

Facebook: Focus on NE16

Focus

on Sunnyside, Streetgate, Marley Hill, Byermoor and Ravensworth

Your Lib Dem Focus Team:

Cllr Jonathan Mohammed

Cllr Marilyn Ord

Cllr Jonathan Wallace

gatesheadlibdems.org.uk



Restore Kindred Wood now!



YOUR local Lib Dem Focus Team are calling for Kindreds Wood to be restored after it was damaged by diggers and spoil-dumping in November.

The woodland, next to the Stanley Road junction, opposite the Potter's Wheel, is a protected nature reserve and is in greenbelt.

When diggers were spotted on the woodland, local residents, along with Cllr Jonathan Wallace, contacted Gateshead Council's enforcement team.

Following a visit by officers, work stopped at the woodland.

"No planning applications for ground work or development have been received or approved by Gateshead Council for the site," said Jonathan.

"I am particularly concerned about the spoil that has been brought into the site. We have no idea what it contains but it has been dumped next to the pond. There is the potential for contaminants to leach into the water."

Cllr Marilyn Ord said, "Kindred Wood is a popular place for people to walk and enjoy the countryside. It is protected because it is an important wildlife location as well as an important amenity for residents.

"We will not rest until those who caused the damage had restored the woodland."

Metal Bank drain



Residents have asked us about the work taking place at the bottom of Metal Bank.

We can confirm that work is taking place to replace the main drain between Sunnyside and Whickham.

Community Fund supports local projects

Each council ward in Gateshead has a "local community fund" of £3,000 a year which can be used to support local projects and organisations.

In Sunnyside and Marley Hill, Jonathan M, Marilyn Ord and Jonathan W agreed the following funding bids:

- Marley Hill Bowling Club - £500
- Friends of Sunnyside Community Hub - £1300
- Planting Up Sunnyside - £300
- Whinnies Community Garden - £200.

"We strongly encourage local clubs and organisations to apply for funding," said Jonathan M. "Feel free to contact any of your councillors for advice."



Councillor Jonathan Mohammed next to the defibrillator at the Whinnies Community Garden, partly funded by the LCF.



Your Lib Dem Focus Team:
Jonathan Mohammed, Marilyn Ord and Jonathan Wallace



Whinnies Community Garden reopens

What was once Sunnyside's best kept secret, the Whinnies Community Garden, has reopened after the winter break. And there have been more features built over the winter.

The Whinnies started off as a small project over a decade ago and is now one of Sunnyside's most loved facilities, especially for young families.

The Garden has a range of attractions to appeal to all ages, including a cafe, gardens and themed play equipment.

The Garden was recently awarded a £20,000 National Lottery grant to help develop the Garden further.

But there is a problem - the Garden runs on the hard work of volunteers but more help is needed to ensure this fantastic facility keeps running.

Leading volunteer Chris McLaren told us, "It takes a great deal of work to keep the garden running. If we don't get more volunteers, there is a danger we will have to reduce the days we are open."

"Please volunteer to help us keep the Whinnies show on the road. We have lots of different tasks, from gardening to helping in the cafe. You can call me on 07922 833314 if you want to volunteer."



●Your local Lib Dem Focus Team - Jonathan Mohammed, Marilynn Ord and Jonathan Wallace - at the reopening of the Whinnies after the winter break.

Anyone for tennis?



●Work underway to restore the tennis courts at Marley Hill.

The two tennis courts at Marley Hill are being restored and brought back into use thanks to a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association.

The leisure operator GLL, which recently took on the task of managing most of Gateshead Council's leisure centres, will now run the Marley Hill courts.

We will distribute further information about booking the courts once it is made available.

●Your local Lib Dem Focus Team are encouraging people to be volunteers for all of the local groups that are working hard to make life better here. If you want to volunteer with a local group, contact one of your councillors and we will pass on your details to the group you are interested in.

Your local Lib Dem Focus Team

Whickham South and Sunnyside

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Holiday lodges approved near Marley Hill

Final planning permission has been granted for 37 self-catering holiday lodges at Beamish Park Hotel, Beamish Burn Road, near Marley Hill.

Gateshead Council's planning committee agreed the planning application on 16th April 2025.

Cllr Jonathan Wallace said, "This is a careful development in the countryside. It should help boost the area's tourism while creating jobs."

●37 holiday lodges are to be built at Beamish Park Hotel



News from Gateshead Council

Gateshead Council consists of 48 Labour and 18 Lib Dem Councillors. No other party has any seats on the Council. Recent Council news includes:

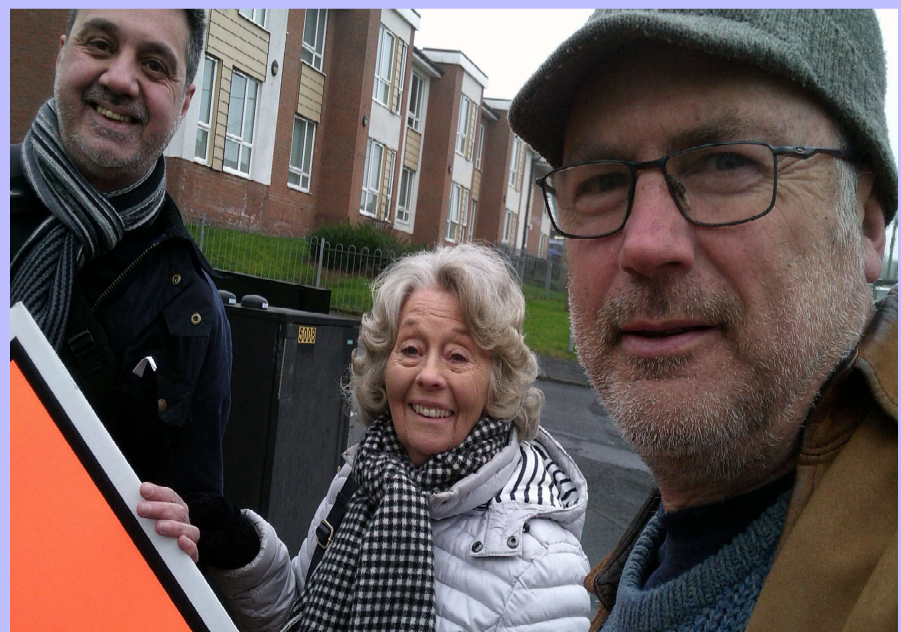
- Council tax has increased by 5%. The Labour government in effect threatened to take money away from councils if they did not increase council tax by 5%.
- The Labour Leader of Gateshead Council has committed to demolishing the Gateshead flyover by March 2026. We shall be watching carefully whether or not the commitment is fulfilled.
- The complete lack of any work on the International Convention Centre on Gateshead Quays is likely to be hauled before Gateshead Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee. Lib Dem Councillors got so fed up with the lack of action on the derelict Quays site that they pressed for an investigation.
- The new multi-storey car park on Gateshead Quays, which cost over £20 million of public money, has never been opened. Gateshead are in dispute with the builders and until this is resolved, the car park remains empty.

Look out for our street surgeries

Your local Lib Dem Focus Team - Jonathan Mohammed, Marilynn Ord and Jonathan Wallace - are holding a series of street surgeries throughout the year.

They have already held surgeries at Streetgate and Sunnyside Front Street.

"We aim to be seen out and about in Sunnyside, Marley Hill, Byermoor and Streetgate," said Jonathan M. "There's no need to book an appointment. If you see us with our big diamond poster, just come over and have a chat with us. We will announce future dates on our Facebook page: facebook.com/FocusNE16.



●Your local Lib Dem Focus Team - Jonathan M, Marilynn Ord and Jonathan W - on Sunnyside Front Street holding one of their street surgeries