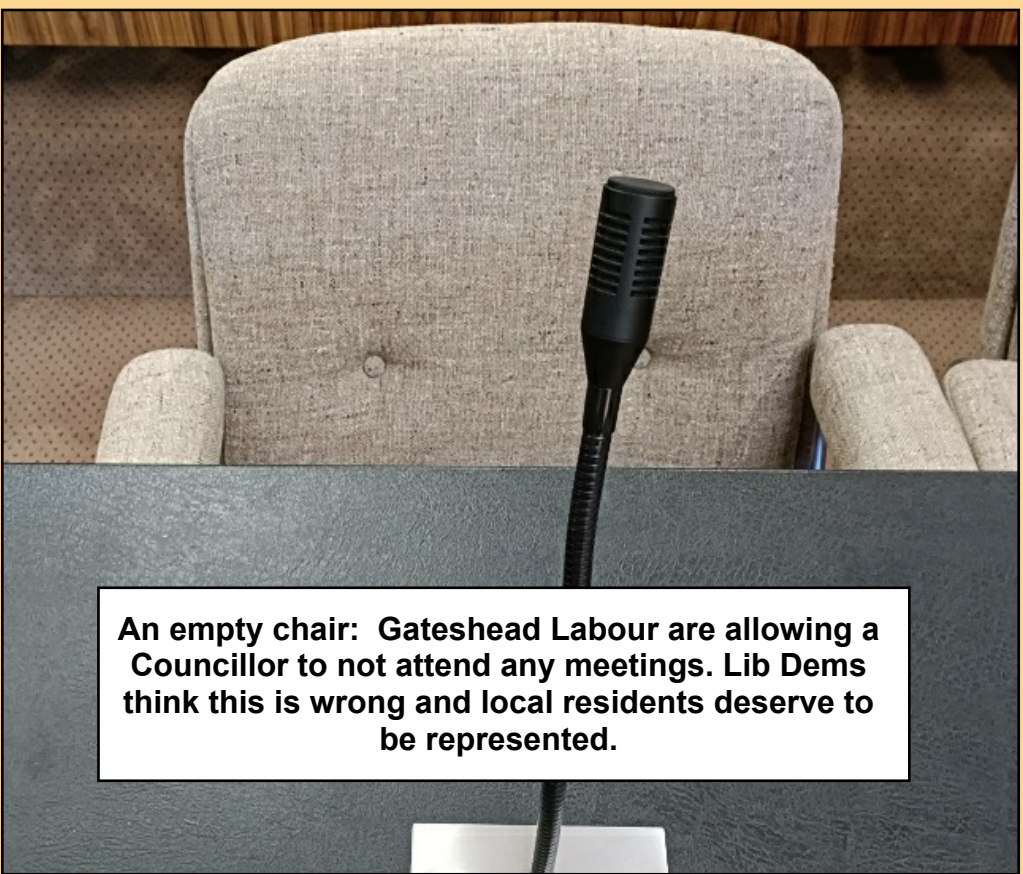


The Invisible Councillor



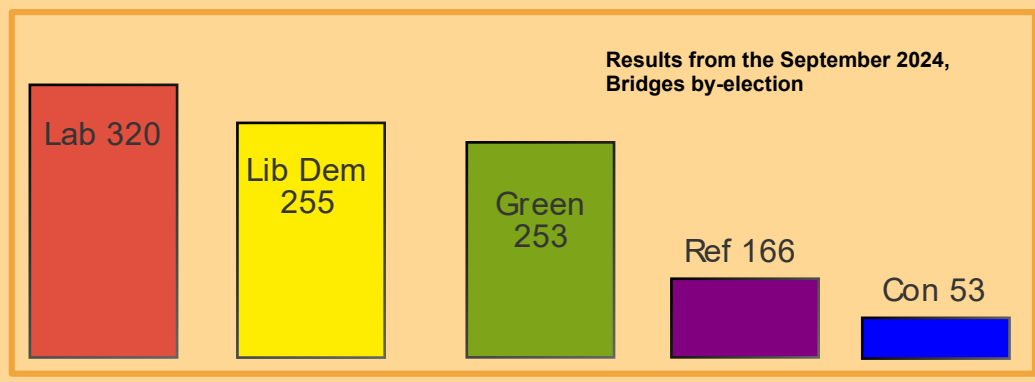
An empty chair: Gateshead Labour are allowing a Councillor to not attend any meetings. Lib Dems think this is wrong and local residents deserve to be represented.

In September 2024, Labour beat Lib Dem Jonathan Aibi by just 65 votes in a by-election in Bridges ward. One year on and the Councillor elected hasn't attended a single meeting.



Jonathan (pictured left) said: "Labour have allowed the Councillor to not attend any meetings. That's a disgrace. If a Councillor can't represent the people who elected them, there should be a by-election to elect someone who will."

Only the Lib Dems can beat Labour here



Action on Litter – At Last!



Local Lib Dems Jamie Rickelton and Leanne Brand have been pressing for action on litter for years.

Thanks to pressure from local Liberal Democrat councillors, the Council has finally increased investment in tackling litter, fly-tipping and keeping our streets cleaner.

Residents told us loud and clear that cleaner streets were a priority, and we took that message straight to the Civic Centre.

Lib Dem Councillor Leanne Brand said "The Council added £2 million to its budget for this work a couple of years ago and the benefits of this are starting to show. We are pleased that Labour have started to listen. But there is much more to do and a Lib Dem Council would increase spending on local environmental services year on year."

Local campaigner Jamie Rickelton said "We'll keep holding Labour to account to make sure this progress continues and the funding actually delivers on the ground".

Time for a new Youth Service



Gateshead's opposition Liberal Democrats have launched a campaign for a new Youth Service in Gateshead. We are talking with national providers who have worked with councils, such as North-East Lincolnshire, to create modern Youth Centres. These have been funded by grants and local businesses. The centres provide places to go, things to do, skills to learn and employer links.

Local campaigner Jonathan Aibi (pictured above, on the right, with Lib Dem activist Liam Bowering) said: "Labour has failed Gateshead's youth and I refuse to wait any longer. With Lib Dem support I am working with national partners to deliver a state-of-the-art youth service at a price we can afford. We need your vote now to make this happen and give young people the future they deserve".

Local news and action

Where's the money gone?



Lib Dems Leanne Brand and Jamie Rickelton want the Council to spend the money they have on our public services, like housing.

Nearly half of the Council's improvements budget wasn't spent last year. Only £11,000 was spent from a £2 million budget for Energy and Carbon Net Zero and only £3 million of the £5.75 million for Decent Homes was spent.

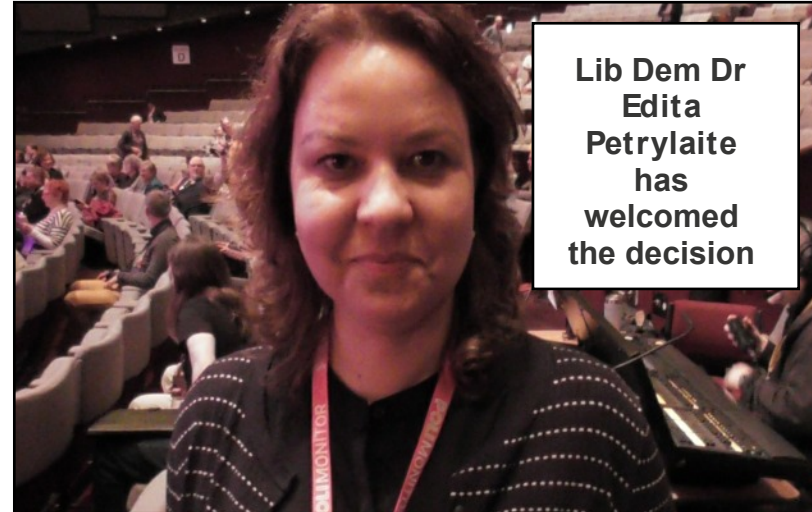
Lib Dem campaigner Jamie Rickelton said "This money should have made council flats warmer and replaced windows, kitchens and bathrooms. This work also keeps people in jobs. If the Council put this expenditure in its budget then we need to know why it didn't get spent."

Overall, the Labour-run Council spent £64.8 million on capital schemes but budgeted for £113.9 million.

Leanne Brand said "Labour bosses at Gateshead Council complain about not receiving enough money from the Government, but it should spend the money it has."

Banning puppy smuggling

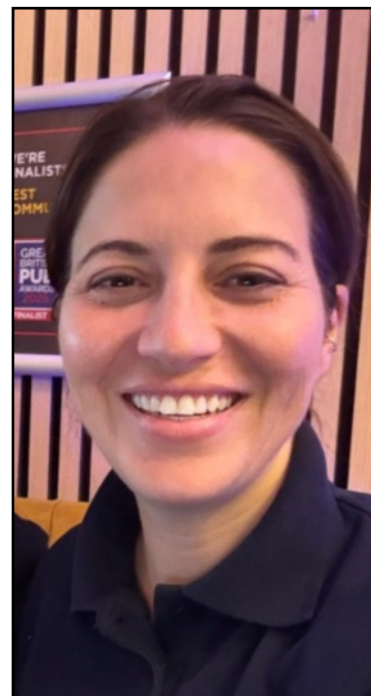
A new law has been passed banning puppy smuggling. Lib Dem MP and Vet Danny Chambers proposed the bill to stop the import of heavily pregnant and mutilated dogs and gained the support of the Government.



Lib Dem Dr Edita Petrylaite has welcomed the decision

Lib Dem campaigner Dr Edita Petrylaite said "I was delighted to see the Lib Dems leading once again on animal welfare to stop this horrible practice."

Welcome Luisa!



Please welcome Luisa Scott, a passionate local activist dedicated to making Gateshead better every day.

Luisa has achieved phenomenal success with The Tynesider, a community pub on Gateshead High Street that is a finalist for the title of 'Best Community Pub' in Britain.

She also leads 'Friends of Gateshead', organising regular litter picks and clean-ups, a perfect example of how coming together as a community can bring real change.

Luisa says: "Some people have resigned themselves to thinking that Gateshead is a lost cause, but I believe it's worth fighting for".

Join the real alternative to Labour in Gateshead



If you would like to join Gateshead Lib Dems, or would just like to learn more, please contact us. Alternatively, if you have suggestions on how to improve our area please let us know.

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