

Focus on Low Fell

Issue 164 - November 2019

www.lowfellfocus.org.uk



Crime in Low Fell: The Facts

Working for a safer Low Fell: Focus Team raise issue of crime with police

There is a lot of concern about crime in Low Fell at the moment and we have raised this with the police. Here are the figures for reported crime in the Low Fell ward. These show the categories of crime that people have asked us about most often. They compare this summer and last summer:

	Burglary	Anti-Social Behaviour	Shoplifting	Vehicle Crime
June-August 2019	8	35	14	27
June-August 2018	14	38	11	12

Source: www.police.uk/northumbria/C3/

The only significant increase is in vehicle crime. We have spoken with Inspector Robson who runs the South Area Command. He has told us that "94% of theft from vehicles is from unlocked cars". At a meeting with Low Fell Councillors and residents in October, officers urged residents to always report crime, including anti-social behaviour, and to make sure that vehicles are kept locked. If it is a non-emergency please call 101.



Low Fell's Councillors, Daniel, Susan and Ron, at Gateshead Police Station

Low Fell's Christmas Lights 'switch on'

Low Fell's Christmas Lights will be switched on at approximately 3.45pm on Wednesday, 27th November near Rosa Twelve on Durham Road.

Susan Craig said "I and my colleagues, Ron and Daniel, would like to wish all residents a Merry Christmas. Please join us at this popular event as we begin Christmas in Low Fell".



Lib Dems say "Axe the Bus Tax!"



Local Lib Dems are fighting Labour's proposed bus tax

Plans by Labour to slap a £50-a-day charge on buses using central Newcastle could result in fewer services in Gateshead, more cars on local roads, higher fares, more congestion and more pollution.

The bus tax is part of revised plans put forward by Labour-run Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside Councils after initial proposals earlier this year to charge nearly every vehicle to drive across bridges over the Tyne to tackle air pollution were widely slammed as unworkable.

The new plans include charging older buses £50 a day to drive in central Newcastle, though it would not apply to new, clean buses. Lorries and vans will also have to pay. Charging cars to enter central Newcastle is not proposed yet, but there will be an option to do so in the future.

Ron Beadle said "The proposal to charge buses could lead to fewer services for residents. Labour say they want more people using buses, but this will have the opposite effect. Please sign our petition below to axe the bus tax".

Supporting St Peter's School Choir

Low Fell's Councillors have donated £500 from the Local Community Fund to the Friends of St Peter's. This will help their fundraising efforts so that St Peter's RC Primary School choir can perform in the Music for Youth Festival Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. Daniel Duggan said "We were delighted to be able to support this and we wish all those involved the best of luck!"

Petition: Axe Labour's Bus Tax!

I/we, the undersigned, call on Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside Councils to cancel proposals to charge buses to drive into central Newcastle.

Name(s):

Email address (so we can keep you updated about the campaign):

Address:

Return to: Cllr Daniel Duggan, 37 Larnie Crescent, Low Fell, Gateshead, NE9 5RP

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. Your data may be stored or otherwise processed in the US, governed by European Commission model contract clauses. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting www.libdems.org.uk/optout. For more information go to www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

Low Fell Focus: News and Action all year round

Well done to Low Fell's Volunteer Gardeners!

The Low Fell Volunteer Gardening Group, who are part of the Low Fell Forum, received the award of "Outstanding" at the recent 'It's Your Neighbourhood' presentations. The awards are for voluntary groups and are organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.



The Volunteer Gardening group getting their award



The crocuses have been planted on the island on Beaconsfield Avenue

Recently, the group - who pay for and plant the lovely flowers in Low Fell - worked with the Rotary Club and pupils from Kells Lane School to plant crocuses at the island on **Beaconsfield Avenue** in aid of World Polio Day. Susan Craig, Chair of the Forum, said "Well done on this great award and thank you to our volunteers who work very hard to make Low Fell an even better place to live!"

Can you help form a 'Friends of Kells Lane Park' group?

Many residents tell us they enjoy visiting **Kells Lane Park**, but we want to make it even better! That's why we are aiming to create a 'Friends' group to find out what residents want in the park and to work together to improve it. If you would like to help form a 'Friends of Kells Lane Park' group, please contact Daniel at cllr.dduggan@gateshead.gov.uk



Little Theatre aims to grow

The Little Theatre, near Saltwell Park, are planning to build a new rehearsal space which will provide space for a youth group so budding actors and actresses can practice.

If you can help with their fundraising please contact them.

To learn more visit www.littletheatregateshead.co.uk



Daniel and Ron attended an awareness event at the Little Theatre to learn about their plans

Listening to businesses

We have been delivering surveys to local businesses to find out their concerns and to see how we can work together to improve Low Fell.

Susan Craig said "We know the importance of having a vibrant shopping area in Low Fell and we have worked with businesses on various projects for many years, such as securing sponsorship for the Christmas tree and the lights. However, we think the Council could be doing more to support our businesses and we will be using the results of the survey to help us stand up for Low Fell businesses when we talk to Council officers".

If you have suggestions on how to improve Low Fell's shopping area please let us know. Our details are below.

Memorial restored to former glory!

The Boer War Memorial on **Durham Road** has now been cleaned and is now a fitting tribute to all those who have given so much in the service of their country.

Daniel Duggan, who asked the Council to undertake the works, said "It's important we preserve our local heritage here in Low Fell and I am delighted that this work is now complete. I would like to thank the Council officers for their work with us on this".



The Boer War Memorial has been cleaned

Action to combat graffiti continues!

The Focus Team are continuing to get graffiti removed in Low Fell, including on BT, Virgin Media, and Council property and are calling for a more proactive approach to graffiti removal from the Council.

Daniel Duggan, who reported the graffiti pictured below on **Beacon Lough Road**, said "We recently met with the Leader of the Council and senior Council officers and discussed graffiti. Currently, offenders who are undertaking community payback do not clean graffiti as Gateshead Council's community payback team is contracted out. This is wrong. We are calling for community payback to be brought in-house so offenders can clean up graffiti and, hopefully, we will see less of it".



New bus stop for Kells Lane

Nexus have agreed to provide a new bus stop outside **Pimlico Court** on **Kells Lane**.

Ron Beadle said "Residents contacted us about how far the nearest bus stop was from Pimlico Court. This was particularly difficult for people carrying heavy shopping back home. Hopefully, a new bus stop will help improve this situation for residents."



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

If you return this form, the Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information provided, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy

Please return to:

Ron Beadle: tel 421 1269
21 Beaconsfield Ave NE9 5XT
cllr.rbeadle@gateshead.gov.uk

or **Susan Craig:** tel 488 0787
73 Whaggs Lane NE16 4PQ
cllr.sraig@gateshead.gov.uk

or **Daniel Duggan:** tel 487 4613
37 Larne Crescent NE9 5RP
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