

Should boozing at the rose garden be banned?

A public consultation has been launched by the city council on introducing a Public Space Protection order for the city centre, which would include the rose garden on London Road.

The consultation ends on the 2nd of April.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014 as one of the tools to improve public safety and wellbeing in a particular area.

The proposed terms of this PSPO, and the geographical area to be covered by it, are all subject to change depending on the feedback



the council receives during this consultation.

Isabel Brazil said: “A PSPO can be used to prohibit the drinking of alcohol in a defined space.

“This could be introduced for the rose garden. I would encourage residents that live nearby to complete the survey.”

Jeremy Hilton said: “The area in Kingsholm runs up London Road to Horton Road and back down Royal Lane.

“It includes the rose garden, where there has been a problem of anti-social behaviour fuelled by the consumption of alcohol. The boundary of the PSPO could be altered.”

Both Isabel and Jeremy would welcome receiving your views on PSPOs.

You can read more about a PSPO by following this link, which also includes the online survey:

<https://goo.gl/5675ev>

Neat & Tidy - North Road alley



Isabel Brazil with local resident Enrico Fatica

The overgrown hedge in the alley between North Road and Estcourt Road has been cutback thanks to the action of Isabel Brazil.

Originally, the work was to be done in October, but this was delayed.

Isabel chased Amey and now the work has been completed.

Daffodils for Estcourt Road

Two thousand bulbs were planted along the Kingsholm side of Estcourt Road at the end of October.

The funding came from the Highways Local scheme, which requires the sign-off of the local county councillor.

Jeremy Hilton said: “I hope this will brighten up the area as Spring arrives.”

SPOTLIGHT



Kingsholm & Wotton ward No. 206 - Liberal Democrats working for you

Time to sack Amey and bring the streetcare service back in-house

Liberal Democrats have called for an early end of the council’s streetcare contract with Amey PLC.

The 15-year contract is due to end on 31st March 2022 and is valued at £5.7m per year.

Amey are contracted to provide street cleaning, grounds maintenance, recycling and refuse collection services.

The call by Jeremy Hilton to end the contract early, came as councillors’ email inboxes were flooded with complaints from residents about missed bin collections over the Christmas period.

This follows on from a similar problem with bins not being collected last year due to insufficient drivers being employed by Amey. The quality of the street cleaning and grounds maintenance services is also problematic.

The streetcare service was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th January and Jeremy Hilton asked Richard Cook the cabinet member to end the contract early, but he said no.

This is worst contract I have ever seen

Previously, Richard Cook has described the contract as the worst he has ever seen.

Jeremy Hilton said: “It is time that the Tory administration took action and cancelled the contract because of poor performance.

“The sooner we reorganise the streetcare services the better. I favour serious consideration to bringing the service back in-house with the council employing and



managing staff directly rather than through a third party.”

Isabel Brazil agreed: “We have had a number of failures on the streetcare services in last 12 months, Gloucester deserves better.”

This edition of Spotlight

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- City Mission night shelter

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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

- Swan Road, Guinea Street & Worcester Parade
- Westfield Terrace, The Limes & Orchard Close
- Clapham Court & Alvin Street

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Working all year round for Kingsholm & Wotton

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a new benefit that will be administered by the Department of Work and Pensions.

The full service will go live on the 21st of February. It will be paid monthly in arrears and will include housing costs (rent).

Universal Credit supports people who are on low incomes or out of work. It brings together six benefits into a single monthly payment.

It will replace these benefits

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment & Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

Claimants will still have to claim council tax support direct from the city council.

Who can make a claim?

You may be eligible to claim Universal Credit if you

- Are a single person, couple or family
- Are over 18 years of age
- Are under state pension age
- Are not in full time education or training
- Do not have savings over £16,000
- Have 2 children or fewer
- Received UC in last 6 months but had payments stopped – it doesn't matter how many children you have.

Universal Credit Helpline

0800 328 93 44 or

www.gov.uk/universal-credit

800 homes empty in Gloucester

Nearly 800 homes in Gloucester are empty, research by the Liberal Democrats has revealed.

The figures, uncovered through Freedom of Information requests, show that there are 791 homes across the city that have been empty for six months or more.

Of these, 299 had been empty for two years or more, 95 for five years or more, and 37 have stood

empty for at least 10 years in Gloucester.

Jeremy Hilton said: "Gloucester City Council needs to do more to bring back into occupation residential properties that have been empty for a long time.

"The council does have the power to act. An empty home could be someone's new home."



Footways resurfaced

The resurfacing of a stretch of footway along Serlo Road has now been completed.

Similarly, the footways and part of the road in Newland Street has received new tarmac.

Both projects were done at the request of Jeremy Hilton.

City Mission Night Shelter



The City Mission off Great Western Road was granted planning permission to provide overnight accommodation for up to 15 rough sleepers, from 1st December until the 31st of March each year.

Isabel Brazil said: "The centre is open for overnight stays from between 8pm and 8am.

"I'm pleased to report that the centre has been providing accommodation for around 11 or 12 people a night and that the

shelter has been operating reasonably trouble free.

"Liberal Democrats very much support the provision of enough night shelter beds in Gloucester to ensure that homeless people don't need to sleep outside.

"There is a food bank onsite providing additional support for people who are struggling to make ends meet."



Art panels from the former BHS store saved!

The future of the three concrete art panels on the front of the former BHS shop in Eastgate Street has been secured.

A planning application by Reef Estates to remodel the shop front has been approved, which will include the safe removal, storage and relocation of the three concrete art panels currently on the front wall of the store.

Jeremy Hilton campaigned vigorously to save the murals.

He said: "The three concrete art panels are about 45 years old and depict the goods on sale in the shops at the time.

"This is good public art and very much of its time. It is planned that



they will be relocated to Clarence Street.

"I would also like to see an interpretation board nearby explaining how they were made including the details of the original artists.

"Similar art panels have appeared on other BHS stores around the country in towns such as Stockport and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne."

The art panels are the work of renowned artists Joyce Pallot (1912-2004) and Henry Collins (1910-1994).

Tree stumps to be removed for new trees



Your Liberal Democrat councillors have been assured that a number of tree stumps will be removed and replaced with young trees.

The tree stumps reported by Isabel & Jeremy are along Estcourt Road, Denmark Road & Oxford Road.



Kingsholm & Wotton news in brief

- There are no local elections planned to be held in 2018 as both the city and county councils are now on all out elections every four years. Next scheduled elections are; 2020 city council and 2021 county council.
- Jeremy is chairing the air pollution task group at the county council. It is expected that the group will publish its report before the summer recess.
- Isabel is working closely with the chair of Orchard Close Residents Association to help solve some local problems, which includes match day parking congestion.
- A request has been put in to speed up the planned pollarding of the London Plane tree outside 75 Denmark Road.
- Six thousand pounds has now been put aside to carry out improvements to the rose garden by Wellington Parade.
- Disappointingly, the Homes and Communities Agency are not currently interested in acquiring 67/69 London Road as a public funded housing project.