

Focus on Whickham North and Swalwell

Issue 174
Election
Special

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SONYA HAWKINS ..the best choice for Whickham North & Swalwell on May 2nd.

On the Council

I was first elected twelve years ago as part of your Lib. Dem. Focus Team, joining Cllr. Peter Craig and Cllr. Chris Ord as a ward councillor for Whickham North on Gateshead Council.

I am deeply committed to doing my best for the communities that I both live in and know so well.

I'm currently Chair of Lighting Up Whickham and also a Trustee at Swalwell Community Centre, as well as being involved in many other aspects of our local community.



I serve on the Licensing & Regulatory Committee as well as being a member of the Tyne & Wear Trading Standards Joint Committee and the Special Appointments Committee.



Communities

I play an active role in many of the community groups that we have within Whickham North and Swalwell.

On 2nd May you will have the chance to support the local Lib. Dem. Focus Team by voting to re-elect me as your ward councillor. *Sonya*

Growing Up

I have lived in Whickham and Swalwell all my life, living in Bullfinch Drive, Napier Road and Kingsley Place.

As a child, I went to Front Street Primary School, where I have served as a School Governor.

Following that, I then also went to Whickham (Comprehensive) School.

Working

I work as an Assistant Manager at a large kitchen and joinery company on the Team Valley, in Gateshead.

For the 10 years before that I was a security advisor for a large retailer in the Metro Centre.

Listening to residents and keeping them up to date.

An important part of a Councillor's job is listening to residents' concerns, doing something about them and then keeping everyone updated as to the outcome.

In the past year your Focus Team has:

- Produced and delivered Focus leaflets to keep you up-to-date with local news and issues
- Provided additional up to date information via our electronic newsletter; eFocus.
- Issued letters to residents on localised issues
- Assisted with dozens of residents' issues.
- Held street surgeries.



A street surgery



“Keep a strong Focus Team”

“The Focus Team works hard all the year round for our community.” say Peter and Chris.



“And we have had to work even harder since Gateshead Council cut many of the services that they provided.”

“From flower beds to libraries and Christmas trees to Community Centres - together with our residents, we've helped to fill in the gaps.”

“Having a good team of local councillors who work well together is very important, it can impact on many things from dealing with potholes, right up to protecting the vitality of our community.”

“A key part of the team.”

“Sonya is a key part of the team and we can't afford to lose her.

“Between the three of us we have over 60 years experience of being a ward councillor and we are always available to support our local residents.”

“On 2nd May you will have the opportunity to re-elect Sonya - and keep the Focus Team together.

Peter Christopher

SONYA HAWKINS



Liberal Democrats Focus Team - working for you, all year round

Liberal Democrat Focus Team Annual Report

Focus on Fly Tipping



Before



After

- Even although the Council is reluctant to fine fly tippers, Sonya, Peter & Chris are reporting and getting cleared up any areas of fly tipping reported to them.

Dog Fouling

- Sonya, Chris and Peter have arranged for extra 'No Dog Fouling' signs to be placed in the ward, where residents have reported issues.



Parking



- Local shop owners have reported that some drivers are having difficulty in accessing the parking bays at the bottom of Fellside Road.
- One recent incident involved a car going through the front of the optician's shop.
- As a result your ward councillors are working with Highways officials on a new parking scheme for the area.

Supporting our community

This year members of the Focus Team have:

- Helped to provide Christmas trees for our communities by our active participation in local groups such as Lighting Up Wickham.
- As trustees, supported our volunteers who are very successfully running the day to day activities at Swalwell Community Centre.
- Worked with fellow trustees of Wickham Volunteer Library Association to keep our local library open.
- Organised and supported Remembrance Day events in Wickham and Swalwell.



- Supported the Gateshead West Uniform Scheme.
- Assisted Chase Park Community Group with funding to help them to organise a Community Fair in the park, planned for Saturday June 8th.

Green spaces and trees

- The resource allocated in Gateshead Council to maintaining trees has been severely reduced over the last few years, but we have arranged for trees to be cut back that are encroaching on residents' property.
- We have also supporting a tree planting scheme in the ward on a site near Swalwell Fire Station.



Helping people with their issues



Between Peter, Chris and Sonya, there is more than 60 years experience as a ward councillor and they have continued to assist residents with issues such as:

- Housing repairs, Housing requests, Empty dwellings,
- Potholes, Uneven pavements, Grass cutting, Grit bins,
- Fly tipping, Littering, Dog fouling, Bin collections,
- Planning queries, Tree queries, Parking & traffic issues,
- Non-Council related issues such as problems caused by utility companies - and requests for bus shelters.

We are here to help if you need us.

Lib Dem Focus Team

Sonya is a key member of the Wickham North & Swalwell Focus Team, that provides support to residents and gives them a voice on the Council.



Contact us:

Peter 488 0787

Sonya 422 2206

Chris 488 2545

To keep a strong Lib
Dem Focus Team

Sonya
HAWKINS

