

Lib Dems offer best plan for tackling climate emergency

Alternative plans put forward by Gateshead Lib Dems to deal with poor air quality are a breath of fresh air.

Whereas Labour's plans look set to increase pollution and make public transport more expensive for residents, local Lib Dems have come up with a raft of exciting and workable proposals to tackle poor air quality and the climate emergency. These include:

- increasing the electric vehicle rapid recharging facilities
- introducing a workplace parking levy to generate funds to invest in better public transport
- backing freight consolidation
- extending the Metro to the south and west of Gateshead

Labour-run Gateshead Council should axe their planned tax on buses, go back to drawing board, and work with the Lib Dems to implement their plans so that everyone in Gateshead can breath clean air.

Lib Dems battle fly-tipping!



Local campaigner Leanne Brand is demanding action on fly-tipping

Lib Dem campaigners in Gateshead are leading a crusade against flytipping.

In 2016/17, Gateshead had the 12th highest incidents of flytipping in the country. Now, Gateshead Council have admitted that Bensham and Saltwell have the worst flytipping problem in the borough.

"Flytipping is a blight on communities and those

guilty of it should be fined and made to pay for the clean up," said Lib Dem Campaigner **Leanne Brand**.

Birtley Lib Dem campaigner **Paul Elliott**, who reported a number of incidents to get them cleared up, said "Gateshead charges up to £42 to take away rubbish. This hardly helps control the problem."



Local campaigner for Birtley Paul Elliott

Labour slammed over environment

In May, Labour in Gateshead declared a climate emergency and called for action to halt global warming. But since then, NOTHING has happened to tackle the crisis.

Indeed, Labour in Gateshead have taken some backward steps in recent months that actually make the climate situation even worse! For example, Labour:

- are planning to slap a tax on buses to drive in central Newcastle
- continue to press on with plans for hundreds of executive homes to be built on our local countryside

- rejected calls for wasteful bottled water in single use plastic bottles to be replaced with tap water in the Civic Centre

"When Labour proposed their motion declaring a climate emergency in May," said Lib Dem Councillor Daniel Duggan, "we expected some positive action to follow. We certainly did not expect months of inaction. So, we're calling on Labour to back our plans for ending single use plastic bottles, clean our streets of litter and fly-tipping, and carry out tree planting."



Looking after the environment: Gateshead Lib Dems, including Councillors Daniel Duggan, Ian Patterson, Susan Craig, and Peter Craig on a litter pick

Cleaner, Greener, Fairer!

Lib Dems launch 'Six to Fix' plan for Gateshead

The battle for control of Gateshead Council is hotting up, following Labour losses to the Lib Dems in the local elections in May. And the voting gap between the two parties was narrowed again in July when people voted in a by-election for a new police commissioner (see graph on right).

With Lib Dems openly talking of taking control of Gateshead Council in the years ahead, they have launched their plan for what a Lib Dem Council will do. It's called 'Six to Fix' and includes:

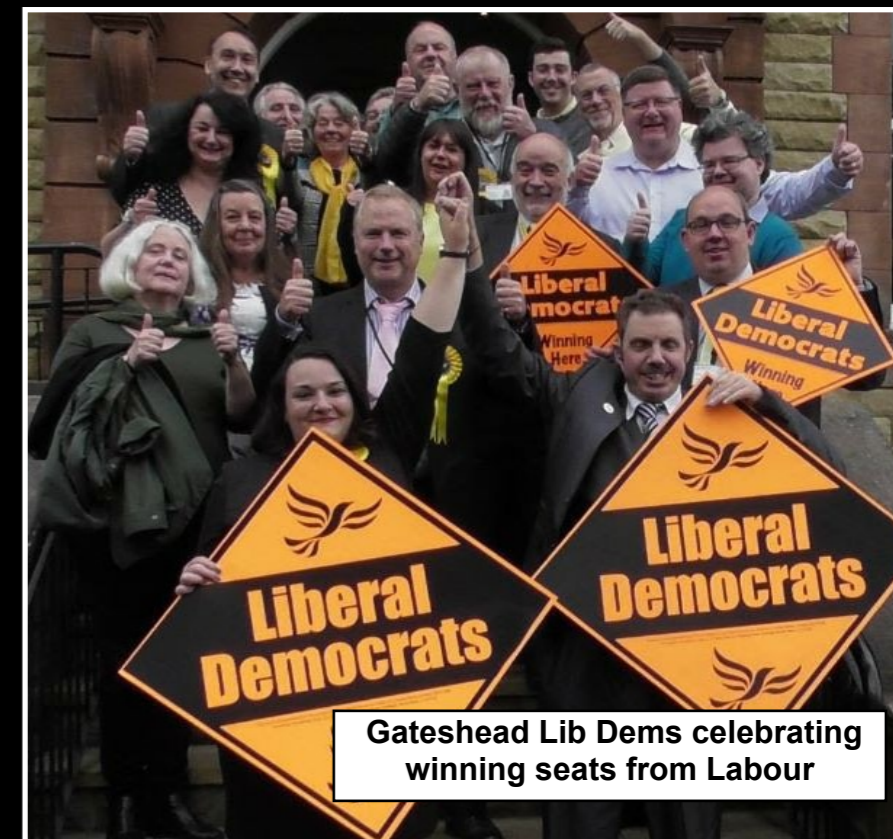
- **Cleaning up Gateshead:** Lib Dems would improve street cleaning, tackle fly-tipping and repair potholes.
- **Stopping Labour waste:** Lib Dems would cut the number of councillors' allowances and put an end to extravagant vanity projects such as Labour's barely used Quarryfield car park. Savings would go into cleaning up Gateshead.
- **Making Gateshead Greener:** Protect and enhance our green spaces, clean our air and create new woodlands.

- **Giving Gateshead a voice:** Labour infighting means the people of Gateshead are not benefitting from the £600 million the Government is giving the new North East Mayor to create jobs. Labour have refused to let the people of Gateshead vote for the Mayor. Lib Dems will ensure Gateshead benefits from the North East Mayor.

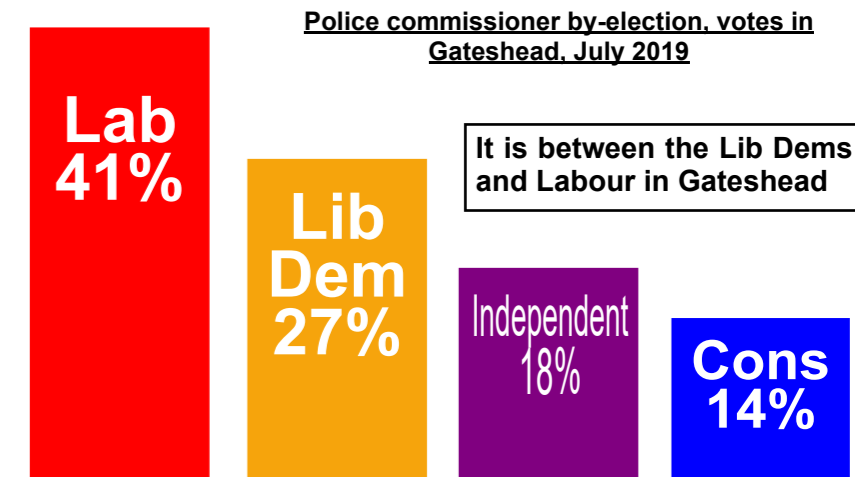
- **Homes for all:** Lib Dems will build homes closer to where people work to protect the greenbelt. They will focus on affordable homes rather than Labour's executive mansions.

- **Secondary schools enquiry:** We need an independent enquiry into Gateshead's Secondary Schools. OFSTED rate most as poor but parents and governors think this is unfair. Gateshead Council must investigate.

Lib Dem campaigner **Dawn Welsh** said "Many tell us they feel Labour does not have a plan for Gateshead. In contrast, Lib Dems are putting forward a positive programme to make Gateshead cleaner, greener, & fairer, and to ensure affordable homes are built and Labour waste is ended."



Gateshead Lib Dems celebrating winning seats from Labour



Making Gateshead Greener



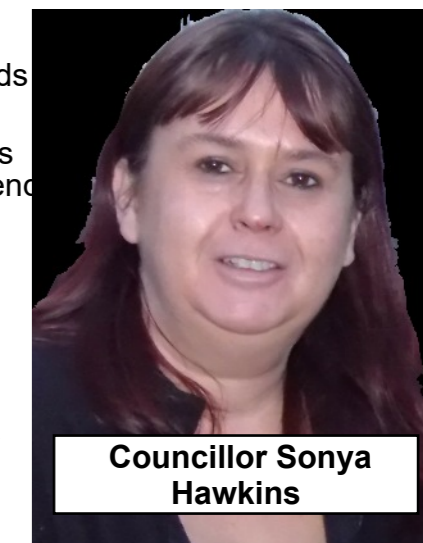
Local campaigner Jonathan Mohammed at Beggars Wood is calling for more tree planting

Local Lib Dems are pressing Gateshead Council to release unused land for planting up woodland and orchards to help the environment.

Lib Dem campaigner **Jonathan Mohammed** has identified one such site in Lobley Hill - at the southern end of Beggars Wood.

"This site would be ideal for planting trees," said Jonathan. "Until the early 1960s it was woodland. But it was then destroyed to make way for a rubbish tip. Returning it to its natural condition would help make Gateshead greener."

Councillor **Sonya Hawkins** said "We want to involve schools and community groups in local projects to plant trees on unused land. We can all do our bit to help the environment."



Councillor Sonya Hawkins