

Statement by Cllr Caroline Roberts to Cabinet 04-Feb-09

Caroline Roberts:

This budget is for me a bitter disappointment in terms of the lack of extra resources for street cleaning both in Bath city centre and the outer areas of Bath and the rest of the Authority. Especially as we have been given assurances both in public and in private that extra was to be made available in this budget.

The Liberal Democrats have listened to the wishes of the public and propose an increase of £500k for street cleaning. This will double the budget for street cleaning to £1M.

The electorate are not stupid and are not impressed by the Council tax rise of “only” 3.5% proposed by the administration. They know that this will be put away as an election fighting fund for the Conservatives.

Furthermore, the extra money needed for cleaning could be found if the Council had not spent £115,000 on promoting a project that they are going to go ahead with anyway despite public opposition. Or they could have funded proper research into the alternative routes for the BRT.

Kitchen waste collections: Lib Dem plans from before the last election made provision for kitchen waste to start in 08/09, this has been put off until 11/12 by Conservatives. Our proposals save a year.

Despite Conservative election promises they have failed to introduce same day collections and recycling rates have flatlined.

The Liberal Democrats believe that it would be twice the disruption to collection services if same day collection were introduced in one year and food waste at a different time.

The Council should look at concentrating more on cycling, pedestrians and twenty mph limits, within existing budgets.

Residents don't want propaganda and political games what they want is for the Council to listen to their concerns, including clean streets and adequate gritting, all year every year (not just at election time)!