

# FOCUS

FROM YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM COUNCILLORS

**LIB DEM 1ST** **LAB 2ND** **CON 3RD**

\*Results taken from the last local election in our area.

**It's a two horse race**

## Dunston's Christmas Tree Needs Your Help!

Lib Dem councillors agreed to meet the cost of the Christmas lights for 2019, but we need your help to do this again in future



Lib Dem councillors funded the lights this time, but need your help for 2020

**Many residents have commented about how nice the Christmas tree outside of St Nicholas' Church looks each year when it's lit up. The tree switch on and carol service are real community events, and everyone really enjoys them.**

Gateshead Council no longer pays for the lighting of Christmas trees throughout the borough, so for Christmas 2019 your Lib Dem councillors agreed to pay for the tree lighting from their Local Community Fund.

We're sad to have to report that Labour councillors in the neighbouring Dunston & Teams ward (the north side of the A1) wouldn't contribute anything towards the cost. Lib Dem councillor Peter Maughan said, "We contacted Labour councillors to see if they would like to be involved with lighting the tree, and they didn't even bother to reply to our emails. This was hugely disappointing to us."

The Local Community Fund exists for councillors to support their local community. If you're part of a community group and would like some support please get in touch.

Cllr Peter Maughan is looking to set up a committee of local residents and businesses to raise funds towards the cost of lighting the tree for Christmas 2020. If you would like to be involved please get in touch using the details below.

## General Election

Thank you to everyone who voted for Vicky in December

**Despite the Lib Dem vote share increasing to 11.4% nationally, we saw a reduction in our number of MPs.**

Even though they only received 42.4% of the vote we saw the Tories awarded a huge victory on 12 December.

Cllr Vicky Anderson was the Lib Dem candidate for this area. Vicky commented, "I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the general election. Nationally, the results show that we need a better and fairer voting system. I will do all I can to work towards a better system."



Vicky was the Lib Dem candidate here

### Contact the team

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.



**Cllr Peter Maughan**

[cllr.pmaughan@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.pmaughan@gateshead.gov.uk)

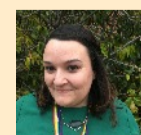
07966 363229



**Cllr Kevin McClurey**

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**Cllr Vicky Anderson**

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07568 600397

# Working hard all year round

# DUNSTON Action & News

## BUS TAX HAS BEEN APPROVED BY LABOUR IN GATESHEAD & NEWCASTLE

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of people who signed our petition calling on Newcastle, Gateshead & North Tyneside Councils to scrap their plans for the bus tax.**

Despite the local bus companies warning that higher fares would be inevitable, Labour councillors have agreed to implement a bus tax of £50 per day on buses which they consider highly polluting.

Cllr Peter Maughan commented, "we will continue to make the case for measures that encourage people to use more public transport, and against measures such as the bus tax - that could just make public transport even more expensive!"

If you have any thoughts on Labour's bus tax, please get in touch with us using the details on this newsletter. We really value your opinions.



## Council reserves grow as Labour plans another council tax hike

Gateshead Council will be setting their budget for the year ahead next month and there is concern that another Council Tax hike is planned.

This is despite news that the Council has been building up huge reserves. Lib Dem Councillors - who are the only opposition to Labour on the Council - have discovered that Labour bosses have been building up vast reserves. Reserves now stand at £39 million.

Labour-run Gateshead Council already charges the highest level of Council Tax of any metropolitan borough in the country.

Councillor Peter Maughan said, "Labour are planning to hit Council Taxpayers again whilst building huge levels of reserves. It is right to plan ahead, but Council taxpayers deserve a break. Piling up huge sums of money in the bank while local residents struggle to pay their Council Tax and public services are cut just isn't right".

Lib Dem Councillors will be carefully scrutinising Labour's planned budget.

Councillor Kevin McClurey said "Many people are really feeling the burden of year on year increases in Council Tax and Labour bosses at the Civic Centre need to realise this."



## Winter Gritting Information

In the icy weather it's important that local salt bins are kept full.

If your salt bin needs topping up please contact Gateshead Council by phone on 0191 433 7000 or by email using [customerservice@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@gateshead.gov.uk).

Alternatively, contact one of your local Lib Dem councillors and we will ensure that it gets filled up.



## Dunston Drop In

Your Lib Dem councillors were delighted to be able to support Dunston Drop In's summer project .

The activities over the summer were chosen by young people as they were things they may not have been able to do without the support of this project.

You can find out more about this youth centre on their Facebook page - Dunston Drop-In CIO.

# HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

**NAME**.....

**POSTCODE**.....

If you enter your email below, we will use it to contact you in accordance with our Fair Processing Notice below and Privacy Policy at [www.libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://www.libdems.org.uk/privacy)

**EMAIL**.....

**TELEPHONE**.....

- I can give 1 hour a month to deliver leaflets in my area
- I would like a poster at the next election to show my support for the Liberal Democrat team.
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.

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](http://www.libdems.org.uk/privacy). Printed by TradePrint at Fairprint House, 2 Fulton Road, Dundee, DD2 4SW. Published and promoted by Gateshead Liberal Democrats all at 2 Taylor Street, Consett, DH8 5RQ



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