

FOCUS

Liberal Democrats

DUNSTON HILL & WHICKHAM EAST

Focus Team:

Amelia Ord, Peter Maughan,
Vicky Anderson and
Jason Meecham



WORKING HARD ALL YEAR ROUND

BARCLAYS LOCAL TO CLOSE



Barclays Bank have been in touch with their local customers to advise that they will close their Local advice session at Whickham Library in November.

This will effectively remove the last of the face-to-face services from banks in Whickham and many of our residents have been in touch with the Focus Team to say how deeply this will affect them.

Your Lib Dem councillors have written on behalf of residents to challenge the decision and ask Barclays to reconsider, but they have not changed their minds and the service will cease on **November 1st 2025**.

BANKING HUB UPDATE



Whickham Councillors had been in discussion with Cashlink (the team working on behalf of the government) about creating a banking hub in Whickham, providing full banking services for the main banks in the area although on a reduced service.

"This would provide vital services to the local community at a time when more and more branches are closing in the area." said **Peter**, "The government is funding 300 banking hubs around the UK. Sadly, the proposal can't go ahead because Whickham and the surrounding area doesn't meet the criteria being used on the scheme."

JASON MEECHAM JOINS THE FOCUS TEAM



We are pleased to announce a new member to the Focus Team in Dunston Hill and Whickham East.

Jason Meecham will be joining us, getting involved in our activities including conducting surveys and meeting residents. Watch out for him over the coming months!

UPDATES ON BUS SERVICES



New 644 service - A new service has been launched by Go North East from the MetroCentre/ ASDA to Whickham.

This bus will run on **Mondays to Saturdays between 09:45 and 14:08** and will run through Swalwell and Whickham (serving Clavering Rd, Milton Rd, North View, Whickham Front Street Broom Lane, Whaggs Lane, Oakfield Road, Fellside Park, Fellside Road and close the loop by returning to the MetroCentre via North View, Milton Road and Clavering Road).

While this new service provides an excellent opportunity it has been launched on a trial basis and it's up to residents to use it or it will be withdrawn.

Your **Liberal Democrat councillors** have contacted Go North East to request the route is extended to include Southfield Road.

WARM SPACES THIS WINTER

If you are in need of a warm welcoming space this year, the following are in our area:

- Dunston Hill Methodist Church
- Dunston Library/Dunston Activity Centre
- Fellside Methodist Church
- Holy Trinity Church
- Joshua Tree Café/ Hillside Church, Lobley Hill
- Swalwell Community Centre
- Unity Methodist Church
- Whickham Library



View or add to the full directory by visiting the council website or scanning the QR code.



visit: www.GatesheadLibDems.org.uk



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER

DUNSTON HILL

Church service at St Nicholas with Christ, 10:00am followed by wreath laying at the cenotaph. Any residents not planning to come to the Church service but still wants to pay their respects should gather at the cenotaph from 10:45am.

Councillor Peter Maughan will lay a wreath on behalf of the residents of Dunston Hill.

WHICKHAM

The parade will start from the east side of Back Row at 10:30 am and arrive at Whickham cenotaph around 10:40 am. Those taking part should meet in Back Row by 10:10 am to get ready for 10:20 am. A Remembrance service and wreath-laying will begin at 10:45 am, followed by a march and a short service at St. Mary's Church. Roads will be closed to allow the event to take place: School Street and Back Row from 10:00 to 10:45 am, and parts of Front Street from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Wreath layers who haven't been in touch should contact Event Coordinator Peter Craig.

Councillor Vicky Anderson will lay a wreath on behalf of the residents of Whickham.

WARD UPDATES

Footpath resurfaced on Front Street, Whickham

The footpath on the south side of Front Street, Whickham has received a long overdue resurface recently. The footpath, not only looks much better, but should be much safer to use.

New lighting columns, Woodburn Gardens

Councillors across Gateshead were asked recently to nominate a street in their ward where lighting was particularly bad. This could have been for a number of reasons including age, height, displacement of light, width of footpath/road. "As part of a pilot scheme, we were asked to nominate a street where we thought lighting was bad within our ward." said **Vicky**, "We were pleased to see that lighting columns in the Woodburn Gardens have recently been replaced and hope it makes a difference to residents using the street."

Parking Issues

Concerns have been raised about vehicles parking in the designated bus stop areas on the Watergate Estate. This is causing difficulties for residents with mobility issues where they require a bus to be able to park close to the curb for access. "Being unable to access a bus service due to inconsiderate parking is leaving some residents feeling isolated." said **Amelia**, "We contacted the council to request yellow boxes are painted on the road to remind drivers to keep the space clear for bus access. We hope it won't be too long before they are installed. In the meantime, we would request that residents are considerate of where they park."

School parking

We have also been contacted by a number of residents who have reported inconsiderate parking and abusive language by parents parking outside of schools to drop off/collect children. Please be aware of where and how you park, giving consideration to residents.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE



Your Dunston Hill and Whickham East councillors have supported the fundraising efforts for the Christmas Lights in the ward.

DUNSTON HILL

The Christmas lights need to be booked in August each year, which puts strain on the team raising funds for the lights. Please consider supporting the Christmas lights by giving a donation. Even a donation of £1 per household every month (£12) a year would go a long way towards the total cost of having a great display every year.

If you'd like to give a regular donation or a one off, the bank details are: PCC of St Nicholas. Sort code: 20-33-51 Account: 10692700. One-off donations can be made via the bank details or at the shop.

The Christmas light switch on will take place on **Tuesday 9 December 2025** (short service at St Nicholas with Christ Church at 6:00pm followed by the light switch on at 6:30pm.

WHICKHAM

A huge thank you to the Lighting Up Whickham team, who work continuously to raise the funds needed for our Christmas tree.

The switch on event this year will take place on **Tuesday 25th November** at 3:30 for 3:45 on Church Green, Whickham. It will be hosted by Dame Bella Bluebell and the pantomime cast of Goldilocks and the 3 Bears from the Little Theatre.

Also, if you are able to contribute to the cost of the tree, please donate via the JustGiving link found on the Lighting Up Whickham FaceBook page.

Your Councillor Surgeries

Listed below are our surgery dates. If you have an issue, come along to speak to us in person or contact us by email or phone.

St Nicholas' Church Hall, 10:00 - 11:00

8 November 2025
13 December 2025
10 January 2026
14 February 2026
14 March 2026
11 April 2026

Whickham Library, 10:00-11:00

22 November 2025
NO SURGERY IN DECEMBER
24 January 2026
28 February 2026
28 March 2026
25 April 2026

Street Surgeries

2025

8 November The Crescent
22 November Broom Lane
13 December Knightside Gardens (top)

2026

10 January Mansion Heights/ Highfields
24 January Cornmoor Rd /Cornmoor Gns
14 February Mountside Gns/Woodside Gns
28 February Ashfield Park
14 March Knightside Gardens (bottom)
28 March Broom Lane/Front Street
11 April Market Lane
25 April Millfield Road/Whaggs Lane

GET IN TOUCH



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