

Damien Smith - why run for council?

Why run for council? To serve the community, to contribute to the decisions that enable, in some small way, for us and our kids to live their best lives.

In my previous council campaign, I proposed an evidence-based kids sport programme which has been shown to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Knowing the benefits of sport, when my eldest daughter asked if she could learn to sail like Daddy, I did not let the opportunity pass by.

Our experience has been awesome. We bought a 40-year-old 14 foot sailing dinghy and went racing. The first few months were crash or crash through, sometimes doing well, learning skills new and old or sometimes the old boat fell to pieces. We've won the club championship and I've taken on volunteer roles at our sailing club. My daughter and I are going to compete at a world championship and best of all my daughter loves sailing with her Dad.

I want everyone to thrive and find the same joy my family and I get from life. The role of anyone on council is to help make decisions that as Aristotle put it 2500 years ago "...enable citizens in their households and kinships to live well".

The issues affecting East Ward residents remain the same and remain unaddressed, local roads in Redcliffe are no longer 'local' and safety must be improved. We have been promised Belvidere St. precinct upgrades for years and nothing has changed. DA6 residents deserve the best deal without waiting in limbo on re-zoning. The stables need economic sustainability.

To make positive change on these issues ordinary people must step up and engage in the messy business of politics. Almost all of us should be exercising our civic duty to vote. For some of us making positive change means taking our turn to lead.

I'm stepping up and I ask for your support.

Damien Smith