

Focus on Swalwell

Issue 154
Winter
2021

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Looking Ahead to 2021



2020 was a challenging year and one we won't easily forget, so let's hope 2021 is better than last year.

At last, we can see light at the end of the tunnel. Three vaccines have been approved and others are expected to follow. It will however take many months before everyone can be vaccinated.

That means we must continue to work hard to stay safe. Please maintain social distancing and wear a mask where you are less than 2 metres of someone from outside your household.

Meanwhile, your Lib Dem Focus Team continues to work hard for you. We are holding our meetings and surgeries online and have trebled the number of email newsletters we produce.

We are also as usual bringing you news about what is happening in our local communities via Focus, using a local delivery company.

Please feel free to contact us using the details overleaf. We are always pleased to hear from you.

Keep up to date with local news

Focus is produced several times a year, but if you want to keep up to date with local news on a more regular basis, there are 2 ways that you can do this:

Sign up to our email newsletter; eFocus by emailing the message "subscribe" to jonathanwallace329@gmail.com. Please include your name and address.

Or visit our Facebook page: Focus on NE16

Trains to Return to Swalwell?

Early in 2020, The Department for Transport requested submissions of applications to the Ideas Fund which is part of the Restoring Your Railways Fund.

An application of interest for a feasibility study for the former Derwent Valley Railway Line to be reopened from the Tyne Valley Railway Line at the Metro Centre to Consett was submitted by the MP for North-West Durham, Richard Holden.

We can advise you that the application has reached the final national shortlist of 16 schemes and the feasibility study has been granted by the Department of Transport.



The new line would run alongside the River Derwent.

If the scheme is approved the railway line would branch off the original route and run alongside Swalwell Cricket Club, follow the old railway lines in the former Derwent Haugh Cokeworks, under the road bridge past the Swalwell allotments, along past the Toyota and Mazda garages at the Metro Centre and join the Tyne Valley Railway Line next to where the River Derwent meets the River Tyne.



The old Swalwell station closed in 1960.

There would also be a new railway station in Swalwell. Swalwell station closed to passengers in 1953 and closed completely in 1960.

The proposed reopening of the line has the support of the North-East Combined Authority Joint Transport Committee and is included in their Draft Transport Plan.

We will keep you posted on the feasibility study and would welcome your views.

Swalwell Liberal Democrats - working for you, all year round

Rotary Support for Primary School



Whickham Rotary Club has donated 4 new laptops to Swalwell Primary School. The laptops were purchased from Whickham Rotary's Community Fund with a donation of £1,000 and will assist children with their remote home learning during the lockdown restrictions.

All of the money that Whickham Rotary raises from their clothes banks, collection tubs in local shops and other fundraising activities is returned to the community on projects like this.

They are delighted to be able to help Swalwell Primary School and their children with this donation of laptops.



Fly Tippers Beware!

Several incidents of the illegal dumping of waste in Swalwell, including the site of the old Social Club (opposite), have been brought to the attention of the Council's enforcement team.

"Sites have been cleared and action against fly tippers has been initiated," said **Cllr. Peter Craig**. "Please let us know of any other areas that may need attention."



Fly Tipping is a Criminal Offence.
It can attract an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment.

3Ts Update



The 3Ts before work commenced

Work almost completed!

Planning permission was granted in 2017 for a change in use of the 3 Tuns premises, to create six residential apartments on the first and second floor.

The building had started to fall into disrepair," said **Cllr. Chris Ord**, "but we contacted the Planning Enforcement Team which took action and the work eventually started. The building is looking much better than it was."

Community Centre Update



Swalwell Community Centre has been run by a dedicated team of local volunteers since Gateshead Council gave up running all community centres in the Borough.

Without this group of Trustees, the centre would have closed in 2015 - and they have done a fantastic job of keeping the centre available for our community - for all of the individuals and groups who use the centre on a daily basis.

But recently several Trustees retired - and for the community centre to remain open, new volunteers were urgently needed.

"Thankfully," said **Cllr. Sonya Hawkins** "several new volunteers have come forward to join Peter and I as Trustees, including our ward colleague **Cllr. Chris Ord**."

"We are grateful to the new trustees and delighted that this community asset remains available to everyone in Swalwell."

Focus Team for Swalwell

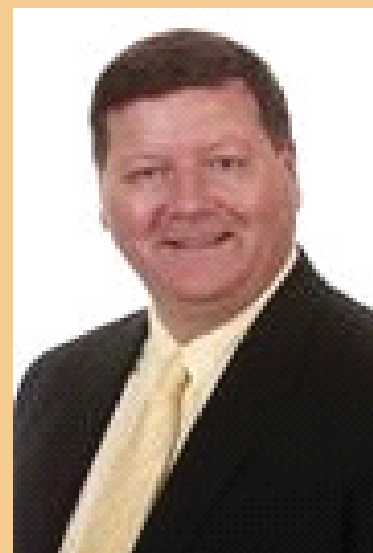
We remain available to help you with any issues. Please get in touch.



Cllr. Peter Craig
0191 488 0787



Cllr. Sonya Hawkins
0191 422 2206



Cllr. Christopher Ord
0191 488 2545

Surgeries:

Your local Lib Dem councillors are running virtual surgeries until further notice.

Every 4th Saturday of the month
10am - 11am

Join via Google Hangouts:
meet.google.com/ynm-zpue-rar

Or by phone:
020 3937 1322 PIN: 282 579 909#

If you need help getting logged in just give one of us a call.