

the **Rose**

Autumn 2007

News from the Labour Party in Bristol West

A New Candidate for the Heart of Bristol



Paul Smith - Bristolian, environmentalist, and housing professional has been chosen by LABOUR to fight Bristol West.

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LABOUR - on your side

Paul Smith - a former councillor - has



Paul currently works here as Chief Executive of the Furniture Re-use Network the national umbrella group for organisations like SOFA, Emmaus and SPACE, all based in the constituency.

Paul set up and chaired the Broadmead Board from 1994-1999. The Board spearheaded the improvement of Broadmead to maintain this key focus of jobs and services which was under threat from the newly opening Cribbs Causeway out of town shopping centre.



Paul convened the group that put together the housing part of the successful New Deal for Communities Bid which has brought £50million of investment into Barton Hill.

Paul was a committee member of East Bristol Youth Housing in the late 1980s and was also a founder member of Priority Youth Housing. Paul also worked with residents of Bloy Street on the demolition and rebuilding of the street.



Paul introduced a museum in 1998, c

This later ad

s a record of achievement in Bristol



Paul's first job in the homelessness and special needs housing sector was based in a hostel in Kingsdown.



Paul agreed the use of the Brooke Bond building to be used for artist space after visit to their previous site at McArthur's Warehouse. Paul's mum was a canteen worker here when he was a child.

roduced free ns to Bristol doubling the attendance. s policy was opted by the Government.

Paul managed the National Housing Federation office here in the mid to late 1990s.



Bristol West a new constituency at the heart of Bristol

The boundaries of Bristol West will alter dramatically at the next general election making it genuinely the heart of Bristol. It will contain the most diverse electorate in the south west stretching from Kellaway Avenue to the Cumberland Basin and from the Downs to Barton Hill.

The new constituency will include Broadmead, the Gloucester Road, St Marks Road and Clifton Down shopping areas. The area is joined by the Severn Beach railway line (from which the Liberal Democrats tried to remove the subsidy) and divided by the M32.

It contains a rich mix of cultural activity including the Watershed, Kuumba, the Old Vic, St George's Hall, the Architecture Centre, the SS Great Britain and the Arnolfini. Bristol's Central Library, once under threat of closure from the Liberal Democrats, is one of many listed buildings. The area also boasts one of the country's top universities, a major hospital complex (including St Michael's where Paul's children were born) and the historic City Docks.

"Bristol West is a regional centre for work, rest, play and education. It is the focal point for commerce and cultural activity well beyond Bristol's boundaries. As someone who grew up on a council estate on the edge of the City it would be an enormous privilege to represent its diverse population," says Paul Smith.

Priorities for Bristol West

Paul Smith



As someone from one of the poorest and most remote estates of Bristol, Hartcliffe, it is an enormous privilege to be chosen to stand for the seat covering the heart of the city in the next general election.

I came into politics as a community activist, joining the party in 1982 when I was running the youth council for South Bristol and campaigning on youth unemployment and homelessness. After completing a degree in Astrophysics from Newcastle University I returned to Bristol and got involved again in issues around homelessness. I was a founder member of Priority Youth Housing and started a career working in the fields of special needs housing and the provision of affordable housing in the city.

For me, Bristol's housing crisis is still a key issue. It is one that affects all levels of our community. The right to buy has reduced the amount of social housing for rent for those in greatest need, house price inflation has made Bristol one of the most difficult places for people to buy their first home and the growth of the universities has put enormous pressure on the supply of private rented accommodation.

These days many politicians claim to be concerned about climate change and the environment. It is seen as a vote winner and their involvement is purely cynical. When I returned to Bristol in 1987 I joined Friends of the Earth and got involved in their campaign against a new power station at Hinkley Point. As Bristol's youngest ever committee chair in 1990 I introduced the council's green charter, one of the first of its kind in the country. It covered the whole range of council environmental impact; energy, waste and recycling, transport and the natural environment. Now I have returned to the environmental field as Chief Executive of a national environmental charity, the Furniture Reuse Network and also as a board member of the Bristol based Community Recycling Network. At the national level I am part of a broad coalition of third sector bodies promoting all aspects of sustainable development.

Over the years I have made it my aim not just to talk about the issues I care passionately about but to do something about them. My professional background in two of the main issues facing this constituency gives me a solid foundation to build upon as a proactive member of Parliament.

Over the coming months I want to find out what you think is important for this area and what you expect from your representative. Please don't hesitate to contact me and give me your opinions.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Get involved - keep in touch

- I'm supporting Paul Smith
- I can deliver leaflets
- I can talk to voters for Labour
- I would like to make a donation
- I would like to join the Labour Party

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Four ways to contact Paul Smith

Write to:
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LABOUR - on your side

Data collected may be used in the future by your local Labour team only. If you do not want to be contacted in the future please write to: DATA PROTECTION Labour South West, 1 Newfoundland Court, Newfoundland Street, Bristol BS2 9AP