

Focus on

Issue 170

Whickham North & Swalwell

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Thank You!

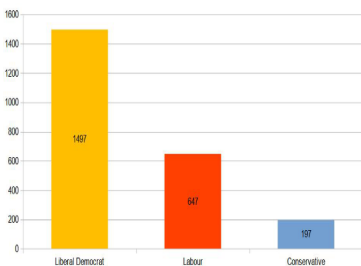
Cllr. Chris Ord has been re-elected as a councillor for Whickham North and Swalwell in the local elections in May, with a majority of 850.



Chris 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 1992 and I am delighted to be able to continue representing Whickham North ward with my ward colleagues, Sonya Hawkins and Peter Craig."

"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 by voters.

- Vicky Anderson was re-elected for Dunston Hill & Whickham East.
- Jonathan Wallace was re-elected for Whickham South & Sunniside.



Jonathan Wallace



Vicky Anderson

Across Gateshead as a whole, the Lib Dems gained two seats, bringing the total of Lib Dem councillors on Gateshead Council to 17.

Last year, Lib Dems came close to winning Saltwell and Birtley wards from Labour - this time they have been successful. Their priorities for Gateshead - the Six to Fix can be found overleaf.

Let's cut them down to size

A public consultation about the size of Gateshead Council is taking place until July 10th.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear residents' views on whether to keep 66 councillors, as Labour wants, or to make the Council smaller, as the Lib Dems argue.

Gateshead has far more councillors for our population than all but one of England's 36 Urban Councils; only South Tyneside has more. If Gateshead were at the national average, it would have 40 councillors, not 66.

"Labour are willing to cut everything except its own councillors" said Sonya Hawkins. "But this wastes hundreds of thousands of pounds every year. A smaller council would be more efficient and would make the Council's leaders more accountable. It's time to cut them down to size."



Average numbers of residents per Councillor

Gateshead	Leeds	Manchester	Bradford
2,971	8,202	5,750	6,071

You can tell the Boundary Commission what you think at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gateshead-0

Liberal Democrat's Priorities - Six to Fix



Gateshead Liberal Democrats

Six to Fix

- ✓ Re-evaluate town centre traffic changes
- ✓ Increase street cleaning and dog warden services
- ✓ Use reserves to give extra time for leisure centre rescue plans
- ✓ Reduce Council Officers home working to no more than three days per week
- ✓ Prioritise house building and repairs
- ✓ Reduce the number of councillors

Liberal Democrat councillors outside Gateshead Civic Centre.

Following a successful campaign in the recent local elections, Liberal Democrats now have seventeen seats on Gateshead Council - an extra two seats.

Set out opposite are the priorities that the Lib Dems have identified for the coming year - and will be working on as a group.

Please let the Focus Team know if you have any comments or suggestions.

Voter ID update

This year for the first time, residents in Gateshead needed to show photographic ID to vote at a polling station.

There were concerns that this would lead to a reduction in the number of people voting this year. In our ward the turnout was down 2.1% since last year.

Gateshead Council are looking to see if the ID check has put people off voting - any comments received from residents will be passed on.

Civic Awards for Lib Dems



Susan Craig, who has been made an Alderwoman of Gateshead Borough.

Congratulations to two former Lib Dem councillors who have been honoured at a special meeting at Gateshead Civic Centre.

Susan Craig (Low Fell ward) was made an Honorary Alderwoman and Robin Stanaway (Pelaw and Heworth ward) was made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Gateshead.

"These awards are well deserved." said Peter Craig.



Whickham North & Swalwell Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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

Write to the team or call them:

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