

Focus on Low Fell

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Boer War Memorial to be cleaned

The Boer War Memorial on Durham Road is to receive a clean-up in time for the Remembrance Day Service on November 11. Following last year's work on the Cenotaph on Prince Consort Road, Cllr. Daniel Duggan asked the Council to prioritise Low Fell's memorial.

Daniel said "I am delighted that the Council are to carry out this work in September. A few years ago, the memorial statue was missing a hand and the Remembrance Day event had very low attendance. This November will see the Low Fell Community gather in its hundreds to pay our respects around a fitting memorial to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is a transformation of which we should all be proud."

As usual Low Fell's Remembrance Service will be held on 11th November, which is a Monday. The event, organised by the Low Fell Forum, is open to all. We gather from 10:30 a.m and if a group or individual would like to lay a wreath, please contact Councillor Susan Craig on 0191 488 0787.



Daniel, Susan and Ron at the Memorial

Vandalism in Kells Lane Park

The Police have promised extra patrols to check on **Kells Lane Park** after incidents of anti-social behaviour. This follows a request from Low Fell's councillors.

Councillor Daniel Duggan said "The Council withdrew the locking of Kells Lane Park as part of last year's round of cuts and this is having an undesirable effect as reports of anti-social behaviour have increased. These have included throwing objects at nearby windows and ripping the bark from the trees (see photo). We have asked the Council to reconsider not locking the park at night and to look at alternatives".

If you notice anti-social behaviour taking place in the park please contact the police.



As well as this newsletter, we now provide a fortnightly email newsletter full of up to the moment local news. If you would like to receive it, sign up at subscribe.lowfellfocus.org.uk

If you are on facebook, follow us at facebook.com/LowFellFocus/

Tolls u-turn?



A record 19,000 responses have been received on the Air Quality proposals from Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside Councils. Whilst final proposals won't be released until later this year, it appears that the proposal for a £12.50 daily charge is being scrapped. The three remaining options include tolls on City Centre bridges and a smaller clean air zone, excluding Gateshead and possibly excluding cars other than taxis.

Ron Beadle said "We are pleased that the Councils appear to be listening. For example, the proposal for a charge free period at night is particularly important for shift workers and delivery hubs outside the city centre are eminently sensible. We remain of the view that if the proposal is really about air quality then charges should only be levied on polluting vehicles."

Low Fell's Christmas lights 'switch on'

The switching on of Low Fell's Christmas lights will take place on Wednesday, 27th November at approximately 3:45 pm near Rosa Twelve on **Durham Road**.

Councillor Susan Craig, Chair of Low Fell Forum which organises the event, said "For many this event marks the start of Christmas in Low Fell. School children decorate baubles for the tree and we have a brass band playing carols for everyone to join in with. This year they will once again be joined by a local school choir and a local pantomime group.

"We are looking for sponsors to contribute towards the cost of the tree. If you are able to help, please get in touch with me on 0191 488 0787. The sponsor's name will be placed next to the tree and they will be publicly thanked at the event".



Low Fell Fayre a success

Thank you to all those who attended the Low Fell Summer Fayre in Kells Lane Park and especially to all the stall holders and the great entertainers. These included vocalist Julie Maughan, Midnight Breeze, school children from Oak Voices, Low Fell folk band Kiddars Luck, and the Lee Brannigan Performing Arts Academy.

Low Fell Focus: News and action all year round

Getting Graffiti removed

The Focus Team have been getting graffiti removed in various parts of Low Fell.

Councillor Daniel Duggan (pictured opposite) has recently had graffiti removed on **Kells Lane** and **Durham Road**. Daniel said "Those who graffiti are a disgrace. I will continue to press the Council and companies like Virgin Media to remove it. However, I want to see Community payback schemes where those who graffiti are required to remove it and I am raising this with the police and Council. Low Fell is a great place and people deserve to live in a clean, tidy environment".



Daniel has been getting graffiti removed in Low Fell

More flowers for Low Fell

Low Fell Volunteer Gardening Group, who are part of Low Fell Forum, have joined forces with Gateshead Rotary Club in a new project for World Polio Day on 24th October 2019. The Club will provide crocus bulbs and the gardeners, with the help of pupils from Kells Lane School, will plant these on 'the island' (below) on **Beaconsfield Avenue**. Susan Craig said "Well done to all those involved with this project, it's for a great cause".



Flagstones replaced

After we raised the issue of dangerous flagstones on **Durham Road**, some have now been replaced. This includes the flagstones outside Carter's Lodge (below) and at the junction between **Beaconsfield Road** and **Durham Road**.



We are asking for other dangerous flagstones, like those outside Greggs, to be replaced.

Getting drains cleaned

The Focus Team asked the Council to clean the drains and gullies near the Cannon pub on **Durham Road** and this has now been done. We have also raised the issue of blocked drains elsewhere in Low Fell, including **Kells Lane**, **Dean Street**, **Wesley Street** and **Earls Drive** and will continue to press for action on this.



New litter bins promised

Following a request from residents, new bins will be placed on lamp-posts on **Kells Lane**, including at the Nisa Store.

Noise on Clement Street

Low frequency noise from the BT offices on **Clement Street** have been disturbing neighbours since early April. Ron Beadle has asked the Council's Noise team to measure the noise and contact BT to take action.

Safety on Chowdene Bank

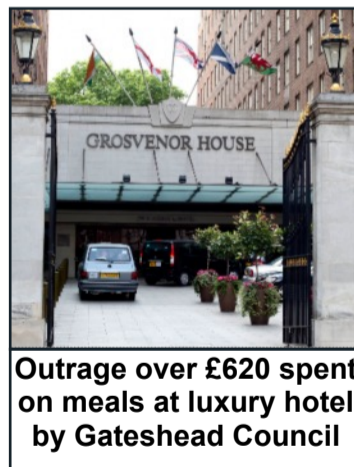
After a request from residents and the Focus Team, the Council's Transport Engineers will be assessing whether a crossing on **Chowdene Bank** would be suitable. Parents of pupils at Oakfield Infants and Junior schools have expressed concerns over safety.



What are they playing at?

Whilst we are happy to praise the Council when they get things right, there are other times when things beggar belief and we hold the Labour-run Council to account. Here are some examples:

1. The Council spent £620 for two meals at an awards ceremony at a luxury 5-star London hotel. We are calling for an end to such waste.
2. A review of car parking charges in Low Fell was promised in May 2018. This hasn't happened and we are wanting to know when it will be happen.
3. A report examining whether to introduce a 20mph zone on **Saltwell Road South** was promised for March 2019 and we are still waiting for this.



Outrage over £620 spent on meals at luxury hotel by Gateshead Council

Extra wheelie bin trial

Earlier this year Gateshead Council provided around 1,000 homes in Gateshead, many of them in Low Fell, with an extra wheelie bin. This was part of their trial to see if recycling rates would increase. The Council are now assessing the results of the trial and may decide to provide every household in Gateshead with an extra wheelie bin.

Councillor Ron Beadle said "We know some residents will struggle to find a place for an extra wheelie bin and we will be looking at the results of the trial very closely".



Have your say, get involved:

Please use this space to tell us what you think needs doing in Low Fell, or to let us know of any local problem needing attention - and if you can help the **Focus Team** get more done, please let us know.

- I want to receive your email newsletter (please state email address below)
- I want to join the Liberal Democrats. Please send me details
- I can spare 1 or 2 hours every few months to help deliver 'Focus' newsletters

Name: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms
 Address.....
 Phone
 email

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Please return to:

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