

Focus

on Dunston, Lobley Hill and Festival Park

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Work starts on Labour's greenbelt homes



After years of battles in Gateshead Council, the bulldozers have been sent into the fields to the south of Whickham Highway. Labour's housing plans for 570 houses on former greenbelt are taking shape.

Meanwhile the former Central Nursery site on Whickham Highway is expected to be sold by Gateshead Council so that house building can be carried out there.

The house-building plans were pushed through in 2015 when Labour voted down Lib Dem calls for the area to remain as greenbelt. Delays to starting building work were, amongst other things, caused by the pandemic.

Lib Dem campaigner **Jason Meecham** said, "There was a long battle by the Lib Dem Focus Team and residents to save Whickham Highway from house-building.

"Sadly, Labour forced through their plans as they had the numbers on the Council. This shows we need a Lib Dem run Council here."

Councillor **Peter Maughan** said, "Liberal Democrats have concerns about roads and local services. Nearly 600 additional houses next to one of the busiest roads in the area will affect the quality of life for residents across the whole of Dunston and Lobley Hill.

"There will be no additional school places or local doctors."

Affordability of the new homes also concerns your Lib Dem Focus Team. "The new houses are expected to sell for around £300,000," said Councillor **Amelia Ord**.

"That's about 12 times the average annual salary in Gateshead. We are concerned that these new homes will be out of reach of many local people."

Building on former greenbelt sites is taking place despite large areas of brownfield land standing idle.

Councillor **Vicky Anderson** said, "Most of the brownfield sites have lain unused for years. We believe the Council should be using these sites as a priority."



Your Lib Dem Focus Team:

Amelia Ord, Jason Meecham, Peter Maughan, Vicky Anderson



Welcome for water watchdog axe

In the general election last year, stopping sewage in our local rivers was one of the top priorities for the Lib Dems.

But while the Lib Dems were kicking up a stink about poo pouring into our rivers, the Labour government dragged its feet on stopping sewage pollution.

But at last, the Government has now put into action a key Lib Dem demand - Ofwat, the body that regulated the water companies, will be axed and a stronger body with teeth will take its place.

"For too long the water companies were allowed to get away with polluting rivers at will," said Lib Dem Councillor, **Amelia Ord**.

"That had to end. The old regulator, Ofwat, has failed. The new regulator must have teeth and a willingness to take strong action to put an end to sewage dumping in local rivers.

"The Lib Dems' 72 MPs will be watching closely to ensure the new watchdog is able to bring genuine change to the water industry.

"We are determined to stop rivers being used as open sewers."



●River Team could benefit from plans to bring in a new, stronger regulator of the water industry.

●Amelia Ord has called for a stronger regulator to stop sewage dumping in rivers.

Your local Lib Dem Focus Team



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Call to restore Beggarswood driving range

Many residents who walk through the Beggarswood recreation area at Lobley Hill will see what's left of the golf driving range.

For years now it has stood idle, becoming more and more derelict.

Labour neglect of the site has been challenged by the local Lib Dem Focus Team. Local community campaigner, **Jason Meecham**, said, "The driving range is one of a number of buildings and sites in Gateshead that Labour have left unused and derelict.

"The driving range site could be passed on to a community group to run the site for sport or for a community garden. Leaving it idle and unused helps no one."



●Lib Dem campaigner Jason Meecham next to the driving range at Beggars Wood, Lobley Hill, left derelict by Labour for years.

Only Lib Dems can beat Labour in Gateshead

Labour have run Gateshead Council for 51 years but their grip on power is now slipping away. In recent years the Lib Dems have won seats from Labour.

After the last local elections, there were 48 Labour and 18 Lib Dem Councillors. No other party has any seats on the Council. Next year all council seats will be up for election. If you want to end Labour rule, vote Lib Dem.

Houses replace derelict site - at last!



It only took Labour 17 years to sort out the former Dunston Hill Primary School site at the bottom of Dunston Bank.

At last, the derelict site has been cleared and 35 new affordable houses occupy the site. "17 years of dereliction and neglect under Labour are, at last, over," said Cllr **Peter Maughan**. "Better late than never but the new houses should have been built years ago."

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