

# Lib Dems want to use compulsory purchase powers to acquire 67/69 London Road

Liberal Democrat councillors Isabel Brazil and Jeremy Hilton have issued a challenge to the Tory run city council to acquire 67/69 London Road for a housing development.



The two former office buildings on London Road have remained empty for many years and they are deteriorating and becoming eyesores within an important conservation area.

The annual meeting of the city council will debate a motion proposed by Jeremy & Isabel asking for the council to acquire the site for a housing development.

Isabel Brazil said: "The buildings are run down and can no longer be easily let.

"The draft city plan suggests at least 30 residential units could be provided on the site. The council should now buy the properties for a housing project."

The motion from Kingsholm councillors calls for compulsory purchase powers to be used if reasonable terms cannot be agreed.

Jeremy Hilton said: "The owners have failed look after the properties, we cannot allow them to continue to remain empty for year after year.

"The council must now buy them for a housing project, using some of the £80 million it set aside for such developments.

"If a negotiated purchase fails the council should use compulsory purchase powers to acquire the site."

# SPOTLIGHT

Kingsholm & Wotton ward No. 207 - Liberal Democrats working for you

## Loads of objections expected to flood in Redrow file application for 100 houses on Civil Service ground

Plans have been submitted to build 100 homes on the grounds of the former Civil Service club in Kingsholm.

Your Liberal Democrat councillors are opposed to so many properties being built on the Estcourt Road site because it will take away valuable green space for local people.

The application by Redrow Homes to Gloucester City Council is an increase of 11 properties on a previous application of 89 homes, which is yet to be determined by the planning committee.

Cllr Jeremy Hilton said the new application is in contravention of several council policies.

"The area has less public open space than the council says is necessary for the local population," said Councillor Hilton.

"This application will take away valuable green space in the heart of Kingsholm. We do need more houses, but not so many at this location.

"The council's draft city plan says the **maximum on the site should be 20**. This would leave the large field untouched and available for sport and recreation.

"Sport England raised objections to the previous application of 89 houses I imagine they will do the same for 100 dwellings."

It is expected that the council will receive many objections as it did on the previous application, added Jeremy Hilton.

Cllr Isabel Brazil said: "We need to protect the green spaces in Kingsholm. There just isn't enough locally, especially public open space.



"We are supporting plans for new housing on London Road and off Great Western Road, but the maximum permitted at Civil Service Club must be 20."

Jeremy Hilton added: "Redrow has been unable to find an alternative sports site nearby, so they are proposing as a sop to the council a cash contribution to be spent on sports fields in the south of Gloucester.

**"Kingsholm will lose out. This is unfair."**

Isabel Brazil & Jeremy Hilton are recommending that local people send in individual letters of objection, which can be also be done online at [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk)

The planning documents reference is **18/00306/FUL**

### Staff cuts blamed by Tory council for no action in two years on Estcourt Road garden



Gloucester City Council is complaining it doesn't have enough staff to maintain the public garden on Estcourt Road, near to the Kingsholm Road roundabout.

Two years ago, Isabel Brazil and Jeremy Hilton met staff on site to discuss a plan to improve the garden and to get the tree stumps removed. Nothing has happened from the Tory run city council.

You councillors have again written to the senior officer in charge of open spaces demanding action.

Isabel Brazil: "This Tory council is useless. It cannot deliver on its promises it makes to opposition councillors. This public garden needs some care and attention."

### 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
- Sandhurst Lane, Rivermead Close & Greville Close

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**Working all year round for Kingsholm & Wotton**

**Don't forget to write to the council**

# Drinking ban progresses

Jeremy Hilton has met with city council officers to give his backing to introducing a ban on the drinking of alcohol at the rose garden on London Road. The council had been carrying out a consultation on introducing a public space protection order (PSPO).



Jeremy said: "There has been a persistent problem at the rose garden of people gathering here, drinking to excess, arguing, fighting and using local residents' front gardens as a toilet. This behaviour from adults, who should know better, is

unacceptable. This is why the council should ban the drinking of alcohol at this location.

"I was very disappointed to see Labour's Kingsholm spokesperson leading a demonstration of non-residents from Stroud against introducing a PSPO."

Isabel Brazil said: "We have also secured some funds to carry out physical improvements to the rose garden, which we hope will discourage anti-social behaviour."

He has also been critical of left wing activists who arrived from Stroud to demonstrate against a PSPO. They were joined by the Labour party's Kingsholm spokesperson.

## Footway by Graham Gardens to be repaired



Isabel has asked the county council to resurface the footway on Estcourt Road in front of **Graham Gardens**. The council has agreed to do the repair in this financial year.

## Residents' parking review expected to start this year

Your Liberal Democrat councillors have been getting requests to introduce residents parking permits for Oxford Road, Edwy Parade, Newland Street and Sebert Street.

Following a meeting with county officers it has been confirmed that the county council is considering a review of the residents' permit scheme that operates in Kingsholm.

There is no easy answers to parking problems in Kingsholm says Jeremy Hilton, but he added: "It is timely that the residents' parking permit scheme is reviewed. Officers are currently securing funds to progress one in Gloucester. The process will take at least a year to carry out."

Isabel Brazil: "I would encourage local residents to write to us about how they think the Kingsholm residents' parking permit scheme could be improved."

## Kingsholm & Wotton news in brief

- The road surface on **St Oswald's Road**, the Wotton Pitch section of **Cheltenham Road** and part of **Horton Road** is breaking up. Jeremy has asked the county council to resurface these roads.
- The miserly Tory controlled city council has cut back on its community grants, with just £1,000 allocated to Kingsholm & Wotton this year, it was £2,000 last year and £4,000 the year before.
- New traffic regulations for **Horton Road**, **Henry Street** and **Sherborne Street** have now been finalised by the county council. The yellow lines will be put down once the contractor has been hired.
- The county council is to send a team in to tidy up the full length of **Royal Lane** and the alley running from **Deans Walk** to **Edwy Parade**. They will also do same along the rural section of Sandhurst Lane to the bypass bridge.
- Jeremy Hilton has met Gloucester City Homes to discuss their lettings policy.
- Your Lib Dem councillors are continuing to work with the county council over the maintenance and planting of trees on highway land.

## Tory plans to scrap deep cleans is challenged



Earlier this year the Tories made a decision to scrap deep cleans without consulting ward councillors or their project partners. The county council need the roads clear of parked cars to clean the gullies.

Deep cleans are used in four wards in Gloucester where there are roads with no off-street parking. Kingsholm & Wotton is one of the wards that benefited from deep cleans.

Jeremy Hilton said: "We have challenged this decision by the Tory cabinet member. Now the scrutiny committee is to investigate. Officers and cabinet members are going to be questioned in an open forum about how the council cleans the older parts of the city like Kingsholm."



Isabel Brazil agreed: "It is disgraceful that the Tories scrapped deep cleans without consulting ward councillors. We are always willing to discuss ways of improving street cleaning, but scrapping the scheme without consultation is just not on."

## 31 new homes planned at Sherborne House



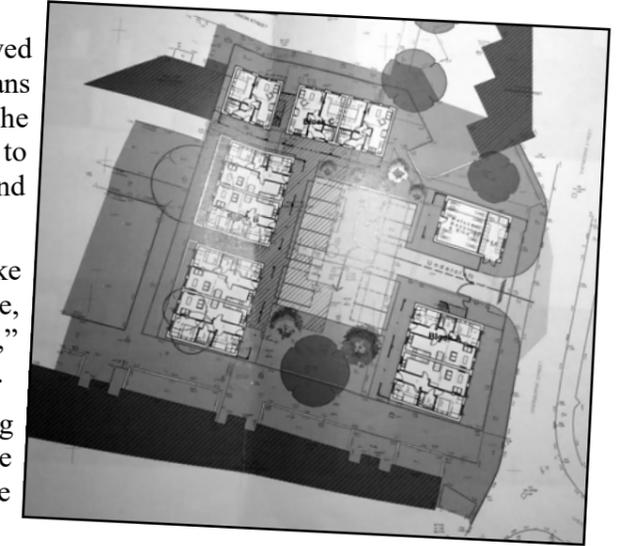
Gloucester City Homes intends to redevelop Sherborne House. The current housing facilities here no longer meet modern decent homes requirements. Already many of the units are unoccupied.

The plan is to bulldoze the current site and build 31 apartments in a new layout. Some apartments will have one bedroom and others two bedrooms.

Spotlight has received draft copy of the plans and we publish the front elevation to Sherborne Street and the layout plan.

"This does look like a very good scheme, which we welcome," said Jeremy Hilton.

The plans are being prepared for the planning committee to determine.



## Take care putting rubbish out

This photograph shows the mess that was left when a household in multiply occupation used black plastic bags to put their rubbish out.

There was no attempt to recycle the waste. The seagulls got to the bags and the refuse was all over the street. We don't want this happening in Kingsholm & Wotton.

There is no need to use thin black plastic bags. The council provides a free black wheelie bin for residual waste, a food caddy for food waste, a blue bag for cardboard waste and a green box for paper, tins, glass, plastic etc for recycling.

Find out more: [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk)

