

Happy New Year!

FOCUS

West Fenham & Slatyford Lib Dem FOCUS Team

Cllr PJ Morrissey ♦ Cllr Mark Mitchell ♦ Owen Burbidge



Important choices ahead!

Labour has lost control. Newcastle needs a rescue plan, not a protest vote.

People in West Fenham and Slatyford know Labour isn't working - in Westminster or in the Civic Centre. May's local elections is your chance to tell Keir Starmer a powerful message: we have no confidence in this government and we demand change for the better.

Locally, Labour at the Civic Centre are in free-fall. Following ten resignations in a year - including two senior Cabinet members on New Year's Day - Labour is unable to make decisions, to run the council or even to pass a legally required budget without begging for help.

In West Fenham and Slatyford, rumours are rife that the Labour leader won't even stand here again - she is running away from this ward, and many think it's because she expects to lose to the Lib Dems.

Don't waste your vote on the sidelines.

- Reform won't win in West Fenham and Slatyford, but a vote for them risks letting Labour back in here.
- The Greens only have four councillors across Newcastle; they are not credible contenders to run Newcastle.

Don't get distracted by vague promises that there is a magic wand that will fix the city.

History shows that splitting the vote often leads to the opposite of what people want. West Fenham needs hard-working, local councillors - real people who you know and can contact at any time.

The Lib Dems ran Newcastle effectively and sustainability before. We are ready to do it again. Our focus is simple - better local services, a "can do" council, and a better quality of life for everyone across West Fenham and Slatyford and across Newcastle.

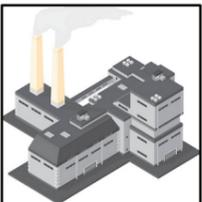
Our priorities for the city council

Newcastle council is in a financial and political crisis. It's clear we need change, and the Lib Dems are the only ones who can deliver it. We are standing to offer voters credible and competent local councillors who will lead local action and put West Fenham & Slatyford residents first. Labour have lost their way. West Fenham and Slatyford need a council and councillors who can deliver positive change from day one, not more chaos.



Ending the council's "toxic culture" & chaos

The Lib Dem Opposition has led efforts to expose the toxic Civic Centre culture of bullying, bad deals like the Crowne Plaza hotel, as well as confidential payoffs, and to secure an independent inquiry. Major culture change is urgently needed.



Opposing the toxic incinerator deal: get recycling again!

The Lib Dem Opposition has led the fight against the Labour council's deal to tie the city into a long term contract to send our waste to a giant £2bn mega incinerator on Teesside. Domestic recycling rates were 42% when the Lib Dems ran the city but have fallen to under 25% under Labour. Recycling rates at the best performing Lib Dem councils are over 60%.



Turning around a failing transport network

The Labour council and Mayor are failing on transport. Little has been delivered in recent years on improvement and maintenance, vision is lacking, and Metro reliability is dismal. People in the West End continue to suffer with unreliable and expensive bus service. Better transport planning, project management and rolling out an electric bus network on major corridors are essential.



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The result in West Fenham last elections

May's elections are your chance to finally send Labour packing here

Con 4th

Green 3rd

LAB 2nd

LIB DEM 1st

Don't let Labour cling to power after May. Only the Lib Dems will deliver a real plan to make Newcastle work for YOU.

Lib Dem priorities for West Fenham & Slatyford

Fenham & Slatyford are great places to live - and they have the potential to be even better. But too many everyday problems are still being ignored. Labour isn't fixing them, and casting a protest vote for a protest party won't fix them either.

We campaign all year round for our community for positive priorities for Fenham & Slatyford and for a better city council.

Protect renters from bad landlords

Many residents across Fenham & Slatyford live in private rented housing. PJ and Mark regularly hear from tenants worried about the standard of accommodation and the behaviour of some landlords and letting agents. The Lib Dems believe council regulation of the private rented sector must be overhauled to properly protect tenants from poor practice. While the council collects licensing fees from landlords, enforcement is too weak. At the same time, satisfaction levels for council tenants is low and the repairs and maintenance backlog continues to grow.

Save our parks and green spaces

As we write this, the Council is still refusing to replace the damaged equipment in the Slatyford play area. Mark, PJ and Owen regularly hear from residents about the state of King George playing field. For parents and grandparents, these are often the only place to take children to play - but they are not repaired and maintained properly.

We need a proper plan to maintain, repair and improve ALL our play areas - not just a few.



Your FOCUS Team will keep reminding everyone that the Slatyford play area needs proper repairs!

Action on local neighbourhoods



Fenham & Slatyford's streets, pavements and verges were cleaner and better cared for under the last Lib Dem council administration.

Today, residents can point to potholes and broken pavements just yards from their front doors, and a bit of weed-killing and litter picking isn't enough to restore prides in our neighbourhoods. PJ and Mark recently met with Council officers to talk about problems on Grange Road - just one example of neglect and excuses from the Highways department of the Council. across the ward.

We need a real focus on fly-tipping, and keeping our streets clean all year round, not just some last minute activity when elections are coming. We also need the police to listen to your concerns about speeding and dangerous parking.

What's happening to the Netherby Drive & Silver Lonnen Junction?



Many of you will remember signing our petition regarding this busy junction, and the need for better signals to improve traffic flow and avoid rat-running on nearby streets.

PJ, Mark and Owen visited the junction in the middle of the morning, when traffic should be lighter but it was still congested with long waits for pedestrians to crossing.

More than two years after promising action, the Council has only now said it will consult on adding a yellow box help drivers turn right.

PJ said, "the delays on this are simply unacceptable. We are not convinced that a yellow box will deliver what drivers and pedestrians need at this busy junction, but at least its a start.

Please make sure you give us your views, and we will be keeping a close eye to see the council don't "forget" about us again."



Lib Dem FOCUS Team Action

Concerns about cowboys targeting council house residents



Mark took PJ and Owen to Teebay Drive to discuss cowboys targeting council house tenants

When delivering FOCUS in Teebay Drive recently, Mark was concerned to find a leaflet claiming to be from a charity offering to help residents with council house repairs. On investigation, it was clear that this was from someone looking to scam money from tenants. Mark said: "If you have an issue with council tax repairs, please reach out to PJ or me. There are scammers out there who are just trying to make money from you and the council. They promise to get you compensation - but in practice they do nothing, or just delay getting anything done to help you."

Owen has been out and about listening to local issues. If you see him, say "hello" - he'd love to hear from you



Owen Burbidge is the newest member of our FOCUS Team. Some of you have already met him on the doorstep.



Owen is working closely with PJ and Mark to get to grips with issues right across the ward. Living on Heatherslaw Road, he has already raised concerns about road safety, after seeing drivers cut across the pavement to exit the recently closed off Kirkheaton Place near English Martyrs school.

Do you have a postal vote?

The Government changed the rules on postal votes recently, so they have to be reapplied for every three years. A lot of people's postal votes expired at the end of 2025.

if you're concerned that your postal vote might have expired, or you just want to apply for one, please contact your FOCUS team and will be happy to help you check and reapply or apply if needed.

As a registered national political party, the Liberal Democrats are entitled to a copy of the full Electoral Register, which we are entitled to under the Representation of the People Regulations 2001 for the purpose of democratic engagement. For information about how we process personal data, please see our privacy notice libdems.org.uk/privacy and to exercise your rights and to stop receiving mail from us, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk or write to us: DPO, Lib Dems, 1 Vincent Square, SW1P 2PN. Printed by Election Workshop, 3 Sheffield Street, Manchester, M1 2ND. Published and promoted by Mark Mitchell on behalf of PJ Morrissey, Mark Mitchell & Owen Burbidge (Liberal Democrats) all at 2 Vicus Street, NE4 9BZ.

The Lib Dems are the credible choice for positive change in West Fenham & Slatyford this May!