



FOCUS

On Dunston Hill

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN SPECIAL EDITION

Information and advice for our local community

Follow our new Facebook Page for news and updates



Focus On NE11

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



Peter Maughan and Vicky Anderson, your local Liberal Democrat councillors are here to offer advice and support now that we are in another national lockdown.

We are continuing to call hundreds of local people to check they are OK and to see if they need help.

We have helped people get the right support, including financial assistance with council tax and benefits, and help with food supplies and prescriptions for those who can't get out.

As hard as we try we can't get in touch with everyone, so if you or anyone you know needs help please contact Peter and Vicky using the details overleaf.

Please stay safe. Below are details of where to get the most up to date advice and support.

Coronavirus: Help and Advice

For the latest Government guidance:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

For the latest advice and support from Gateshead Council:
www.gateshead.gov.uk or call 0800 953 7112

For NHS advice:
www.nhs.uk or call 111

For the testing:
www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119

Opposing Labour's Council Tax Rise

Gateshead residents facing another potential council tax rise



Your Lib Dem councillors Peter Maughan and Vicky Anderson are opposed to Labour's council tax rise.

As we write this edition of FOCUS the Labour-run council has still not confirmed their planned council tax hike but they've failed to rule out the max 4.99%.

Vicky said "Gateshead residents already have to pay the highest council tax of any similar council in England. No other local council charges over £1,800 for a Band D property."

"Residents deserve a break, especially at a time of mounting job losses and pay freezes because of the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Other councils in Tyne and Wear don't tax residents anywhere near as much, while much larger councils in Liverpool and Manchester also charge less. It's about time residents were given some breathing space while household budgets are so tight."

Labour-run Gateshead Council tops the league table for Council Tax (Band D property during 2020-21).

Gateshead	£1,824
Liverpool	£1,716
Newcastle	£1,708
Sunderland	£1,470
Manchester	£1,425

Labour-run Gateshead Council tops the league table for Council Tax

(Band D property during 2020-21).

Sign our petition:
www.gatesheadlibdems.org.uk/counciltax

THANK YOU TO ALL THE KEY WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED KEEP US GOING

Lib Dem Councillors continue working for you

Your local Lib Dem councillors are running virtual Councillor surgeries until further notice

Pop in and join us online for a chat or catch up

Every second Saturday of every month 10am - 11am

Join via Google Hangouts: meet.google.com/hgv-uqtz-dpn

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

If you need a hand getting logged in just give one of us a call.

Subscribe to our e-Focus

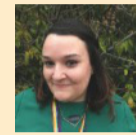
Get the latest up-to-date news about what's happening in your community direct to your inbox. Subscribe to our email newsletter eFocus by sending the message "subscribe" to DHWEFocus@gmail.com.



Cllr Peter Maughan

cldr.pmaughan@gateshead.gov.uk

07966 363229



Cllr Vicky Anderson

cldr.vanderson@gateshead.gov.uk

07568 600397

Still no plans for Dunston school



The old Dunston school continues to stand derelict despite standing empty since 2009.

Cllr Peter Maughan said, "I share the frustration of the residents of Dunston that the Council has allowed the empty building to stand empty and deteriorating despite my interventions with senior officers. House building seems to be the only viable alternative as the Council has already decided to demolish the school; however I would welcome alternative viable suggestions."

Former Dunston Hill Hospital

Plans have been submitted to redevelop the land on the site of the former Dunston Hill Hospital. The hospital, which had been providing palliative care and mental health services for more than 50 years, closed its doors for the last time in 2018. The plans submitted to Gateshead Council include seeking permission to build up to 46 homes on the site. The council is expected to decide on the proposals some time this year.

Register to vote by post

At the time of writing this FOCUS, it is currently proposed that the May local elections are going ahead as planned. "Voting by post is a safe way to make sure your voice is still heard in the upcoming local elections," said **Cllr Vicky Anderson**.

Some of you may have already received forms from Gateshead Council to apply for postal votes. If not then please visit www.gateshead.gov.uk or call **0191 433 7001** for a form.

Bring back free TV licenses for over 75s

From August 2020, the Government has cut funding for free TV licenses for the over 75s. Your local Lib Dem councillors are campaigning to get the government to bring the free TV licenses for over 75s back.

Cllr Peter Maughan said "During COVID-19, television has been a lifeline. It is shameful that some older people could lose out. That's why I'm calling on the Government to bring back the free TV licenses for over 75s."

Letters from TV licensing have started going out. You don't have to do anything until TV licensing contact you. You may still be eligible for a free TV license if you are over 75 and are in receipt of pension credit. To find out more, if you think you are eligible for a free TV license or if you have queries about how to claim pension credit, you can call TV licensing on 0300 790 6117.

Save Free TV Licences



Sign the petition

I/we the undersigned call on the Government to bring back free TV licenses for over 75s.

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Post Code:

Write to:

Freepost Gateshead Lib Dems

Gateshead, NE9 5XT

WORKING HARD ALL YEAR ROUND