

# FOCUS



LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS

NORTH ROAD WARD

Edited by your Lib Dem FOCUS Team

Cllr Anne-Marie Curry

Cllr Hilary Allen

Cllr Nigel Boddy

## E-FOCUS

(time-sensitive information by email)

As this Covid19 pandemic has lasted over 9 months so far and no end in sight we, as your councillors have spent some time talking to fellow Lib Dems across the country on what else we can do to keep our residents informed of what is happening in Darlington and the ward. The most popular suggestion is an E-Focus. This would include important votes in the Council, Police alerts, scam awareness alerts plus when we are doing litter picks in the ward or other activities. We also will advise when major consultations are taking place by the Council, Police or NHS. If you would be interested in receiving an E-Focus please contact Cllr Allen and let her know which of the areas above you are interested to hear about. You will be able to opt out at anytime you want.

## Our Work Went on During this Pandemic

All through both lock downs and the tier levels we have been working hard with the local Civic Enforcement team to tackle the rubbish and fly-tips in the back lanes and near the river-side.

The first lock down was very difficult as the council took all precautions to safeguard residents and staff at the same time. The second lock down was easier to manage so not all the services were cut as previously. Hence appointments can be made to visit the council and dog and street bins have continued to be emptied. Most Council meetings are now on Teams and live streamed on You Tube, the recordings of which are now kept for 6 months.

Just before the first lock down a Safer Streets initiative was started in North Road and Northgate wards. These were set up with the council and the police to bid for funding to tackle key issues (increase in burglaries, fly-tipping and ASB) that were high in these two wards. The bid was successful and nearly £220K was awarded.

Some money will be used for additional security measures to houses that have been burgled. The houses around the burgled property have also been approached by the police to get security equipment like security lighting and better locks etc. A second meeting been held and some of the possible ideas discussed were tidying back lanes and cameras to help identify when and who is fly-tipping. Also little goody bags for personal protection such as the bells for bags and purses which have been used before. Do you remember going shopping and hearing a constant jingle of bells? That initiative went down very well. Further discussions will be held in January to finalise how the remaining money for the initiative will be spent.



Just two of the many areas that were reported to us.



As the year draws to an end we would like to wish you all

# Happy New Year and a better 2021

## Liberal Democrats: Working for you All Year Round

## Please find below 2 of the scams we have been warned about by the police

Lottery and Prize Draw Scams will claim that you have won a large sum of money. However, they may also ask you to pay a small fee in order to access the funds

Why not re-gift your scam email and send it to the Friends Against Scams Team to deal with.

Find out how to do this on the Friends Against Scams website

<http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/scamnesty>

*Message Sent By*

Susie Blake (Police , Partnerships Officer, Durham Constabulary)

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Have you received post out of the blue telling you that you need to purchase a "lucky" charm for protection?

Rid your home of unwanted scam mail by sending it to the Friends Against Scams Team

Find out how to do this on their website

<http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/scamnesty>

*Message Sent By*

Susie Blake (Police , Partnerships Officer, Durham Constabulary)

### Working with the police

In October we were contacted by the local police to say they were going to have a weekend blitz to try and catch off Road bikes and illegal quad bikes in North Road Ward and Northgate. Cllr Curry was aware through residents of an off road bike regularly driving up and down Westmoreland and Eldon Streets. She informed the Police to have that as a hotspot. The report back after the weekend advised one bike was apprehended on Westmoreland after 4 residents rang in and reported it. Thank you residents; well done on reporting it and getting the bike off the road.



## Meet your Councillors

Twice a month your councillors would normally hold a ward surgery at different times and in different parts of the ward. Residents are invited to come along to discuss problems or ask for advice, in complete confidence. We would normally meet on Wednesdays.

### All ward surgeries have been cancelled for the time being

Please feel free to contact any of us on any issue.

We hope to hold a few pop up ward surgeries as the weather improves during spring.

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