

Brentford & Boston Manor

Green News

September 2021

'Enough is enough' says Stephen Clark the Green party candidate for Brentford West.' 'Ever since I have lived here Brentford has been a victim of planning blight and constant redevelopment.

There has been an utter disregard for the people living through this.

The south side of the High Street alone has seen the demolition of our post office, a bank, a cycle shop, a barbers, a mini supermarket and several restaurants. Many other useable buildings have or will be lost if this continues'.



South of the High Street - Redeveloped



North West of High Street - Refurbished

But there are alternatives - let's refurbish or build small

Where homes need to have their heating and insulation upgraded to address the climate emergency, refurbishment should be the preferred option.

 High rise apartments with steel and concrete frames have double the built in/ embodied carbon emissions per floor area of a typical Brentford home.

- It is unlikely that high rise concrete/steel buildings can ever be built with acceptable carbon emissions. We should be building lower – from three to six floors - with sustainable timber frames.
- An emissions audit, including embodied carbon, must be part of comparing the options before any redevelopment.
- Build on a human scale with the future of the planet in mind.

Stephen Clark says, 'The Labour Council should come clean on whether their building policy is consistent with their commitment to a zero carbon borough by 2030.'

What's happening on the ground?

The Green Party welcomes the Council's intention to add new family homes in the unused space on the first floors of the Brentford Towers.

The council is also planning to redevelop Charlton House in Albany Road. Depending on future rents, this is good news for current tenants who will be rehoused in the new block and it will also deliver 200 new homes.

But it could contribute around 14kt of CO2 to Hounslow Council's carbon footprint.

As the Council is aiming to reduce its annual footprint of 50kt of CO2e to zero by 2030, this is significant for one development. The Council should come clean on their carbon budget. Brentford Greens keep a keen eye on what's coming down the line. Stephen Clark has been talking to tenants on the north side of the High Street who say they have been given 5 years notice to quit. Does this mean further loss of shops and facilities? Or, finally, could this be an imaginative refurbishment in scale with the area?



No more eyesores, let's refurbish the north side of the High Street

Stephen Clark says, 'We need a local approach to building':

- Refurbish where possible.
- Build low with timber frames.
- For social housing the

Council should stick to their policy of bringing empty homes into use and refurbishing existing buildings.

• Developers must minimise the carbon footprint for use



and construction before planning approval.

 Developments not meeting these standards just shouldn't go ahead.

If you share Stephen Clark's concern for our local environment, nature, our green spaces, addressing climate change, transport improvements, energy conservation, tackling poverty and improving animal welfare (farm animals, animals in sport, wildlife and pets) then consider joining us in the Green Party.

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