



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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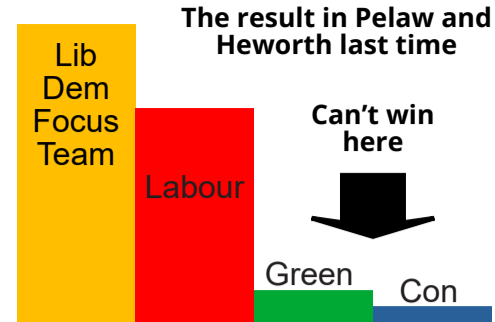
ELECTION SPECIAL

Delivered free to 4,000 homes in Bill Quay, Heworth, Pelaw and Wardley

Issue 114 - April/May 2024

Only Ian Patterson and the Lib Dem Focus Team can beat Labour in Pelaw.

The Conservatives came a distant fourth place last year and just won't win here. Only Ian can beat Labour – voting for anyone else could let Labour win.



Vote for Ian Patterson

On Thursday, May 2nd, it's between the Focus Team or Labour in Pelaw and Heworth

Ian Patterson is seeking re-election as the Councillor for Pelaw and Heworth Ward in this year's local election. If Ian wins, we will continue to have a united team of councillors in the ward.

His Ward Colleagues Amanda Wintcher and Paul Diston work closely with Ian on many issues important to local residents. Amanda said "Ian has been a tireless advocate for Pelaw and Heworth over many years and really knows the concerns of residents well". Paul Diston added "I am pleased to endorse Ian for a further term as your Councillor, as he is relentless in his commitment to this area.

Ian said "I am asking for your support to carry on working for our community. I have lived in Wardley since 1971 and I was honoured to be first elected to Gateshead Council way back in 1999.

Since then much has changed in how the Council and Councillors work. The Council has regrettably fewer resources than earlier times, but the concerns of residents have not changed. Every week I help residents with blocked drains, broken lights, poor parking, fly tipping, and more.

Today it's my turn to ask for your help. I will continue to knock on doors, talk to residents and work for the betterment of our area". On May 2nd, **vote Ian Patterson.**



Polling day is Thursday, 2nd May and polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm. You do not need your polling card to vote, but you do need photo ID. For more information see our website: gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Gateshead Liberal Democrats

Six to Fix

- ✓ Look after our green spaces and trees better
- ✓ Increase street cleaning and dog warden services
- ✓ Bring back Resident Parking Zones
- ✓ Develop better plans for our town centres and traffic
- ✓ Enforce fines for fly tippers
- ✓ Make house building and repairs a priority

Vote Liberal Democrat on 2 May

Pay Hike for Council bosses

Gateshead's Labour Councillors have increased the salaries of the Council's Heads of Function by 13%, an average rise of £8,500 each. Their maximum pay goes from £71,829 to £81,365. Strategic Directors see their starting salaries rise to over £115,000. **Lib Dem Opposition councillors voted against these changes.**

Ian said: "In the midst of a cost of living crisis we should be concentrating on lower-paid staff and looking to help our people take on bigger roles. But Gateshead Labour put Council Tax up by 4.99% year on year. They voted against reducing the size of the Council. And now they want to give Council bosses a massive pay hike, which is not linked to performance. I am proud to have voted for a raise for ordinary staff, and against this unnecessary increase for the most highly paid."

Cllr. Ron Beadle, who leads the Lib Dem Opposition said: "Loyal Labour voters cannot want this from their Council; they are being taken for granted. It's time for change."

Lib Dem Focus – working hard all year round!

Local news and action

Council Updates

The February Council meeting was primarily concerned with the budget. The **Lib Dem group challenged the financial strategy and called for the Council to give residents more for their money.** This includes more environmental services, allowing new parking schemes, and making it easier to access the tip. We also questioned why city centre regeneration and home building projects are taking so long. At the March meeting the **Lib Dem group questioned the need to raise the pay for the most senior staff.** Labour claims it has to do this in order to recruit; we think the Council could be investing more in staff who want to advance their careers. We supported a raise for other staff.

Colegate Primary School Consultation

As some residents may be aware, the Council is carrying out a **Consultation exercise about the future of Colegate school.** The consultation formally opens on 3 June, and people can share their views by email at ColegateOptions@gateshead.gov.uk. A petition is available on the Council's website.

Amanda said "We know that many pupils live in Pelaw, even though the school itself is not in the ward. Ian and I have already met with some parents, and will do what we can to make sure everyone's views are considered fairly."

Funding Success for Community Groups

Congratulations are in order for the **Well Bee-ing Garden** and **Bill Quay Community Allotment**, two new community groups who won grants to get their projects going and to supplement the Local Community Funding allocated to them by Pelaw and Heworth's councillors.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Allotment can contact Amanda, or search for "Bill Quay Community Allotment" on Facebook.

Portland Street Development Approved

Gateshead's Planning Committee voted to approve the Portland Street proposal following a site visit. **Cllr Ian Patterson voted against it.**

The Focus Team would like to thank residents who responded to the consultation. The result is disappointing but not unexpected. Tyne Housing can be in no doubt of the work they need to do to reassure local people.

We will seek to meet with Tyne Housing as soon as possible to discuss how disruption can be reduced and how they can address local residents' concerns.

Bridge Repairs: The Focus Team has asked the Council to examine the bridges on Cole Gardens, Green Lane and Kirkstone Avenue as they are displaying visible signs of wear and tear.



Queen Victoria Street: New water mains have been installed, and the old ones relocated from under Shields Road. The new location will make it easier to access for future repairs.



Richmond Avenue: The ramp leading to Bill Quay Primary School has been cleaned up at Ian's request.

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

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



I want to help Ian!

Please contact us if you want to help Ian win in May. Or return this to us to tell us what you think needs doing in Pelaw and Heworth.

- I will display a poster
- I will help deliver leaflets
- I want to join the Liberal Democrats. Please contact me with details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return to:

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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.