

# FOCUS

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Councillors Ian Patterson & Paul Diston

Delivered free to 4,000 homes in Bill Quay, Heworth, Pelaw and Wardley

Issue 101 - September/November 2021



## “We need action on crime”

The local Focus Team are demanding action to deal with the recent crimes that have taken place in our area.

Residents in Pelaw and Heworth have contacted the Focus Team to report various crimes taking place in our area. These include assault, vandalism, and an arson attack on a bus in the car park of Bill Quay Farm, which also damaged nearby woodwork (photo, right). Other buildings have also been targeted, such as St Mary's, Heworth and St Andrews, Fewster Square.

Ian Patterson and Paul Diston have now met with the new Gateshead East Police Inspector to discuss concerns and to call for action. The Police told the Focus Team that they were investigating the incidents. Anyone with any information about these or any other incidents may contact the Police via their 101 number.

Ian said “People deserve to live in a safe area. Those who carry out such anti-social behaviour are a disgrace. We thank the Police for carrying out their investigations and we hope those responsible are caught. If you notice any anti-social behaviour, please contact the Police. The more reports they get from a certain area impact how they distribute their resources and we need more Police in our area”.



Amanda Wintcher and Ian Patterson at Bill Quay Farm with the woodwork that was damaged in an arson attack

### Amanda joins Focus Team!

Ian and Paul are delighted to welcome local resident Dr Amanda Wintcher to the Focus Team.

Amanda has lived in Pelaw for 13 years. She is an archaeologist and a regular volunteer at Jarrow Hall museum.

Amanda said “As a resident of Pelaw I have been really impressed with Ian and Paul's work, and am excited to be part of the Focus Team. I love our area and want to make it better”.



Local resident Dr Amanda Wintcher has joined the Focus Team and is already standing up for the area

On a recent tour across Pelaw and Heworth, Amanda, Ian, and Paul came across a number of issues that they have raised with the Council and other bodies.

If you would like to help the Focus Team by, for example, delivering some ‘Focus’ newsletters, near where you live let Ian or Paul know. Their contact details are overleaf.

### 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!**

Paul Diston said “Some people say that life's only certainties are death and taxes. In Gateshead, it's death, taxes, and growing Council reserves!”



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# Local news and action

## Soil heap at Nexus compound

As regular Metro users may have noticed a soil heap has been left on the Nexus Compound, near Pelaw Metro. The Focus Team has asked Nexus when they are likely to remove it. We will let residents know when we have an update on this.



## Making former co-op path to Old Wardley safer

Amanda, who is an enthusiastic walker, has asked Ian and Paul if the Council can improve the maintenance and lighting on the path to the bridge so as to make it safer for residents and they plan to raise this.

## Focus Team raise questions about future of Pelaw Club site

Sometime ago the old Tyne View Social Club in Pelaw was burnt down by a fire. The Team have asked the Council if there are any plans for the site. Ian said "We want to see the area developed as at the moment it looks in a sorry state. As soon as we know more we will let residents know".



## Maintaining green spaces

Ian has asked the Council if the bushes at Quay Court by the smaller play area can be trimmed back as spilling over onto the pavement.



The Team has also asked the Council to properly maintain the embankment above Wynn Gardens, as it is now very much overgrown.

## Focus Team continue to press for action on fly-tipping!

The Focus Team are continuing to press the Council to crack down on those who fly-tip.

Paul Diston, who reports fly-tipping, said "Residents are fed up of fly-tipping and so am I. We need the Council to be much more proactive on this issue and to prosecute a lot more of those who fly-tip". If you notice fly-tipping, please let the Focus Team or the Council know.



## Have your say, get involved:

Please use this space to tell us what you think needs doing in Pelaw and Heworth, or to let us know of any local problem needing attention - and if you can help the Lib Dem 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 .....

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Please return to:

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Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved? Yes please  No thanks  The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk.