



Former Councillor Fred Lawton

13/06/1942 -19/05/2021 RIP

Fred had been active in politics for quite some time. He had been a member of the Labour Party for a good part of his adult life, but became disillusioned with the party and left. In 2003 he joined the Liberal democrats and became active immediately, both on the local party executive and in campaigning.

In August 2004 Fred stood and won in the by-election in North Road Ward – he beat the then future MP for Darlington (Jenny Chapman) by over 200 votes! This was something he was very proud of. He immediately started working hard in the ward, with Steve Jones and Sue Walker, and got the reputation of getting things done – which some residents still thank us for. He made friends with quite a few of the residents too – we have met many since 2019, and they still remember Fred fondly and ask after him; we know that this loss will affect them deeply.

In 2007, when Sue Walker had stepped down and Mike Barker was elected, Fred became the key person to get the group working together and growing the reputation of the Lib Dems working hard in North Road Ward. He was involved in the Local Partnership group and worked with the members on the Partnership to get money and events going in the ward. He was very involved in the North Riverside Residents Association and was also a governor at Harrowgate Hill School for several years.

He never did anything by halves - he wanted to represent the residents of North Road Ward to the best of his ability and he did. His determination to make sure residents were kept informed meant that many Focus newsletters were worked on while Fred was a Councillor.

In 2008 he was key in the running of a by-election to get Anne-Marie Curry elected. In 2011 the hard work on campaigning and his good reputation in the ward saw Fred get himself and Anne-Marie re-elected and Alan Macnab elected. He stood in one more election in 2015 and was disappointed when we were reduced to 2 Councillors. During the next 4 years Fred had several health issues and was very disappointed he could not be as active in the ward as he would have wished.

In 2019, after more than 14 years of working as a Councillor in North Road, he made the very difficult decision to step down. For him it was the right decision and on 19 May 2021 we got the very sad news that he had passed away peacefully at St Theresa's Hospice. We all pay our respects and are thankful to have known and worked with Fred who played Devil's Advocate brilliantly, and was a TRUE gentleman. He is, and will be for a long time, greatly missed.

Councillor Anne-Marie Curry becomes Deputy Mayor

On 20 May at the Annual Council meeting (held at the Dolphin Centre to meet Covid restrictions) Anne-Marie became the next Deputy Mayor of Darlington. The Mayor is selected on seniority from the Councillors and must not have held the position before. So, after being your Councillor for more than 12 years, Anne-Marie found herself second in line to become Mayor. She was offered the chance to become Deputy Mayor late April and she spent a long time thinking about the role before accepting it.

This does not mean she is not your Councillor - that role is her highest priority and she intends to remain very busy in the ward.

What this does mean is that Anne-Marie could, if she wanted, become Mayor of Darlington in May 2022. The Mayor is classed as the first person of Darlington and selects 2-4 charities to support. Throughout the year the Mayor will hold events to raise money for these charities. There are many invites for the Mayor including from other Mayors across the Region. This year is a gentle trial run to see if Anne-Marie will be prepared to take up more of her time to be Mayor next year.



Complete the survey online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVEoL>

For more information visit: www.teesvalleyccg.nhs.uk/end-of-life-and-palliative-care-review

Call us on 07785601944 or e-mail NECSU.engagement@nhs.net

If you would like to share your experience in a one to one interview, please e-mail NECSU.engagement@nhs.net

Meet your Councillors

All official ward surgeries are still not happening due to Covid, but we have decided to hold some pop-up surgeries outside instead. We used to meet in doors on Wednesdays, but we feel it will be safer (and more accessible) to be outside. Residents are invited to come along to discuss problems or ask for advice, in complete confidence.

JULY

Fri 30th - 6pm community garden North Park

Sat 31st - 11am on Fitzwilliam green

AUGUST

Sun 1st - 2pm outside Havelock Centre

Fri 27th - 6pm on Fitzwilliam green

Sat 28th - 11am outside Havelock Centre

Sun 29th - 2pm community garden North Park

SEPTEMBER

Fri 24th - 6pm outside Havelock Centre

Sat 25th - 11am community garden North Park

Sun 26th - 2pm on Fitzwilliam green

OCTOBER

Fri 29th - 6pm community garden North Park

Sat 30th - 11 am on Fitzwilliam green

Sun 31st - 2pm outside Havelock Centre

NOVEMBER

Fri 26th - 6pm on Fitzwilliam green

Sat 27th - 11am outside Havelock Centre

Sun 28th - 2pm community garden North Park

Broughham and Zetland Street

On the weekend of 12-13 June there were two days of anti-social behaviour. Saturday 12th saw the back lane between these streets ransacked and litter thrown everywhere, and on the Sunday 13th there was a fight in Broughham Street involving approximately 20 people. Police, Council Civic Enforcement and your Councillors are working together to try to prevent this type of behaviour happening again. If you witnessed anything please contact us in confidence.

Cllr Anne-Marie Curry

Cllr Hilary Allen

Cllr Nigel Boddy

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