

# Focus on

Issue 164

# Whickham North & Swalwell

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## Thank You!

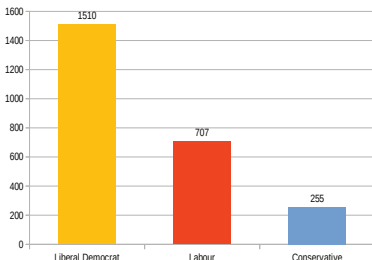
Cllr. Peter Craig has been re-elected as a councillor for Whickham North and Swalwell in the local elections in May, with a majority of 803.

Peter said "May I take this opportunity to thank the people of Whickham and Swalwell for their support."

"I was first elected to Gateshead Council in 2004 and I am delighted to be able to continue representing Whickham North ward with my ward colleagues, Sonya Hawkins and Chris Ord."



"Together, we are a strong team of active councillors fighting for our area and will continue to keep residents up to date with issues via our all year round Focus."



## Other Election News

In the two other Whickham wards, Lib Dem councillors were both elected.

- Amelia Ord was elected for Dunston Hill & Whickham East.
- Marilynn Ord (no relation) was re-elected for Whickham South & Sunniside.



Amelia Ord



Marilynn Ord

Across Gateshead as a whole, the Lib Dems gained two seats, one from the Independents and another from Labour, bringing the total of Lib Dem councillors on Gateshead Council to 15.

We also came close to winning Saltwell and Birtley wards from Labour.

## Go North East Propose Bus Changes

A number of changes to bus services have been proposed by Go North East.

"The pandemic has severely affected passenger numbers and we have been informed that the bus operators are looking to make changes to ensure that their bus network is sustainable." said **Peter Craig**.

"We are most concerned about the proposal to remove the 69 service." said **Chris Ord**, "as not only would it remove a direct link to the QE Hospital, but some people would lose access to Whickham shops. There would be reductions to the 97 and X30 also." The detail can be found via: <https://www.gonortheast.co.uk/consultation>

"Your Lib Dem councillors have asked for a meeting with Go North East to raise the concerns raised by local residents." said **Sonya Hawkins**, "so please let us know if you have any comments."





## Banks Closing

Both Barclays and Lloyds Bank have announced that they plan to close their Whickham branch in September.



Ward councillors will be writing to bank representatives, so if you have any concerns please let us know and we will raise them on your behalf.

## Anti-social behaviour

There have been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recently in the area - several of those have been in the vicinity of Chase Park.



Your ward councillors have been in touch with the Gateshead Council's multi-disciplinary Tasking Team to pass on details of the incidents that have been reported to us - and a meeting with the police is being arranged. We will keep you up to date via Focus of any progress.

Please let us know of any similar incidents and we will make sure that they are passed on.

### Surgeries:

Your local Lib Dem councillors are still running virtual surgeries at the moment.

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month  
10am - 11am

Join via Google Hangouts:  
[meet.google.com/ynm-zpue-rar](https://meet.google.com/ynm-zpue-rar)

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

If you need help to log in just give one of the team a call.



**"Between us, we have almost 60 years experience of being a ward councillor. We are always here to help if you need us."**

## Planning Updates



- Following 44 objections by local residents and your ward councillors, the planning application for a 19 bedroom house with multiple occupation within Leven House, Swalwell has been withdrawn.
- An application to reduce the pedestrian area and extend the Jamdani in Whickham has been refused by the planning committee, following objections from businesses, residents and ward councillors.
- There have been 75 objections to the application to build 4 houses in Chase Park. Further reports have been submitted relating to trees, drainage, heritage and archaeology. These can be seen on the planning portal. Ref. DC/21/01405/FUL
- The Hearing by the Secretary of State for Housing for Banktop, Whickham has now been completed. Residents and ward councillors gave their views and we are now waiting for the result.



## Liberal Democrat Focus Team

Write to the team or call them:

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**Sonya Hawkins**

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**Chris Ord**

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