



Leanne Brand leads the hardworking Lib Dem FOCUS Team here in Saltwell and Bensham

Questions Over the Future of Shipcote Baths



Local Lib Dem campaigner Leanne Brand with Tim Farron, Lib Dem MP outside of Shipcote Baths (Gateshead Leisure Centre)

“Architectural Gem” under the microscope as part of Council’s Leisure Review.

Shipcote Baths, part of Gateshead Leisure Centre, will be 80 years old in April, but is currently at risk due to Gateshead Council’s review of leisure services.

As part of this, the Council have launched a Gateshead Sport and Leisure survey, taking place in February 2022. On their website, they describe it as “the latest phase of ongoing consultation and engagement.” which commenced in February 2021 and is necessary “To help balance the budget.”

But residents are worried about the review, in case the Labour-led council decide to cut services to save money.

“Any reduction in services for our swimming pools or leisure centres in Gateshead would be a bad thing for local residents,” said Lib Dem campaigner **Leanne Brand**. “It is a vital service to help residents with their fitness levels and mental health.”

“Since Mulgrave Baths closed in the late 70’s, we have only had one swimming pool in Central Gateshead.”

“Residents are saying that if we lost Shipcote Baths as well, it would have a huge impact on their fitness and overall well-being.”

“Gateshead Council do have a statutory duty to improve public health.” so we will be campaigning to keep Shipcote Baths and the rest of Gateshead Leisure Centre open for residents.”

Contact Leanne



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Leanne to Stand as Lib Dem Candidate in May



Leanne Brand is the best choice to be your next councillor.

Local champion Leanne Brand has been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate to fight the local election on 6th May. With a proven track record of campaigning all year round and not just turning up at election time, Leanne has shown she will be the strong opposition voice our area needs in the Civic Centre.

Leanne Brand said: “It is great to have been chosen to stand for the local elections. I’ve been active, hard-working and have kept in touch with regular newsletters.” “I want to be able to represent our area at the Civic Centre and ensure that the issues impacting people in Bensham and Saltwell are heard by this out of touch Labour council. If elected I intend to keep fighting for our area, running local campaigns to fix our roads, improve street cleaning, crack down on fly-tipping and improve our local park.”

£1 Million in Traffic Fines!



The Council has now received over £1 million from drivers fined for using the new bus lane on Askew Road.

Local campaigner **Leanne Brand** said

“Currently there is increased congestion by forcing drivers to turn right when they are trying to get to Newcastle. This congestion actually worsens pollution in the town centre.”

“Although this is making a lot of money for the Labour-run Council, at what cost to resident’s health and the environment?”

Labour raise Council Tax again!



When the Council consulted with residents, a vast majority opposed another Council Tax increase. It is easy to see why when our Council charges the highest rates of Council Tax of any metropolitan authority. Lib Dem councillors listened to residents and voted against the rise at the budget meeting in February but every present Labour councillor voted for it.

Leanne Brand said: “Residents deserve a break from constant Council Tax increases when the Council’s reserves have been growing year on year. That is money that local people need and cannot afford to give to the Council.”

Anger as Gateshead Council Increases Rent

In January, Gateshead Labour Councillors voted to increase the rent for Gateshead Council tenants by 4.1%. Liberal Democrat Councillors voted against this.

Liberal Democrat campaigner **Leanne Brand** said “People are struggling already with the increased cost of living and pending fuel price rises. This rise yet another blow to Gateshead residents.” The rise will be introduced in April.

Gateshead parks under threat – Is Saltwell Park next?

Plans to build four houses in the heart of Whickham’s historic Chase Park have now been submitted to Gateshead Council.

“We were aware that Permission in Principle has been granted by Gateshead Council for both Felling Park and Chase Park in Whickham” said local campaigner **Leanne Brand**, “but this is now actually happening.”

“Our green spaces are being eroded by Council decisions – and Saltwell Park could be next in line. Our green spaces have been so important to us recently, especially during the pandemic and so the Lib Dem Focus Team will battle against any reduction, especially in our parks.” said Leanne.

Chase Park is at the heart of the community of Whickham and Labour’s decision to sell off part of it for housing has appalled many residents.

But rather than reverse their decision, the Labour-led Council have instead tried to claim the site is not in Chase Park - even though it clearly sits within the park walls.

Councillor John Adams, the cabinet member for Housing, was quoted in the Chronicle as saying “It is not part of the park” and described the area as “a disused depot next to the park”.

And in Felling, the Council ignored 96 objections to the planning application plus a 165 signature petition from the Friends of Felling Park - to approve permission in principle for building in Felling Park.

“This Labour Council is just not listening to residents.” continued Leanne “The only way to make them listen is to make sure that they lose seats at the next local elections.”

And it just so happens that the cabinet



member for housing, has declared himself as a candidate in Saltwell in May.

You can use your vote to let him know what you think about building in our parks....

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

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- I want to join the Liberal Democrats
- I can help deliver Liberal Democrat leaflets in my area
- I can help with clerical work for the Liberal Democrats
- I will vote for the Liberal Democrats in the May 2022 local election

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