

# St. Catharines's Under Fives Playgroup gets a new outdoor play area



Jeremy Hilton cuts the ribbon to open the new improved play area at St. Catharine's Church Hall

Young children attending the under-fives playgroup at St. Catharine's Church Hall now have a new safer outdoor play area.

The facilities were funded by a £11,700 grant from the county council. Improvements include new tarmac and grass surfacing, a covered shelter and safety fencing.

Cllr. Jeremy Hilton said: "I was pleased to secure funding to help improve the outdoor play area at St. Catharine's."

"The playgroup does a wonderful job in providing learning and play activities for young children. They now have a better place to play."

Tina Gaulton, of St. Catharine's under fives, said: "The playgroup is extremely happy to have the new outside area and it has changed the way the sessions operate, making it easier to set up and put away and safer for the children to play."

Contact St. Catharine's Under Fives at: [stcatharinesunderfives@live.co.uk](mailto:stcatharinesunderfives@live.co.uk)

## Labour parliamentary candidate quits citing lack of support & bullying

Labour's parliamentary candidate at last election, Barry Kirby has said he won't stand for Gloucester again.

He cites bullying and lack of support by the local Labour Party as his reason.

Barry Kirby said on his blog:

"Through the last election there was an undercurrent, primarily of Gloucester Labour Executive Committee officers, who did all they could to distance themselves from the campaign.

"They would not campaign with the rest of the team, and would not

engage with the campaign themes."

There were two Labour teams in Gloucester, Barry's team knocking on doors and distributing leaflets and the left-wing Momentum lot, who hung around the city centre wearing Corbyn t-shirts.

## Can you help deliver *Spotlight*?

Spotlight newsletter is funded by your local councillors to keep you up to date on local issues. We already have a good team of helpers, but we could do with filling in the gaps. A round usually takes about an hour.



### Areas where we need help

- Deans Walk/Serlo Road
- Clapham Court & Alvin Street
- Sandhurst Lane/Rivermead Close
- Westfield Terrace/The Limes/Orchard Close

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Working all year round for Kingsholm & Wotton

# SPOTLIGHT

Kingsholm & Wotton ward No. 205 - Liberal Democrats working for you

## We must end anti-social behaviour at the rose garden

An action plan is being implemented

The problems of anti-social behaviour from street drinkers at the rose garden on London Road has been continuing. However, meetings have taken place between various agencies and local residents to talk through an action plan.

Cllr. Jeremy Hilton said: "The problem of street drinking at the rose garden needs resolving. Partner agencies are now working through a plan, which includes one to one contact by officials with those drinking alcohol at the rose garden.

"I am also pleased to see that one persistent offender has now been banned for three years from visiting the rose garden and the city centre.

"A criminal behaviour order was imposed on him by Cheltenham magistrates on 5<sup>th</sup> October following a conviction for theft."

The policeman, who obtained the order, said the man was a persistent offender who caused problems in the city centre fuelled by alcohol.

Kingsholm's councillors have also agreed to allocate £2,000 from the members' allocation fund to carry out physical changes to the rose garden. They have asked the city council to match fund such a project.

Cllr. Isabel Brazil added: "The rose garden is unkept and it needs some improvements that will discourage street drinkers using it to get drunk in. We will be working with local residents and the council to develop an improvement scheme."



Isabel Brazil & Jeremy Hilton at the rose garden on London Road

## Public Space Protection Orders

It has been confirmed that the city council cabinet will be considering a report in January to consult with the public on introducing public space protection orders (PSPO). The power to introduce PSPOs comes under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A PSPO is an order, which bans specific acts in a designated geographical area. The council consultation will last 12 weeks.

A PSPO related to the rose garden on London Road could be used to ban the drinking of alcohol.

"We will be investigating the introduction of a no drinking of alcohol order for the rose garden," said Isabel Brazil.

# Trouble with speeding along Sandhurst Lane

The built-up area of Sandhurst Lane suffers from speeding motorists. Parts of the road do not have footways.

The county council has recently painted white lines down edges of the road to try and help slow down traffic along Sandhurst Lane. The white lines run from the city boundary towards St Oswald's Road.

**Jeremy Hilton said:** "Funding for the white lines came from the Highways Local Fund that is allocated to the Kingsholm & Wotton county division. It cost £592 and I hope this cost-effective solution has a positive impact."

"The white lines are designed to provide an optical illusion that the road is narrower than it is and therefore, help to reduce vehicle speeds."



The new white edging along Sandhurst Lane, which it is hoped will reduce traffic speeds

## Estcourt Road saplings



Isabel Brazil has asked for the two vandalised saplings on Estcourt Road to be replaced

## New Traffic Regulation Orders proposed

A major review of traffic regulation orders is being carried out across parts of Gloucester including in Kingsholm & Wotton. The purpose is mainly to deal with parking problems.

In Kingsholm and Wotton, the following schemes are being considered and it is expected the proposals will be implemented after Christmas.

- Double yellow lines to be extended along Sherborne Street outside St. Mark's Court.
- Outside Sovereign Court in Henry Street, double yellow lines are to be extended to the boarder with number thirty-two.
- New double yellow lines to replace the existing H mark, opposite the entrance to Redcliffe College on Horton Road.

Jeremy Hilton said: "It has taken some time to get new TRO's implemented, but the council is at last trying to resolve some of the parking hotspots."

Details of new TRO's can be seen online: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tro](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tro)

## Kingsholm & Wotton action file

- The lane between Worcester Parade & Worcester Street by the chippy has been resurfaced
- Isabel is pleased to report that some tidying up has been done by the county highways "Lengthsmen" team along Royal Lane
- The council is to plant daffodil bulbs in the grass verges along stretches of Estcourt Road
- Isabel has received complaints about match day parking at Westfield Terrace and similarly Jeremy has had complaints from resident of Riversmead Close. Both issues have been passed onto county highways
- A county council highways officer has laid down some conditions to allow the Redrow housing development at the Civil Service Club Ground. The letter can be read in full online at <https://goo.gl/1gDc6g>
- Your Lib Dem councillors have received requests to introduce residents parking scheme in Oxford Road This has been passed onto the appropriate officers at Shire Hall
- Jeremy has received complaints about people pitching a tent and camping overnight at Hillfeld Gardens

## Gloucester is the fly-tipping capital of the county!



Tory run Gloucester has become the fly-tipping capital of the county with 1,626 incidents last year, this compares badly with other district councils. In Cheltenham there were only 678 incidents.

**Cllr. Jeremy Hilton said:** "It is not acceptable that our roads and open spaces are becoming rubbish dumps."

"There is no excuse for anyone to dump their rubbish down an alley or in the brook."

"We have a recycling centre at Hempsted, where all sorts of household waste can be taken free of charge. People should use it or donate bulky items to the furniture recycling centre if in good condition."

In 2012/13 there were 1,258 cases of fly tipping, which grew to 2,240 in 2015/16 according to government statistics.

**Cllr. Isabel Brazil said:** "In January the council introduced fixed penalty fines of £400 to those caught fly-tipping, but only a handful have been issued so far. The city council must do more to reduce fly-tipping."

## Time for the council to act on 67/69 London Road



The city council agreed with a Lib Dem motion to toughen up the process of dealing with properties on the council's regeneration hit-list at its meeting in September.

This means the leader of the council will have to list a number of actions for all properties on its hit-list, enabling every councillor to scrutinise more effectively outcomes from the action plan.

Number 67/69 London Road is on that list and Jeremy Hilton made reference to it in his opening speech.

**Jeremy said:** "These former office buildings have laid dormant

for too long. The council has already agreed a policy to list the land for residential use.

"Isabel and I are now following up on our motion to press for concerted action from the council. The council should consider using compulsory purchase powers to force progress."

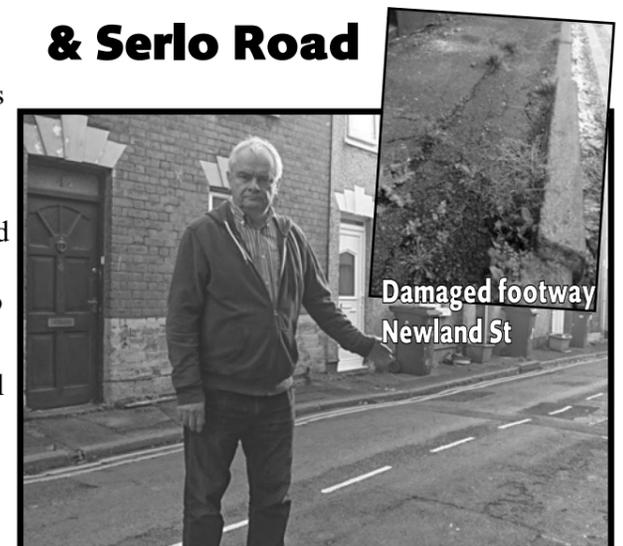
The property has recently been boarded up on the ground floor.

"There have been incidents of rough sleeping and the starting of fires at the site," said Isabel Brazil. "The council must get tough with the owners of the property."

## Footway repairs for Newland Street & Serlo Road

Jeremy Hilton has secured funding from the Highways Local Scheme to resurface the footways in Newland Street and also a footway section along Serlo Road.

The county council is also costing up repairs to the carriageway in Newland Street.



Damaged footway Newland St