

FOCUS

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Carry On Ian

Cllr Ian Patterson has been chosen by the Focus Team to stand for Council elections on May 2.

Ian said "It is a real honour to have been selected to stand for re-election to the Council this May. Alongside my colleagues Paul Diston and Amanda Wintcher, I hope to be of continued service to the residents of Pelaw & Heworth."



Reminder: Postal Vote and Voting ID Requirements

The Focus Team would like to encourage all residents who do not have a postal vote (PV) to apply for one now from the Council. **The deadline to apply is 17 April.**

If you would rather vote in person, don't forget that **you must have a photo ID.** You can see the list of acceptable forms of ID on the GOV.UK website:

www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need

If you don't have a photo ID you can get a "Voter Authority Certificate" for free from the Council. You will need to fill out the form and supply a passport-style photo.

Contact the Electoral Registration Office at:
electoralregistration@gateshead.gov.uk
Or by phone: 0191 433 2166

Apply online at:
www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Or scan the QR code on the right to open the application web page.



Commission says yes to "Bill Quay"

As was reported in the last issue of Focus, the Boundary Commission is reviewing ward boundaries in Gateshead. **The consultation is open until April 8.**

At the Council meeting in October the Lib Dems proposed that "Bill Quay" be added to the Pelaw & Heworth ward name. Happily the Commission has accepted our suggestion despite Labour's objection, and this is now included in the consultation.

Currently Pelaw & Heworth has more voters than nearby wards, particularly Felling and Wardley. As a result, the Boundary Commission proposes to move Burnside, Parkin Gardens, and Wardle Gardens to Felling ward. Felling will also gain the area around Bishops Park Road, while the estate between Wealcroft and Leam Lane will move to the Wardley & Leam Lane ward.

Ian said "I am pleased that the Boundary Commission has accepted our recommendation to include Bill Quay in the ward name. It is one of the largest distinct communities in the area and it should be recognised as such."

The draft proposals can be viewed online at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gateshead

Or scan the QR code on the right to open the consultation page.

You can also submit your views by e-mail at: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

or by post to: Review Officer (Gateshead) LGBCE PO Box 133 Blyth NE24 9FE



A Sunset View from Bill Quay Farm



Lib Dem Focus - working hard all year round!

Local news and action

Some Updates from the Focus Team:



Land Near Kirkwood Gardens



New Benches for Community Garden

Kirkwood Gardens: The Focus Team has asked for additional measures to stop motor bikes and parking on the vacant land next to Pelaw Metro.

Bolburn Resurfacing: After many complaints from local residents and requests from Ian and Paul, Bolburn has at last been resurfaced.

Wardley Colliery: The new development on the former colliery site, currently known as Birchwood Manor, is in progress. Several house foundations are now in place.

Station Road Drains: Ian has arranged for a crew to be sent out to inspect the frequently-blocked drains on Station Road, Bill Quay. They were cleaned last June but the recent wet weather has caused an issue.

Noise Nuisance: Ian is working with Environmental Health to resolve a nuisance noise issue after complaints from residents in Thirlmere, Bondfield Gardens and Lansbury Gardens. A firm on the Pelaw Industrial Estate has been warned and Council officers have implemented measures to address the problem.

Community Garden: New benches and fencing have been installed as part of the new Well Bee-ing Community Garden in Bill Quay. The Focus Team is looking forward to seeing the garden emerge.



New Housing in Progress

Action on Motorbike Crime

The Police have begun to deploy drones to tackle nuisance motorbikes with some recent success.

Ian, Paul and Amanda were informed by Police that recent operations to target motorcycle and quad bike disorder in East Gateshead have resulted in the seizure of several vehicles and a rider summonsed for Dangerous Driving.

Amanda said "The bikes have been a serious problem for residents and I am glad to see new methods being used to stop them. I hope to see continued results. As always, please report any incidents to the Police."

The public can report these incidents via 101 or via the police website at: www.northumbria.police.uk

Information can also be submitted anonymously via Crime Stoppers: crimestoppers-uk.org

Council Updates

At the January Council meeting, the **Lib Dem group introduced a motion calling for the end of the two child benefit cap**, in line with national Liberal Democrat policy. The Labour group submitted an amendment but did not object to our fundamental point, so we accepted it and the motion was passed. The Chief Executive should now write to local MPs expressing their support for removing the cap, among other measures.

There was also a motion announcing that new charity group Out North East will deliver a new "Pride in Gateshead" event this year, along with other regional events in Sunderland and South Tyneside. Events are planned for Pelaw Bowling Club as well as Saltwell Park and Baltic Square. **Amanda spoke at the meeting to express her support** and the Focus Team looks forward to participating in the events.

Check out the new Gateshead Liberal Democrats website at:
www.gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Find Pelaw and Heworth Focus on Facebook: facebook.com/pelawandheworthfocus/

Have your say:

Please use this space to tell us what you think needs doing in Pelaw and Heworth, or to let us know of any local problem needing attention



Please return to:

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- I want to receive your email newsletter (please state email address below)
- I want to join the Liberal Democrats. Please send me details
- I can spare 1 or 2 hours every few months to help deliver 'Focus' newsletters

Name: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Address.....

Phone

email

Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved? Yes please No thanks The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk.