



**Smoked out:** Filton Town Council chair Roger Hutchinson, chair of finance Diane Hutchinson and daughter Sophie, chair of staffing Andy Hewlett, town clerk Lesley Reuben, easy breathing co-ordinator for South Gloucestershire Council Lorraine Green and steward John Beese at the Ratepayers' Arms

## No butts! Smoking's banned by Ratepayers' Arms

A POPULAR pub in Filton has become the first to ban smoking in South Gloucestershire.

The Ratepayers' Arms, which is based at the town's leisure centre, asked its customers to stub out their cigarettes for good. It is the first licensed premises in the district that

will have taken the step to go smoke-free on a permanent basis.

It is doing so ahead of new legislation which comes into force next year banning smoking in all workplaces and public places, including bars and pubs.

The Ratepayers' Arms is owned by

Filton Town Council. The council's chair of finance Diane Hutchinson said the pub had not seen a drop in trade since the ban. She said: "People have been saying the atmosphere in there has been really nice and fresh since the ban."

South Gloucestershire Council

easy breathing co-ordinator Lorraine Green said: "This is wonderful news for the people of Filton, who will be able to enjoy their drink and meal in a smoke-free environment. It is also great news for bar staff as more than 700 people die each year from the effects of second-hand smoke."

EP 5-4-06