

Focus on Low Fell

Issue 186 - May/June 2023



Thank you!

Ron Beadle and the Lib Dem Focus Team are saying a huge 'thank you' for the support they received in the recent local election.



Dawn Welsh, Ron Beadle and Daniel Duggan outside Gateshead Civic Centre

In May Ron Beadle was re-elected as Councillor for Low Fell with 59% of the vote. Once again, a greater proportion of people voted in Low Fell (45.6%) than anywhere else in Gateshead. Elsewhere in Gateshead, Lib Dems took a seat from Labour in Saltwell and another seat from Labour in Birtley. There are now 17 Lib Dem Councillors and 49 Labour Councillors on Gateshead Council. No other parties are on the Council.

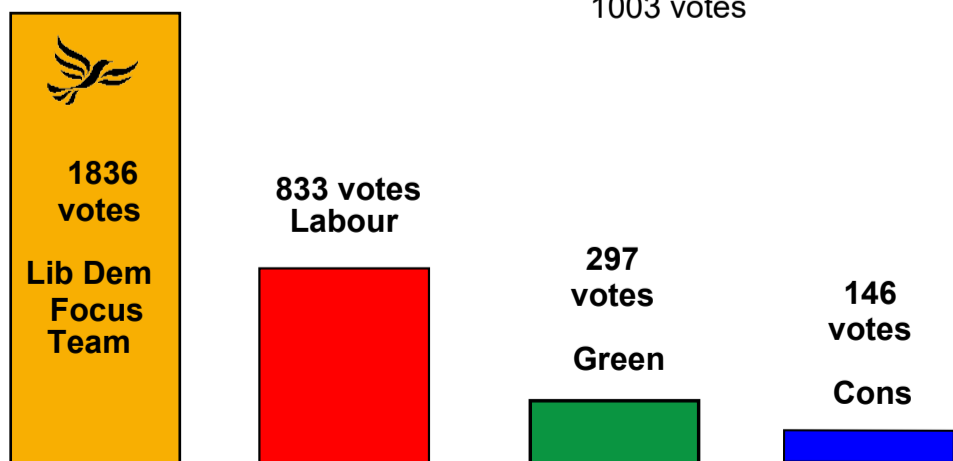
Ron said: "I want to thank everyone who voted. Alongside Daniel and Dawn, I will continue to work to earn your trust, to keep in touch, and to build an opposition that can end 50 years of Labour rule in Gateshead.

These results show that many people who support Labour nationally know that in Gateshead, Labour continue to let them down. The truth is that if more people were involved in our campaigns, we would win across Gateshead. So, if you are pleased to see more seats falling to the Lib Dems, I invite you to join us and build our opposition to Labour across the whole of Gateshead."

Would you like to help us to continue standing up for Low Fell? A number of residents deliver 'Focus' newsletters near where they live. If you would also like to deliver some 'Focus' newsletters please email Daniel at daniel.duggan@gatesheadlibdems.org.uk or phone 0191 487 4613.

How Low Fell voted in May's Council election:

Lib Dem Ron Beadle won with a majority of 1003 votes



Time to cut the Council down to size!

A public consultation about the number of Councillors in Gateshead is taking place. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear residents' views on whether to keep 66 Gateshead Councillors. Labour wants to keep the current number of Councillors while Lib Dems are arguing for a reduction. The Local Government Boundary Commission will make the final decision and residents' views are key to this.



Too many Councillors: Lib Dems are calling for a cut in the number of Gateshead Councillors

Gateshead has far more Councillors per head of population than all but one of England's 36 Metropolitan Councils. If Gateshead were at the national average, it would have 40 councillors, not 66.

Average numbers of residents per Councillor

| Council | Average number of residents per Councillor |
|------------|--|
| Gateshead | 2,971 |
| Leeds | 8,202 |
| Manchester | 5,750 |
| Bradford | 6,071 |
| Newcastle | 3,849 |

Daniel Duggan said: "Gateshead Labour are willing to cut public services, like our leisure services, but oppose cutting the number of Councillors. Not only would fewer Councillors save a considerable amount of money, but it would also make the Council more efficient and the Council's Cabinet more accountable. Please respond to the consultation. It's time to cut the Council down to size".

To call on the Local Boundary Commission to cut the number of Councillors in Gateshead please visit www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gateshead or use the QR code below.

When completing the online form, the Commission wants to know reasons for residents' views. For example, as many Council functions have now been removed there is less need for as many Councillors. The deadline for giving your views is 10th of July, 2023.



Local news and action

Update on the Dryden centre



The Dryden Centre remains open and will do so for a number of months. The Council have issued a public statement saying that they now anticipate that the Centre will close by the end of 2023. The Lib Dem Focus team surveyed residents when news first broke of the closure and sent the survey results to Council Officers.

Daniel Duggan said: "Local people prefer an educational use to housing or business. It is also important that the green space and performance areas remain available for the community. We will be pressing for residents to be fully involved when the Council considers options for the future next year."

Next Police Street Surgery

Our next Police and Councillor Street Surgery will take place from 11.00 to 12.30 on Saturday, June 24th. We will be back at the open space on the corner of **Cross Keys Lane** and **Studley Gardens**.

Dawn Welsh said: "Residents tell us they found our previous Police street surgeries very useful, giving them the opportunity to raise their concerns directly with PCSO's. Please do come along for a chat with your Police or your Councillor team."



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 **Lib Dem Focus Team** get more done, please let us know

Please return to:

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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.

News in brief

- Resurfacing work has now been completed on **Dean Street**
- The long-awaited bollard to prevent drivers entering the pedestrian **Rosslyn Avenue** should be in place soon
- We are consulting the Council on priorities for the expanded dog warden team in areas reported to us by residents.



- The Council and Northumbrian Water are working on the removal of a significant amount of debris from the pipeline causing flooding on **Chowdene Bridge**



- A number of potholes have been repaired around **Kells Lane** following a survey by Councillors
- A number of parking tickets have been issued on **Durham Road** following a site meeting with traffic enforcement

- Ron Beadle joined one of the Council's Housing Officers in a walk around **Florence Avenue**, **Hillside Place** and **Springfield Place** to identify and remove flytipping
- We have asked for the area around **Carter's Well** to be tidied up
- A planning application for a new development on the corner of **Earls Drive** and **Worley Avenue** has been rejected by the Council's Planning Committee
- A request has been made to clear gullies in the back lanes between **Joicey Road** and **Musgrave Road**
- The bus shelter on **Durham Road** (near the Bank) has been in need of replacement for some time. Nexus have told us that they provisionally plan to install a new shelter in mid June
- We reported a large amount of rubble that had been dumped on **Kells Lane** and was blocking a lane. The Council have now removed this

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 each month or two to help deliver 'Focus' newsletters

Name: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Address.....

Phone

Email

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