



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

FOCUS

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

Issue 112 - Nov 2023

Fly tipping fines? Yes or No?

Should fly-tippers be fined? There was a heated argument about this at September's Council meeting.

In 2021-22 Gateshead Council issued just a single fine across the whole borough, down from 44 in 2019/20. It also mounted 8 successful prosecutions, down from 47 in 2019/20. The Evening Chronicle reported that Lib Dem led Durham County Council issued almost 1,000 fines for fly tipping, dog fouling, and other environmental breaches in the same year. The Lib Dems proposed that Councillors should meet with officers from Durham to see how they had achieved this.

Labour said 'no'. And it turns out that the reduction in fines was not solely caused by Covid, but by a change of policy. Labour no longer wants to fine 'small' fly-tippers. Labour argued that: "the people who would have got Fixed Penalty Notices for small fly tips were often vulnerable people, who needed help and support to permanently change their behaviour."

Ian Patterson said: "Fly tipping hurts our environment and our communities. Of course the Council should make sure people understand what to do with their rubbish and educate them if needed. But those who fly tip should be fined."



Before and After: Fly-tipping removed in Bill Quay

Ward Boundaries to Change

Pelaw & Heworth has a higher number of voters than adjacent wards, especially Felling and Wardley. As part of the Boundary Commission's review, parts of all four Gateshead East wards may be moved to a neighbouring ward with different councillors. At the time of writing the Council is proposing to move Burnside, Parkin Gardens, part of High Heworth Lane, and Wardle Gardens to Felling ward. Some streets will also be shifted from Windy Nook & Whitehills into Felling and Wardley & Leam Lane.

Amanda Wintcher said: "Our research shows that Gateshead has more councillors than similar authorities in the UK, and far more than it needs. Unfortunately the Boundary Commission accepted Labour's proposal to maintain the current numbers. Our ward boundaries will change as a consequence of the review."

At the Council meeting in October the Lib Dems proposed that "Bill Quay" be added to the Pelaw & Heworth ward name. Ian said "Bill Quay is the only major community in Gateshead not to have its name mentioned and this is wrong." Labour opposed the change.

The Boundary Commission will publish their draft proposals on 30 January 2024.

Please do report any incidents or areas that need attention, either to one of us or using the online reporting system:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/16768/Report-fly-tipping>

Or scan the QR code on the right to open the web page.



Lib Dem Focus - working hard all year round!

Local news and action

Doreen Boyes

21 November 1934 – 4 October 2023

The Focus Team is saddened to announce that Alderman Doreen Boyes passed away peacefully at home with family on October 4th, 2023. Doreen was Councillor for the Pelaw & Heworth Ward from 2002 to 2011. A retired teacher before joining the Council, Doreen had numerous interests and hobbies and was greatly respected by residents across the area for her sterling work. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

A collection for Bill Quay Farm was taken at Doreen's funeral.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual Remembrance Sunday service was held on November 12 at the Garden of Remembrance opposite St Mary's, Heworth. As is traditional, the Focus Team of Amanda, Paul and Ian laid a wreath.



Garden of Remembrance

Disturbance at Bill Quay Farm Halloween Event

The Focus team was dismayed to hear that the annual Halloween event at Bill Quay Farm had to be cut short due to crowding and a number of people causing a disturbance. Amanda contacted the Police and was reassured that none of the animals or visitors were harmed.

Amanda said, "It is a shame that a handful of people ruined this event for everyone. I have been in contact with the Council Events team and have reached out to the Farm management, and we will work together to prevent this happening again."

Felling Bypass Fencing

The Council has recently taken down the rather battered metal crash barriers along sections of the bypass, due to their age and condition. Some sections have already been replaced but residents have asked for the fenced area to be extended. Ian and Paul have met with Highways to discuss continuing the new fencing on the north side as far as the Coniston entrance. We will keep residents informed about the plans.



Section of the new barrier on the Felling Bypass

Derelict Garages

A number of derelict garages, including some on the Ellen Wilkinson estate, were set to be demolished earlier this year. This has not yet happened, and the Focus team have been in contact with the council to find out why this has been delayed.

Although we would like garages to be refurbished and made available for residents, this is not viable in many cases. In their present state they are an eyesore and invite vandalism, and we look forward to seeing them cleaned up and the land put to other uses.



Derelict Garages on Ellen Wilkinson



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.....

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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.