



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

FOCUS

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

Issue 111 - June 2023

Thank You!



Ian Patterson, Amanda Wintcher, and Paul Diston outside Gateshead Civic Centre

In May Paul Diston was re-elected as Councillor for Pelaw and Heworth, with nearly 53% of the vote. The Lib Dems also gained seats in Birtley and Saltwell. Gateshead now has 17 Lib Dems and 49 Labour Councillors.

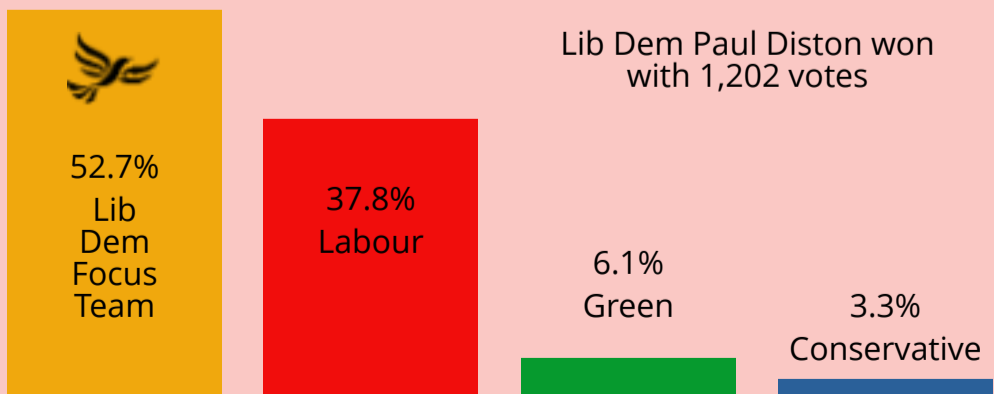
Paul said, "I want to say thank you to all the residents of Pelaw and Heworth Ward who voted for me on 4th May. It was the greatest pleasure of my life to serve Pelaw and Heworth residents for the past four years and I feel honoured and humbled at being re-elected.

All the Lib Dem Councillors will continue to fight for you, as the Council enters its 50th year. Labour thinks it is acceptable to cut services, close public buildings and charge you more for the privilege of them getting it wrong again. I cannot promise to solve all the issues but you can rest assured that Ian, Amanda, and I will do everything we can to help you."

Many residents tell us that they vote Lib Dem locally but support Labour nationally. The results of the election show that many people know that in Gateshead, Labour continue to let them down. If more people were involved in our campaigns, we would win across Gateshead. If you would like to see a stronger opposition to 50 years of Labour rule, we invite you to join us and build our opposition to Labour across the whole of Gateshead.

A number of residents deliver Focus newsletters near where they live. If you would also like to help out, please email Amanda at amanda@gatesheadlibdems.org.uk.

How Pelaw and Heworth voted in May's general election:



Time to cut the Council down to size!

The Local Government Boundary Commission England wants to hear residents' views on the size of Gateshead Council. A public consultation is taking place until July 10th. Your views are key to the outcome, so please do respond and make your thoughts known!



Too many Councillors: Lib Dems are calling for a cut in the number of Gateshead Councillors

Gateshead has more councillors per head of population than all but one of England's 36 Urban Councils. If Gateshead were at the national average, it would have 40 councillors, not 66.

Gateshead has far fewer residents per councillor than other metropolitan districts in the north:

Gateshead:	2,971 residents per councillor
Newcastle:	3,849 residents per councillor
Manchester:	5,750 residents per councillor
Bradford:	6,071 residents per councillor
Leeds:	8,202 residents per councillor

The Liberal Democrats argue that we don't need so many councillors in Gateshead, while Labour wants to keep things as they are. The council has lost many functions in recent years and no longer does as much as it used to. We cannot understand why Labour would want to keep so many councillors when a smaller council would save money and be more representative.

Paul said: "Labour are willing to cut everything except their own councillors. But this wastes thousands of pounds every year. A smaller council would be more efficient and would make the Council's leaders more accountable. It's time to cut them down to size."

When completing the online form, the Commission wants to know reasons for residents' views. For example, as many Council functions have now been removed there is less need for as many Councillors. The deadline for giving your views is **10th of July, 2023**.

To call on the Local Boundary Commission to cut the number of Councillors in Gateshead please visit www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gateshead or scan the QR code.



Lib Dem Focus - working hard all year round!

Local news and action

Gosforth Terrace speeding update

After a serious accident in March which resulted in several parked vehicles being written off, the Focus team asked council officers to conduct a speed study on Gosforth Terrace. The results show that although the current traffic calming measures meet the guidelines, the number of speeding cars is over the threshold for police action. This has been referred to the police for further action, and the Focus team will be asking the council to install additional speed humps or other measures.

Amanda said, "The results of the speed study prove what residents have been telling us about speeding in this area. The Police will be taking action, and I have asked council officers to investigate whether further measures can be put in place." The Focus Team will keep you updated.



Monitoring equipment on Gosforth Terrace

Bill Quay community garden project

Residents of Bill Quay are moving ahead with a plan to re-create a community garden near Wood Terrace. The aim is to make a wildlife-friendly space where children can play safely and community members can take part in creating and maintaining the space.

Plans are still in the early stages, but details of how to get involved will be circulated once the initial setup is underway. Interested residents can contact Amanda and she will put you in touch with the garden group.

Big mess in Pelaw removed

A large quantity of fly-tipping was removed from the back alleys along Pelaw high street in May. The rubbish collected included furniture, multiple black bags, garden waste, and more.

Paul said, "It is unacceptable for people to use back lanes as dumping ground for their waste. The Focus Team would like to thank the collection crew for dealing with the issue promptly. We would also like to remind residents that they can report any fly-tipping they see using the Council website, and it will be investigated by the enforcement team." Residents can also send any information to one of the Focus Team and we will report it.



A small selection of the fly-tipping left behind Pelaw high street



The website address for reporting fly-tipping is:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3505/Fly-tipping#Report%20fly-tipping>

You can also scan the QR code.



Have your say:

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

- 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

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.