

THE BRISTOLIAN

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Just when you thought that the city council's social services shambles couldn't get any worse... It does!

COUNCIL HIRES PARROT TO RUN SOCIAL SERVICES

In the light of their £10million overspend and slashing of elderly day-care and meals on wheels, Chief Executive **BARROW GURNEY** has hired a **PARROT** to sort out the mess.

In a secret memo to councillors on December 30 Barrow Gurney writes, "In the light of the significant overspend in the social services and housing budget and the growing service pressure on the department, the Council has engaged **MR BRIAN PARROT**, an independent consultant, to provide an appraisal of the council's developing plans."

This will be the same kind of 'consultant' no doubt, who the weak and ineffectual Barrow Gurney employed on £400 an hour to knock the parties heads together. Parrot is a Director of 'VERITA- THE INQUIRY CONSULTANCY' who doubtless command the kind of fee that would keep meals on wheels running for half the year!

Yet again the exorbitantly priced consultant wonks take us to the cleaners whilst pensioners go hungry. Barrow Gurney gushes on, "Brian will be working here 2 or 3 days a week."

EXCLUSIVE

Heaven help us... Just turn up when he feels like it will he? And what about **BILL MCKITTERICK** head of social services - isn't this the bloody job he's already handsomely paid to do? And his highly paid army of policy wonks?

Gurney continues, "He will report to a steering group made up of Carew Reynell, Bill McKitterick and myself." Yes folks... The very incompetent who caused this shambles - **MCKITTERICK** - will now be on the steering group to deal with Parrot's report!

Who did Barrow Gurney consult when he dreamt up this wheeze over his port and Stilton at Xmas? Did he conspire to bury the bad news with **SICKBOY MOSS** and **HOPELESS HAMMOND**? We pay a Director of Social services handsomely to do his job then shell out for someone else to show him how to do it!

Sick as a parrot or wot?

EXPOSED WONKS: THE COST

After a long wait, senior council officers have finally revealed to councillors on the **Public Accounts Committee** how much they are paying consultants to do their jobs for them.

In the year 2003-2004 a whopping **£6 million** of council tax payers money was paid to a variety of unaccountable wonks to support senior officers, some of whom we pay more than £100,000 a year already.

Just what do high-earners **Barrow Gurney**, **Carew "Diculous" Reynell**, **McTwaterprick** and education boss **Heather "Ahoy There!" Tomlinson** do for their huge pay packets... Apart from employ wonks to sort out the mess they create?

Amongst those with their snouts in the

council trough are the ultra-Blairite **Tribal Group**, whose turnover has gone from nothing to a cool **£185m** since New Labour's victory in 1997 - and all from the public purse! Tribal also own **HACAS Hedy Chapman**, the New Labour donors brought in to privatise our council housing for a fat fee.

Other winners at our expense include ubiquitous civil engineers **Ove Arup**, PFI experts **The Arts Business** and a hatful of lawyers and architects.

The £6m forked out to these wonks would be enough to run at least 20 elderly day-care centres for a year (or the 3 they're closing for seven years).

What a money wasting disgrace.

999 HORROR

The fiasco that is leadership at the **AVON AMBULANCE SERVICE** continues. Less than a month ago union stewards went in desperation to the **Strategic Health Authority** to discuss **13** different major issues that they had been trying to resolve for over a year with the service's Chief Exec Kevin "**BOSS HOG**" Hogarty.

One of these was the issue of £250,000 worth of ambulances sat in storage for a year because no crews would use them (as reported in *The Pisspoor* and on telly).

And when will the service confirm the facts known to staff who work in their control centre that the cyclist who died last year after waiting over an hour for an ambulance could have been saved by any of the rapid response vehicles (RRV's) that were sat idle at the time of the call, as they were only being used 20% of the time during a shift?

Unfortunately the service was so keen to manipulate their response targets, **Boss Hogarty** had issued an order a couple of weeks earlier that RRV's should not be sent to any emergencies that weren't Category A... Even if an ambulance wasn't available.

Until this order, if no ambulance was available within 15 minutes of a 999 call then an RRV would be sent to help.

Following the union's visit, in an attempt to mediate (ie. drag pompous Boss Hogarty to the table), the Strategic Health Authority asked for one of its Directors, **Martin Harker**, to step in as Acting Chairman of Avon Ambulance until October 2005.

Now we hear a new Chairman has been found instead. None other than **Mr Louis Victory**. Mr Victory is infamous in Cumbria where he resigned as County Council Chief Exec before being pushed following a slamming by the Audit Commission.

During his reign of incompetence he managed to award himself a huge pay rise (twice!!) telling critics, "I'm worth it," and land himself a colossal (but secret) pay off when he had to go. His exit was so controversial that questions were asked in the house!

Up in Cumbria Mr Victory's name is mud (not surprisingly!). What a perfect choice then to put into an organisation that has a long and lousy history of poor leadership and a management team renowned for their arrogance and pomposity. Mr Victory should go down a treat with his new cronies at Avon Ambulance Service.

GOD SPOKE TO ME: PRIEST'S ANTHEA SHOCKER!

Redfield Parish Priest the REV GREGORY GRANT has turned himself into one of the city's leading property developers.

After first constructing and running several luxury nursing homes he went on to be a founder of the Redfield based PG GROUP who are currently developing the OLD POLICE STATION site on Bedminster Parade as well as other lucrative schemes in Bristol.

The Rev Grant quotes extensively from The Gospel of Matthew and from the 'Second Vatican Council on the Church in the Modern world' to explain his dealings with Mammon.

God recently told the Rev Gregory to flog 72 APARTMENTS - worth over £10 million - on his Bemmie development to Z-list celebrity couple GRANT BOVEY and ANTHEA TURNER.

Nice of God to take time out from such problems as world famine to have a word in Gregory's ear.

He presumably added, "Don't build any affordable homes for the Bemmies," as Bovey's company IMAGINE HOMES specialise in selling on homes to investors at a guaranteed profit.

DEMOLITION HORROR

Local wannabe celebrity architect, George "I'll do anything to get on telly" Ferguson has a new bandwagon. The President of RIBA has given his backing to Channel 4's daft new show, *Demolition*.

Selected by architects like Ferguson who built them originally, the show will identify "vile" buildings. Then the public can vote to have one demolished! Channel 4 promises, "The final night will see a spectacular celebratory demolition of one of the nation's nastiest eyesores."

But fear not. This isn't a cheap idea to grab viewers and get Ferguson's red trousers on telly. No, Bristol University educated Ferguson explains, "Vile buildings are an affront to our senses." Not unlike the affront of demolishing buildings worth a fortune and barely 30 years old, presumably.

The crazed architect, from his Tobacco Factory penthouse clears up any remaining confusion, "Demolition is about planning for a better future," he says.

It'll certainly be a better future for the architects who will get paid monstrous sums to redevelop these sites again...

SKETCHY NEW YEAR!!!

Judging by the state of various major developments earmarked for the city, Kelly the Clown and his Queens Square culture-wallahs better dub 2005 "BRISTOL'S YEAR OF THE ARTISTS IMPRESSION (AGAIN)".

Starting with the Broadmead development, we find a host of boarded-up shops, some terrific sketches of what could be, plenty of hot-air and promises from Broadmead Fuhrer Hirst but no private sector partner as Marks and Spencer follow Selfridges, Harvey Nic's and every other major retailer in the country by saying no thanks. Consequently the completion date for 2008 is now officially pie-in-the-sky and serious doubts are now being cast as to whether the car-friendly monolith will ever see the light of day.

Over in south Bristol we find a couple of deputy party leaders getting their knickers in a twist over swimming pools. This is all that is likely to happen too in terms of the Hengrove Park development, site of the promised South Bristol Hospital and some leisure facilities.

Lib Dem Deputy Leader Gary Hopkins continues to witter on about "fun pools", whilst Labour Deputy Leader HRH Helen of Holland - formally tasked with wearing boss and friend Prawn Dimarolo's knickers to avoid any unsavoury political fall-out this side of a general election - is all in favour of an "Olympic" pool.

This argument is in fact an Olympic-sized smoke-screen for the fact that there is a £26m funding deficit for the scheme. Expect this next year to almost entirely consist of the two parties blaming each other for the fiasco and for the land to be quietly shifted on to private developers at a later date after the general election.

Up in Hartcliffe, meanwhile, the promised Morrisons superstore for Symes Avenue is no nearer happening. Reasons for this are suitably vague from partners the SWRDA and the city council, although land-owners Andrew "Pissoff" Perloff's Panther Securities continue to voiciferously demand their pound of flesh... And will probably get it. The chances of anything, other than a lengthy public enquiry, happening in the next year have been described as "low to nil".

SWRDA and the council's "job creation for Hartcliffe" PR puff on the development has also taken a bit of a battering since the appearance of a weblog (<http://morrison-employee.blogspot.com>). Daily, in gory detail, a poor member of Morrisons' underpaid, overworked staff reveals a bullying and

blundering management playing fast and loose with employment law and the Human Rights Act... Clearly a suitable partner for the city council then!

Elsewhere in Hartcliffe, an obsession with building community centres will probably continue unchecked with no less than 3 proposed in 2004. Demand for white elephants seems to be on the increase in Knowle West too.

After years of inaction over the run-down and depressing Filwood Broadway, the SWRDA finally formed a "task group" of voluntary sector dead-beats and hangers-on and immediately cut the budget! The consequent "scoping study" then decided that massive investment and rejuvenation was not required and all that was really needed was another, er, community centre for the area. It's debateable if even this will happen.

Back in the Centre, one of the few developments on track is the controversial Canons Marsh scheme. However, there's been a few minor changes. For instance, the promised 20% affordable housing target was quietly dropped in December by the council's planners. This is because it cost developers Crest Nicholson a lot of money to decontaminate the land they agreed to decontaminate and so this cost is naturally passed from the super rich developers to the poorest people in the city. We also find that Crest has decided to up the number of apartments for private sale which should increase their profits considerably...

Of the other major developments, the Colston Hall plans have produced some colourful sketches but, as yet, no funding. The proposed Industrial Museum revamp has been handed to painfully trendy Lab Architects, the kind of West London wankers who call themselves "a Laboratory of architectural speculation... who believe that the social dimension of space lies in its ability to be materialised and conceptualised by means of new and evermore speculative spatial orderings" - so fuck knows what we'll end up with on the docks. Meanwhile another set of crazed architects - Atkins Walters Webster - are promising that the Bristol and West tower on the Centre will be "disappearing into the sky" very soon.

And that just leaves the notorious Arena project, which we are assured is bang on target. But don't forget the two partners involved are Bristol City Council and SWRDA who are pretty much responsible for every other development fiasco in the city... So it's Happy New Year Bristol - out with old and in with the sketches!

It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Portishead based company DYNAMIC PROCESSING SOLUTIONS have won a lucrative contract to develop new oil wells in Northern Iraq.

The Company's Chief Exec has also spent time and money recently currying favour with the Bristol-China Partnership - hosting posh receptions in Wraxall for visiting worthies and Labour councillors with an eye for the hospitality trough - expect further good news for the company from Shanghai shortly.

Man O' the Peep'Ole
He Knows You Know!

Gormless social services slasher "Sickboy" Moss doesn't seem to be quite sure why he's scrapped daycare and meals-on-wheels services for the elderly.

After Sperm Count Lowe told him in a brutal *Pissoor* editorial to "hang his miserable head in shame," Moss replied the cuts were due to government policy not his cost-cutting.

The new excuse dreamt up over the Christmas sherry was only slightly ruined on the following day when Moss was featured in yet another article in the *Pissoor* asking what people wished for in the new year.

Moss replied, "If anyone could come up with a pain-free way of solving the social services £10m budget overspend crisis, I would be well-pleased."

Oh dear. No mention of vital public service modernisation there then? No doubt Moss the Blairite will regularly appear as the election looms...

PACKERS FIELD: A SPECIAL REPORT

Free Space and the Academy Culture

by An Easton Cowboy

What is their evil plan?

I've been playing Sunday football in local leagues for clubs in East Bristol for more than 15 years. In that time more and more free space that amateur teams use to train and play has been sold off to property developers or for "sports development" such as the City Academy is involved in.

You can reel off a list, the DRG ground (St Johns Lane), Golden Hill (Horfield), Cabot Pitch (St. Pauls), threats to the Imperial Ground (Knowle), Monks Park and Hengrove and now even the Bristol & West ground (Avon Gorge). The latest place to be targeted for "sports development" is Packers Field in Whitehall.

On paper it looks great... "State of the art sports facilities for the community and our school kids" and £1.2 m of funding. But what is our experience as a local football team of this "sports development"?

Firstly, we have been using Packers for years to train on for free. This means a lot to us as an amateur team. For example, we were excited about the new sports facilities at the City Academy. But if you are lucky and get a time slot in the evening (all the other "elite" Bristol City youth teams get priority of course, as well as all the teams who have done a deal with St. George), the hire of the pitch for 1 hour costs £100!

We can't afford that and it is sickening that we have to pay twice. First we pay our taxes and Community Charge to subsidise these developments and then we have to pay a bunch of businessmen like the City Academy (Bristol City F.C., UWE, etc.) a ridiculous amount of money to kick a ball about.

My football team started in 1987 playing for free on the Cabot pitch in St. Pauls. This has now gone as a free play space. OK, we've got the St. Pauls Academy but we have to pay for it. The team would never have started unless we had the chance to play for as long as we wanted for free without fences, security guards and bells going off.

Then we moved to Baptist Mills (another free space - if you climbed over the fence!) and joined the league in 1992. We now have 8 sports teams covering football, cricket and netball. Free spaces to play sport are important for the community and vital for the health of amateur sport. Without them we would never have created the amateur sports club we have today.

There is a pattern to all this "development" of green space. The interest in all these playing fields and recreation grounds by "nice business men who care about sport and the community" has been going on for a few years now.

It's obvious why. Parks are legally well-protected public spaces. Then come the playing fields and recreation grounds. Least protected are the sports fields connected with factories (like DRG, Imperial, Frys etc.).

Let's imagine you are a big property speculator (Yes. I know it's a sick thought). You want to build on or make money out of land in the city but it is too expensive to get hold of large areas of free space. So what do you look for? **Large open spaces that aren't making any money through rent or having businesses on them.**

Then you have the problem of the people who are using them and the legal issues. So you head for the easiest targets, the factory sports grounds, especially where the company is closing or in trouble and wants to sell them off.

You might buy them up and say, "sport will continue there of course". Then you let the facilities run down. You let vandals run amok (they might even burn the buildings down [Imperial]) and slowly the factory teams fold due to lack of support or leave because the pitches and changing rooms are so bad.

Eventually there is no one left and then you can make your application for planning permission saying that no one uses the facilities except a few people who let their dogs shit there. What's the problem with building there? You get your application through and BINGO!...you are about to develop a huge tract of real estate slap bang in the city.

After you have had a go at the factory sports grounds then you head for the playing fields and recreation grounds. This is a bit trickier - you might not be able to build houses on these. But you can still make money out of the huge grants to build sports centres by securing the construction contracts and running the facilities as businesses afterwards.

How to deal with the opposition

The only problem if you are one of these property developer parasites is the opposition of the local community. They can cause trouble for you. If they do then there are several tactics you can try.

- First try to keep what you are doing quiet. If you can't do this make it legally complicated.

- Try to confuse the community with propaganda about how great everything will be for the community.

- If they don't buy this then spread rumours about protesters being "selfish", "only (Continued Over the page)

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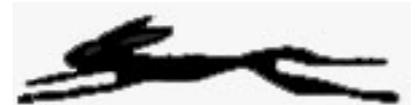
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Free Space and the Academy Culture

(Continued from page 3)

Academy culture

interested in their house prices”, “standing in the way of progress” or “wanting the green space for their dogs to shit on”.

- If you are doing a joint project with the local council use them to give an air of respectability to the plan (Cllr. Robin Moss). Intimidate local school kids to support you (Ray Priest your wanker).

- Try to buy off the opposition by offering them access to a sports facility (remember Golden Hill?) - the suckers won't realise they'll be paying you money to use it!

- Divide the community by offering concessions to local sports teams (Old Georgians, Pak Bristolians Cricket Club take note) you can always kick them out after the place is built.

We have seen all these tactics used by developers in the past and now they are using them to deal with the opposition to Packers.

If they develop Packers, not only will the local community lose a free green space for the kids to play on and local teams to use but we will have to pay loads of money **IF** we get the chance to use it.

Lets get this straight. The City Academy is not about developing sport for all the community, it's about making money and developing sport for the few.

How do they make their money?

So how do these “nice businessmen who care about the community” make money out of this? Firstly they are cashing in big government grants for sport that are available due to things like the Olympic bid.

Whenever there is big money like this around you will find moneymen trying to get their fingers in the pie. They will be doing deals in the council and with the Trusts that own the prime sites to get a chance to develop them.

They can't understand places like Packers that just benefit the local community and don't make any money. All they see is a piece of land that could be earning whether it is as a sports centre or yuppie flats.

Then there is the pay off. Bristol City F.C. is a business like all professional football clubs. They aren't developing football locally because they are nice or just love the game!

They are involved in the City Academy because if they cream off the best of the local talent (the elite youth footballers) they might find a handful of professional footballers worth millions.

Whatever they might say in their glossy adverts and in the “Sport for All” bullshit this is the truth and anyone who knows about the game nowadays knows that this is the bottom line.

They are not interested in amateurs playing the game like you and me. They don't care if we can't afford it because we aren't worth anything to them. We just get in the way of their plans for the elite players.

Here is the “Academy Culture” the Labour Party wants to encourage. Turning our free green spaces into expensive sports grounds surrounded with 8 foot fences, cameras and swipe cards whose sole purpose is to cream off “elite youth” for the sports businessmen.

What makes it even sicker is that politicians are always going on about how “kids today are stuck in front of Playstations and are obese” whilst taking away the places where kids play!

They also say that organised sport is good for dealing with youth violence and crime. Well it would be if they bothered to put money into supporting the local volunteers who spend time setting up local teams and youth football for everyone.

Ask teachers and they will say that because of their huge workload they don't have the energy (and don't get paid) for after-school sports teams. It's left to unpaid local people to do it because they love the great game.

What we really need

If the council bothered to ask us, they would find out what we really want.

What do local amateur sports teams need?

They need cheap (preferably free) local sports pitches and places to train that are nearby and involve all the community, not just the chosen “elite”.

What do the kids need?

They need safe green places to play freely.

What do the youth need?

They need support to encourage them to get involved in organised sport on a local level AND free places for them to do what they want (hangout, snog or whatever they get up to).

What does the community need?

It needs green spaces with trees and wild gardens to walk, sunbathe, take the kids etc.

What we don't need is multi-million pound projects that benefit the businessmen, their council cronies and a few lucky youth superstars.

If they want to build expensive temples to professional sport go and build them on a factory brown field site and stay off our free spaces.

Lets make a stand at Packers and stop these bastards having their way.

For further information on the campaign to save Packers Field contact dodger@ira-tional.org or write to Packers Field, 11 Whitehall Gardens, Whitehall, Bristol.

100

Forward Ever - Backward Never!

Soooo... dear readers ... the great little paper that brought you the thrills and spills of **Knowle West Cops Sex Orgy** exposed **Astleygate** got rid of three council leaders - **Babs, Bonkers and Greedy** - and famously headlined **'WANKFACE MCNULTY SENSATION'** has staggered to its 100th birthday!

For those of you who missed our earlier issues you can check them out at www.bristolianfreeservers.com. We'd like to thank all those Bristolians who have helped us write and distribute the paper and to those of you who give us £1 or 50p every week. as well as all those who have donated us more money.

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