



BS3 beyond 2025

Economic Impact with Bristol South MP Karin Smyth

Our retail streets are likely to be positively impacted by the increase in spending power, but what about other aspects of business & employment?

Saturday 20 May 2023, 10am - 11.30am
St Francis Church, North Street

The watchword is 'change'

Discussion Points:

- South Bristol hasn't had a fair share of support from central government for housing and jobs
- The local authority isn't doing enough: we are going to have build high and dense
- Bristol is the second most expensive UK city to live in with 17000 on the waiting list for housing and a growing population. We need to build more and better.
- Businesses have a shortage of staff and skills
- Training, re-training and apprenticeships are vital: skills for the future
- With an increase in population we will need better leisure facilities and more parks
- We must recognise climate change as a major factor
- Need more Government funding for secure housing
- Need more GPs and NHS dentists

Issues raised:

- Cash capital prevents local residents from obtaining a property
- Private rental = developers retain tenancy
- Older residents need reasonable cheap housing as they can't afford care homes and don't all have surplus income
- Medical services are already overwhelmed
- There's a need for female only social housing
- Young families need to get on the housing ladder
- What's classed as affordable isn't always affordable

- There's a rumor that Bedminster Green has only 1% affordable
- 1200 students are coming: which Uni? Who will be responsible for them?
- Council housing has the lowest rent and the most secure tenancy
- Housing associations are good
- Community groups can and do make a difference
- The construction industry provide cyclical employment
- Where will locals park their cars?
- Cllr Townsend is asking for Southville to be made a low car zone

Ben Barker

The housing market is broken: most centralised Government system in Europe

George Ferguson

- If decisions are left to planners we will just get residential blocks
- It will be 'flats, flats, flats' and 'students, students, students'
- Student accommodation is very profitable - rents are higher and no rent controls
- Students are Council tax exempt
- The community must be central to the planning process= 'interference' by the community is a good thing

Finally: let's also consider the positives and opportunities.....