



FOCUS



On Dunston Hill & Whickham East

Questions Over the Future of Dunston Leisure Centre

Gateshead Council are to carry out a review of local swimming pools and other leisure centres which could see Dunston Pool shutting down

Initial proposals that will go out to public consultation were due to be debated at Council Cabinet in December but were pulled from the agenda to give officers more time to work on them.

After Lib Dem councillors raised worries that the delay could restrict the opportunity for residents to be consulted, proposals were brought back to the Council Cabinet in January. The consultation period has been extended and can be found on the Council website.

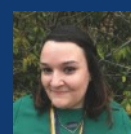
"Any changes to leisure centres and swimming pools will have an impact on local residents," said local Lib Dem Councillor **Vicky Anderson**. "It's so important that residents have a say on the proposals and enough time to allow this."

"Dunston Leisure Centre is important to the health and community of the area, so a loss would be a huge blow to local residents. The local Lib Dem Focus Team - myself, Peter Maughan and Amelia Ord - will be campaigning to keep Dunston Leisure Centre open."



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.



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Amelia Ord

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Planning Application Submitted for 4 Houses in Chase Park



Plans to build houses on the former depot area of Whickham's historic Chase Park have now been submitted to Gateshead Council.

The all-Labour council cabinet offered the site for sale last year and accepted an offer from a developer subject to planning permission being granted. The site includes the main entrance at the Rectory Lane Front Street junction which will become the entrance to the new development.

Your local Lib Dem Focus Team opposed the sale of the site which is in the heart of Whickham village. Labour tried to claim the site was not in Chase Park! The planning application aims to build 4 houses on the site, each with 4 bedrooms.

"The Labour Council has neglected Chase Park, leaving the depot and the old stables to become derelict," said Cllr **Peter Maughan**. "I will continue to oppose these plans to turn Chase Park into a housing estate, where other community-based options should be considered." Cllr Peter Maughan will be speaking against this application when it goes to the planning committee.

Amelia Ord Chosen as your Liberal Democrat Candidate for May



Local community activist Amelia Ord has been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate for this May.

"I have been active in the local community since 2010 and done so much to improve the area. Backing me to be the next Liberal Democrat Councillor for Dunston Hill and Whickham East will allow me to help even more people, said **Amelia Ord**.

"As a campaigner and Councillor, I would use this position to help even more community groups succeed. Making our area an even better place to live. We need a strong team in Dunston Hill and Whickham East to stand up to Labour's failures."

Lib Dems Call to Start From Scratch on Traffic Scheme

Local Liberal Democrats have called on Gateshead Council to go back to the drawing board on traffic management plans that many residents believe are causing unnecessary pollution and congestion. However the Labour run Council has decided to extend the "experimental plans" for another two years.

Lib Dem Leader of the Opposition, Jonathan Wallace, told BBC Look North that the traffic management plans need to be scrapped and new proposals to improve traffic flows brought forward.

In September, the congestion in the town centre was so bad that some drivers were trapped for hours on end in traffic that could not move.

"Liberal Democrats have three major worries about Labour's traffic management system," said **Amelia Ord**. "Firstly, we feel it is needlessly causing a huge amount of congestion. Secondly, extra pollution can be damaging to health and goes directly contrary to Council calls on residents to do their bit to cut CO2 emissions. Thirdly the economy of the town centre is under threat as people avoid shopping there as they don't want to be trapped in the traffic.

"Gateshead's transport trap can be solved by scrapping the traffic management plan. They should go back to the drawing board and come up with something better."



Local Lib Dem campaigners take Tim Farron, Lib Dem MP, (2nd from left) to central Gateshead to brief him on the chaos caused by Labour's traffic scheme.

New Woodland Planned for Whickham

The Woodland Trust are proposing to plant a 30 hectare woodland on land between the Watergate Estate and Whickham Highway. A consultation event at the Land of Oak and Iron visitor centre at Winlaton Mill was carried out in October.

The land in question is currently owned by Gateshead Council but will be transferred to the Woodland Trust if the woodland planting goes ahead. Historic features and footpaths on the site will be protected, with planting expected to take two years.

"I am very pleased to support this proposal, especially as it follows on from a tree planting motion we brought to Council," said Cllr **Vicky Anderson**.



Talk to a Councillor at our Virtual Surgeries

Dunston

Every 2nd Saturday of the month
10am - 11am

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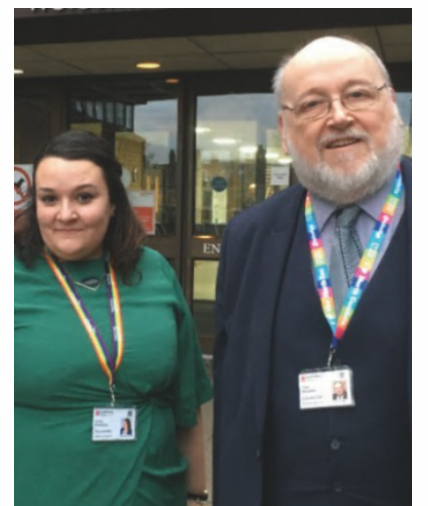
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Whickham

Every 4th Saturday of the month
10am - 11am

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