



# FOCUS



## On Dunston Hill & Whickham East

# SOLD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS!

Labour Council sells off part of Chase Park, calling it "brownfield"



The 8 Lib Dem Councillors representing Whickham, Swalwell, Sunnyside, Marley Hill, Streetgate, Marley Hill, Byermoor, Dunston and Lobley Hill next to the stables in Chase Park which Labour have agreed to sell to a developer.

**The main entrance, stables and the depot area in Chase Park, Whickham, have been sold to a developer by Gateshead Council so that the site can be used for house building.**

Residents and the media were banned from the meeting on 20th July where the ruling Labour group took the decision in secret.

Angry residents signed an online petition against the sale but the Labour Cabinet pressed ahead anyway, describing the site as "brownfield".

Cabinet members even claimed it was not in Chase Park and then attacked all 13 Lib Dem councillors when they pointed out that it is within the park wall.

Chase Park is part of our much loved historic centre of Whickham and Labour's decision to sell off part of it for housing has appalled many residents.

Lib Dem Councillor **Peter Maughan** said, "This is a historic park and, in my view and the view of many residents, Labour's decision to flog off part of it is a historic mistake. We are horrified about this sale."

### Contact the Team

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.



**Vicky Anderson**

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☎ 07568 600397



**Peter Maughan**

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**Amelia Ord**

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## Council's Reserves Increase By £7 Million!

**At the budget meeting in February, Gateshead Lib Dems argued that Council Tax should be frozen to give Council Tax payers a break.** After all, Labour-run Gateshead Council has the highest level of Council tax of any Metropolitan Council in England. The Lib Dems argued that the £5 million the Council needed should be taken from Gateshead's £41 million in usable reserves. Figures reported to Gateshead Council's Cabinet in July showed that Gateshead's total usable reserves have grown from £41 million in April 2020 to £48 million in March 2021. **That's a rise of £7 million!**

**Amelia Ord** said "Some people say that life's only certainties are death and taxes. In Gateshead, it's death, taxes, and growing Council reserves!"

# Bus Changes in the Area

Go North East have introduced a number of changes to local bus services, as passenger numbers have reduced following the pandemic.



- 97 - Continues to run every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes after 6pm, but has reverted back to terminating at the Metrocentre with no follow on journeys to Newcastle.
- 96 - a new service will operate every 30 minutes during the day and every 60 minutes on evenings between Gateshead Interchange and the MetroCentre. This service will follow the route of the former 1A service (now withdrawn) via Moorfoot Gardens, Malvern Gardens and Knightside Gardens.
- M6, M7 and M8 services have all been withdrawn.
- 643 service reinstated - Following intervention from your Liberal Democrat councillors the M8 has been replaced by the reintroduction of the 643 running a slightly different route to what the previous service offered. The 643 now starts at Metrocentre Asda, serves Metrocentre Interchange, Lambton Avenue, Whickham Front Street, Fellside Road, Broadway, Burnthouse Lane and Hole Lane, terminating at Sunnyside Front Street. This service only runs until mid afternoon in line with the service previously offered by the M7. Your local Liberal Democrat councillors have raised residents' concerns to Go North East about the short timetable on this service. We will keep you informed of any updates.
- X30/X31 - Now running every 20 minutes to Stanley but is no longer extended to Consett once an hour.



## New Clothes Bank

Whickham Rotary has received a grant from your Councillors Local Community Fund to purchase their latest clothes bin.



The first two bins, situated at The Coachman pub in Whickham and Marley Hill Community Centre, have raised almost £6000 for the local community since their introduction in 2016.

"We are delighted to sponsor a third clothes bin so Whickham Rotary can raise even more funds to help groups in the Dunston area", said Liberal Democrat Councillor, **Vicky Anderson**. The clothes bin has been placed at the entrance to Dunston Leisure Centre.

Whickham Rotary return all raised funds to the community and make donations to local groups, projects and individuals and can be contacted at [whickhamrotary@gmail.com](mailto:whickhamrotary@gmail.com).

## Councillor's Local Community Fund

Each year your Councillors use their dedicated Local Community Fund towards groups and projects that can have a long lasting effect on the community. For further information on how we can support you, contact your local Councillors.

## Remembrance Services Get the Go Ahead



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
(Subject to changes and social distancing)

**Dunston** - Assemble at St Nicholas Church at 10:00 for a Service followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial, Dunston at 11:00. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Church Hall.

**Whickham** - Restricted Remembrance Day event limit to registered wreath layers only.

## Talk to a Councillor at our Virtual Surgeries

### Dunston

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month  
10am - 11am

Join via Google Hangouts:  
[meet.google.com/hgv-uqtz-dpn](https://meet.google.com/hgv-uqtz-dpn)

or by phone: 020 3956 6686 PIN:  
161 436 431#

### Whickham

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#



## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

**Name:** .....  
**Address:** .....  
**Post Code:** ..... **Phone:** .....  
**Email:** .....

- I want to join the Liberal Democrats
- I can help deliver Liberal Democrat leaflets in my area
- I can help with clerical work for the Liberal Democrats
- I will vote for the Liberal Democrats in the May 2022 local election

Return for free to:

**FREEPOST**  
**Gateshead Lib Dems**  
**Gateshead, NE9 5XT**

