

Council says sorry

The Council has apologised to residents for removing the safety hatches painted outside their homes. They have also admitted that they did not follow the legal process required to make the change.



Residents on Durham Road had to wait for eight months for the Council to undo their error. The Council removed the markings to introduce a bus lane in March, but covered the area with cones in the summer when residents proved that they had no right to do this.

At a meeting of Gateshead Council in November, Chowdene Councillor and Cabinet Member for Transport, John McElroy, admitted that a mistake had been made when answering a question from local resident, Mrs Pat Hall. Mrs Hall said: "There is no good reason that this took so long. Residents are pleased that the Council has finally seen sense though."

Low Fell Lib Dem Councillor Dawn Welsh said "I congratulate the residents of Durham Road who made an unanswerable case based on road safety. It is hard to believe that it took the Council eight months to put their error right."

Council rejects Oakfield Nursery plan

Gateshead Council have turned down a bid for new nursery provision for Chowdene. Following consultation showing enthusiastic support from parents, Oakfield Infant and Junior School wanted to offer nursery places to 3 and 4 year olds. This would be part of their new full forest school provision.



Local Mum of 3, Emma Robinson, said: "As a hard working parent, I find it appalling that additional provisions can not be put in place to allow parents to go out and work, boosting the economy and providing their children with the head start they need. A Nursery at Oakfield would enable children to stay at a school where they have made friends and feel at home."

Local news and action

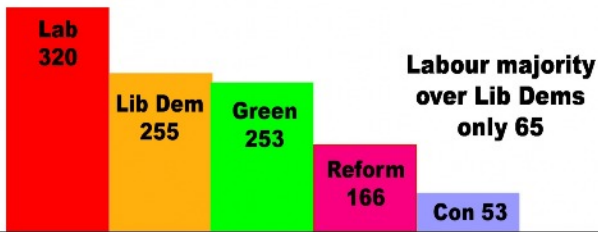
Gateshead Flyover: What should happen next?

Gateshead's opposition Liberal Democrats have drawn up a seven-point plan to clean up Labour's flyover mess. You can read it at www.gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Cllr Ron Beadle, who leads the opposition Liberal Democrats, said: "The flyover has to come down. The Council should have had estimates for what this would cost a long time ago so that they could secure funding for this work from Government. It isn't good enough for Labour's North East Mayor and Council Leader to talk about doing this work at the end of the decade because it is causing chaos now."



Bridges by-election Votes Cast
12th September 2024



Whickham North by-election



Only the Lib Dems can beat Labour here

Gateshead has 66 Councillors. Only 2 parties have councillors, Labour with 47 and the Lib Dems with 18. There is also one independent Councillor who left Labour. Since the general election in July, they have been two Council by-elections in Gateshead, one in Bridges in September and the other in Whickham North in October. The total votes cast in these elections are shown on the left.

Low Fell Councillor, Daniel Duggan, said: "Once again these results show that only the Lib Dems can beat Labour in Council elections in Gateshead. Voting for other parties just helps Labour." If you would like to get involved, visit www.gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Chowdene gains St Andrew's estate

The St Andrew's estate, next to Grace College, has been part of Low Fell ward for many years but from May 2026 will be part of Chowdene ward following Council boundary changes.

Whatever else happens, people in the St Andrew's estate will be getting new councillors from May 2026.

Is under 50% good enough?

In May 2024, Chowdene re-elected Labour Councillor Keith Wood to represent it on the Council.

But figures from Gateshead Council's website show that in 2024 he attended fewer than half the Council meetings that he could have, 13 out of 28. Let's hope he does better in 2025.