

FOCUS on Whickham North and Swalwell

Issue 155
Election
Special

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SONYA HAWKINS ..the best choice for Whickham North & Swalwell on May 6th.

On the Council

I am deeply committed to doing my best for the communities that I both live in and know so well.



I'm currently Chair of Lighting Up Whickham and also a Trustee at Swalwell Community Centre, as well as being involved in many other aspects of our local community.



I was first elected 9 years ago as part of your Lib Dem Focus Team of councillors, joining Cllr. Peter Craig and Cllr. Chris Ord as your representatives on Gateshead Council.

2021 election

On 6th May you will have the chance to support the local Lib. Dem. Focus Team by voting to re-elect me as your ward councillor.

“Keep our strong Focus Team”



“We work hard all the year round for our community.” say Chris and Peter.

“And since Gateshead Council cut many of their services, we’ve worked to ensure residents continue to receive these by setting up community groups.”

“From flower beds to libraries and Christmas trees to Community Centres - together with our residents, we’ve filled in the gaps - even in this lockdown period.”

“A key part of the team.”

“Sonya is a key part of the team and we can’t afford to lose her.”

The three of us have also fought hard to ensure the voice of local residents is heard in Gateshead Civic Centre.

“On 6th May you will have the opportunity to re-elect Sonya - and keep the Focus Team together.”

Sonya Hawkins X

Growing Up

I have lived in Whickham and Swalwell all my life, living in Bullfinch Drive, Napier Road and Kingsley Place.

As a child, I went to Front Street Primary School, where I now serve as a School Governor. I then also attended Whickham (Comprehensive) School.

Working

For the last 10 years I have been a security advisor for a large retailer in the Metro Centre.

I changed jobs this year and am now a business developer.

Communities

I play an active role in many of the community groups that we have within Whickham North and Swalwell.

Listening to residents and keeping them up to date.

An important part of a Councillor’s job is listening to residents concerns, doing something about them and then keeping everyone updated as to the outcome.

In lockdown, your Focus Team has:

- Held regular on-line advice Surgeries.
- Helped with dozens of resident’s issues.
- Produced Focus leaflets and arranged for them to be delivered to keep you up-to-date with local news.
- Increased the frequency of our eFocus.



Liberal Democrat Focus Team

Caring About Our Community

Supporting our Schools

Your local ward councillors support our local schools in several ways, for example by acting as governors at our local schools.

Sonya is now in her 9th year at Front Street and Chris served for 15 years on that Governing Body.



Helping with the Climate Crisis

At a meeting of Gateshead Council just before lockdown, Sonya seconded a motion calling for a tree planting strategy to be drawn up - this was supported unanimously by all elected council members.

Areas of council owned land will be identified for planting and schools and the voluntary sector will be involved.

In our area, we have already made a start by using money from our Local Community Fund to work with Durham Wildlife Trust to plant trees in Cross Lane Meadows, Swalwell early last year.



Woodland Trust

Plant a Tree to Save the World

Trees use up CO2, produce oxygen and provide vital homes for wildlife.

By planting more trees, we can all help to make a start on tackling climate change.

Funding our Christmas Trees

Sonya chairs the Lighting up Whickham team, who raise the funding needed to pay for the Whickham Christmas tree and lights and who also organise the switch-on in late November.

She works with Peter (Vice Chair) and Chris who are both active members of the group, fundraising throughout the whole year by events such as the Community Fair on St. Mary's Green, Whickham, which is usually held in July each year.



Community Centre Trustee



Along with her ward colleague Peter Craig (both pictured above), Sonya has been a trustee of Swalwell Community Centre since 2015. Chris Ord (inset) has now also joined the team.

For the last six years she has volunteered at the pensioners Christmas lunch for older people. She also helps out at Coffee Mornings and the Christmas Fayre, helping to raise much needed funds towards the running of the centre.

Lib Dem Focus Team

Sonya is a key member of the Whickham North Focus Team (see below), that gives residents a strong voice in Whickham and Swalwell.



Contact us: Peter 488 0787
Sonya 422 2206
Chris 488 2545

To keep a strong Lib Dem Focus Team

Sonya Hawkins

