.Stone@bristol.gov.uk

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Tel:0117 3526155/6

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Green Councillor Group
Member Services (CH)
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