

# on Birtley Focus

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Focus on Birtley



Your Birtley Focus Team: Paul Elliott,  
Lauran Sowerby and Joe Sowerby



## Allerdene Bridge delayed

●Lib Dem campaigners Lauran Sowerby and Joe Sowerby with the Allerdene Bridge in the background.

**It was meant to be open by now. But the new A1 Allerdene road bridge is now not due to open until next spring.**

The new bridge was installed in September 2023 and the old Allerdene Bridge was demolished. But in January this year, faults in welding joints were found in the new bridge. As a result, lane closures are in place and there are restrictions on vehicles with abnormal loads.

“Unfortunately the welding faults need time to be fixed, therefore causing a delay to the completion of the A1 upgrade,” said **Joe Sowerby**, Lib Dem councillor for Birtley South. “We will continue to press for the work to be carried out swiftly,” said Lib Dem campaigner in Birtley South **Lauran Sowerby**.

## Shadon House demolished

**Shadon House in Barley Mow is no more! It has been demolished following Gateshead Council’s decision to decommission the former social services building.**

Built in 1966, and closed in 2022, it was used to house older people with dementia. Replacement accommodation is now provided in the newly built Sister Winifred Laver House in Felling.

“The Council has agreed that the site will be used for new council housing, a decision we support,” said Lib Dem Councillor **Paul Elliott**.



Shadon House

●Now and then: above Cllr Paul Elliott outside Shadon House in 2023 and left, Paul next to the now demolished building.



# Lib Dem action all year round



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## Speed petition on Vigo Lane

The Birtley Focus Team - Cllr Paul Elliott, Cllr Joe Sowerby and Lauran Sowerby, along with North Lodge Councillor, Craig Martin, have been collecting signatures on a Petition to reduce the speed limit on Vigo lane.



"After the closure of the B.O.C and Arizona Chemicals site and the building of the new housing estate, your local Focus Team, have been receiving complaints about the speed limit on Vigo Lane," said Paul.

"During the planning application for the new housing, your local Lib Dem team called for a full highways safety audit with the hope of reducing the speed limit to 30mph as the area is now wholly residential. The time has come for this to happen."

Lauran Sowerby said, "We all would like to thank all the residents who have signed the petition, which will be handed in to the Council shortly."

## Station Lane to be resurfaced

After a year of campaigning by your local Lib Dem Focus team and the residents of Station Lane, we can confirm that Station Lane will be resurfaced in 2026.

Cllr Joe Sowerby said, "This is great news, to finally have it confirmed by the Council. I'm sure this will be a great relief to the residents who have worked hard on this matter."

"We have also had it confirmed that the Bungalows at Mount Pleasant will be resurfaced in 2026."



●Lauran Sowerby and Joe Sowerby on Station Lane where resurfacing is to take place.

## Keep in touch with the Birtley Liberal Democrat Focus Team

You can write to the Focus Team at:  
39 Dorset Av, Birtley,  
Chester le Street, DH3 2DU

You can phone the Focus Team on: 07775 227459

You can email the Focus Team at:  
hello@gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Visit us at [gatesheadlibdems.org.uk](https://gatesheadlibdems.org.uk)



## Birtley Venator plant to be sold

Your local Lib Dem Focus Team have expressed their concerns about and hopes for the future of the Venator plant in Birtley.

Venator Materials PLC have three plants in the North East (including the plant at Birtley) which employ 520 people. The company was put into administration at the start of September. It is now up for sale.

Birtley Lib Dem campaigner Joe Sowerby said, "We are concerned about the jobs at Venator but we remain hopeful that a buyer for the company will be found."



## Birtley football transfer

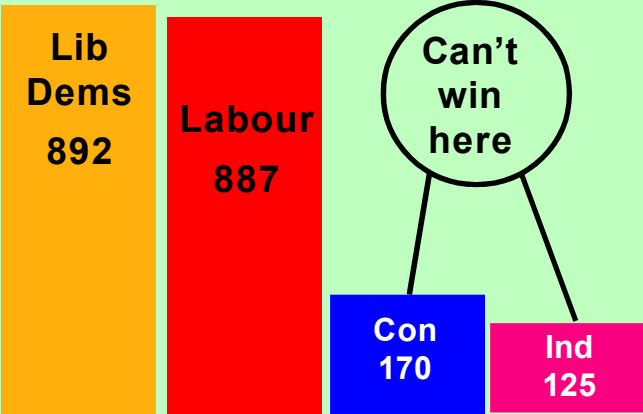
We are pleased to announce that Birtley Town Football club have obtained the asset transfer of the playing fields used by the Club.



Your local Focus team would like to congratulate the Club for getting the deal over the line. It will mean the club rather than the Council will run and look after the grounds.

## Knife edge in Birtley as Labour defends final seat

In the last local elections, Labour lost Birtley to the Lib Dems by just 5 votes. The Lib Dem vote soared. Only the Lib Dems can beat Labour in Birtley.



In the local elections next year, the result in Birtley could be on a knife edge. The only way to beat Labour here is to vote Lib Dem.

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