

Focus

Feb/Mar 2025

Serving residents of Ryton,
Crookhill and Stella



gatesheadlibdems.org.uk

Demolition plans for Tynedale House

There's good news - and not so good news

Tynedale House on Holburn Lane, Ryton, is set to be demolished and replaced with seven detached houses, if planning permission is granted.

The plan is with the Council's planning department and a decision is expected in the near future.

Tynedale House, built in 2006, served as a care home for elderly residents. It was closed in 2017. The decision to sell the brownfield site for housing was taken by the council cabinet in December 2022.

Speaking about the application, Lib Dem campaigner **Steve Kelly** said, "The land is brownfield. Using it for new housing takes housing pressure off the greenbelt."

"However, the council has advertised the land as appropriate for 5 to 20 houses. My concern is that we need affordable starter homes for young families and this application does not achieve this."

Lib Dem campaigner **Jo Stanton** said, "The brownfield site at Tynedale House has been left idle by Labour-run Gateshead for over 7 years. That's taxpayers' money locked up for far too long."

"It is good news that the derelict eyesore will be gone and equally good news that the Council will benefit financially from the sale. The not-so-good news is that executive homes rather than affordable starter homes are proposed."



Jo Stanton, Steve Kelly, Ione Rippeth and Jack Muers outside Tynedale House.

Stink over sewage in local rivers

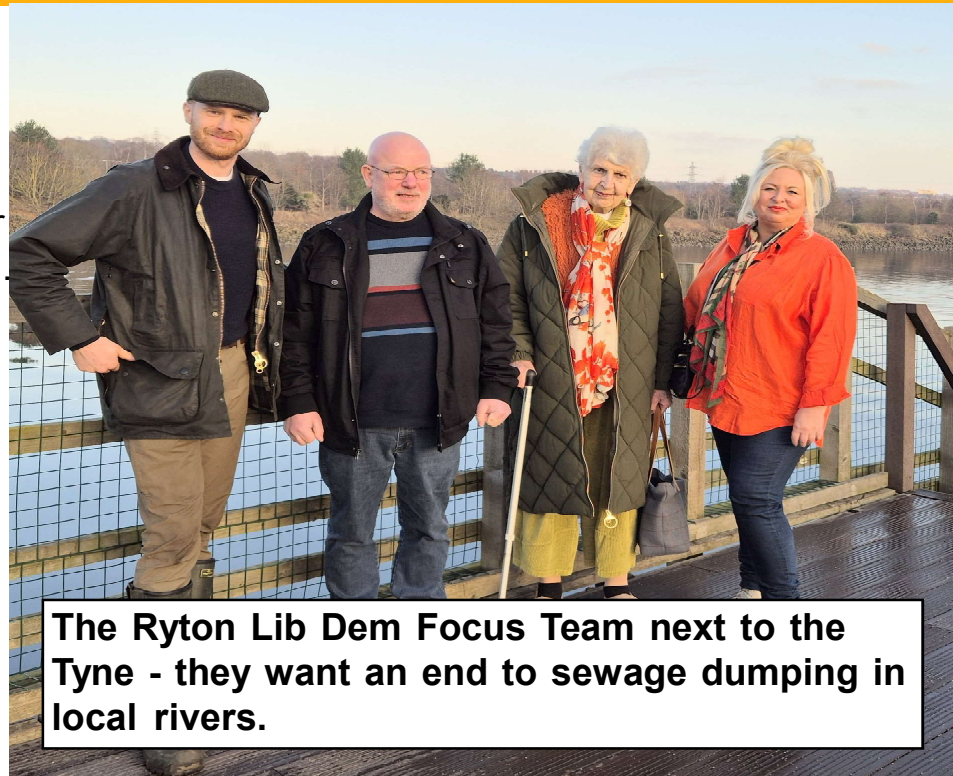
Lib Dem campaigners in Ryton, Crookhill and Stella, **Steve Kelly** and **Jo Stanton**, are demanding action to put an end to sewage dumping by Northumbrian Water in the River Tyne.

The call was made after figures were revealed that there were 1,174 sewage dumps into the river in 2023. While this is bad enough, the River Derwent was polluted by sewage 570 times last year, lasting 3787 hours.

"These figures are appalling," said Jo. "Water companies have been getting away with this pollution for far too long. Now is the time for action to save our waterways from further pollution."

Lib Dems are calling for a tougher regulator, a ban on bonuses for water company bosses whose firms have dumped sewage into waterways, and the declaration of a national environmental emergency."

Steve said, "It is disgusting that Northumbrian Water pumped sewage into our waterways so many times in 2023. Residents are telling us how furious they are that filthy sewage has been pumped into local rivers. They want action to clean up our rivers."



The Ryton Lib Dem Focus Team next to the Tyne - they want an end to sewage dumping in local rivers.



Lib Dem action all year round



Printed by Tradeprint, 2 Fulton Road, Wester Gourdie Industrial Estate, Dundee, DD2 4SW. Published and promoted by Gateshead Liberal Democrats, all at 5 Wealcroft Court, Gateshead, NE10 8NR

Blaydon swimming pool under new management

Plans to transfer the management of Blaydon Swimming Pool from the council to a separate operator have been given a cautious welcome by your local Lib Dem Focus Team.

The plans, approved by Gateshead Council’s all-Labour cabinet on 19th November, will see an outside operator step in to take over the management of the facilities though they will continue to be council owned.

The aim of the handover is to phase out the subsidy that council taxpayers contribute to the upkeep of the facility. It is also hoped that the external operator will carry out improvements to services provided from the building. Three other leisure facilities in Gateshead will also be transferred.

Lib Dem campaigner **Jo Stanton** said,“The Labour Council have struggled with operating leisure facilities in Gateshead. A decade ago they set out to end the subsidy but failed to do so. We are hoping the transfer to specialist leisure facility operators will secure the long term future of Blaydon pool.”

Lib Dem campaigner **Steve Kelly** said,“The pool is an important local facility. The option of transferring the running of the pool to expert operators should have been considered years ago.

“As is so often the case, Labour in Gateshead had to be dragged kicking and screaming to agree a way forward.”



Don’t let technology lock you out

Labour’s decision shortly after winning the general election to take away the winter fuel payments from millions of pensioners has rightly angered many people.

It means the elderly are once again in the spotlight after years of working hard, paying tax and saving for retirement. They are treated as an after thought by Labour.

Let’s not forget we are all getting older. We should treat those who have given so much with a little more respect.



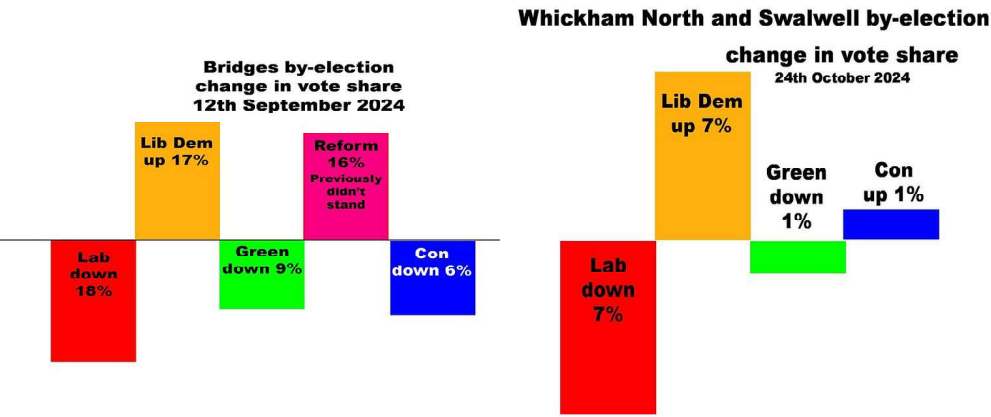
Councillor **Ione Rippeth**, Focus was often the only source of news about what is happening in our local communities.

We want all residents to be kept informed and to be able to give their views on our local communities. While local Lib Dem campaigners do use digital technology, we believe that those without the skills to use the internet, social media and email should not be left out. Focus newsletters are important to residents but especially so for those who struggle to use a keyboard.

That does mean however that we need help to deliver our Focus newsletters to all homes in Ryton, Crookhill and Stella ward. If you can deliver a few streets near to where you live, please get in touch.



Lib Dem support soars in Gateshead



Two recent by-elections to Gateshead Council have seen Labour’s support crumbling and the Lib Dems’ support soaring.

In Bridges ward in September, Lib Dems were just 65 votes behind Labour. And in Whickham North in October, Labour’s vote slumped by half and the Lib Dem share climbed to a whopping 65%.

“The results show clearly that only the Lib Dems can beat Labour in Gateshead,” said Lib Dem campaigner **Jo Stanton**. “If you want to get rid of Labour here, vote Lib Dem.”

Gateshead Labour Councillor abandons party

Labour’s team in Gateshead has shrunk after the decision of Councillor Jane McCoid to leave the ruling Gateshead Labour group and go independent.

"I joined the party when there was hope, and in my eyes all hope has gone." Cllr Jane McCoid on resigning from Labour.

Cllr McCoid represents Lamesley. Among her reasons for resigning was Labour’s decision to scrap the winter fuel allowance for the majority of senior citizens.

Keep in touch with the Ryton Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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