



Ouseburn Voice

We are here for you

February 2024

A Fresh Insight

It seems like no time since I returned, newly disabled, from hospital and plunged back into actively working for the community. It really has been a whirlwind of activity. The thought of getting back to my duties as your Labour councillor is one of the things that helped me through the worst points of my illness. I am grateful and humbled to be back, working hard to benefit the ward in which I live and watched my family grow up.

I've been focusing on knocking on doors, listening to what you have to say and acting on your concerns

- **Housing**, Whether private lets or social housing I am driving for improvements – more on the back page
- **Our environment** – I am passionate about the environment in which we live. From the joy of a planter in bloom to the steps we have to take against pollution and climate change - see below .
- **Anti-Social behaviour** - I am on your side. I have been working closely with the police, universities, and cabinet members, ensuring residents are listened to and pushing for action to be taken

Surviving multiple organ failure and stroke has deepened my resolve to represent our ward and to support all its residents, whatever their challenges.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Read all About it!!

New Blog Launched
Learn more about Alistair and what he is doing around the ward on his Blog at <https://www.alistairchisholm.com/>

Cost-of-Living Support

Wellbeing hubs, food banks, crisis, and emergency support, help and advice
<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/cost-living-support>
Free Hotline
0800 170 7001

Hotspur School Street

The scheme that closes streets around Hotspur Primary School during drop-off and pick-up times has been made permanent. Alistair said, *“With more children walking, biking and scooting to school because of the scheme, and parents and kids say they feel safer now.”*

Your Ouseburn Labour Team

Alistair says “I’m so fortunate to have a strong and dedicated team of local people working hard for our community.

If you see us out and about, please stop to say hello”



Start local.....Think Global

Alistair says “I’m full of admiration for all the marvellous community groups who organise activities to improve the environment in Ouseburn. I continue to do what I can and I’m always open to suggestions for improvements. If you’d like to get involved, do let me know and I can put you in touch with an appropriate organisation.”

We need big changes at a city-wide level plus engaged residents and business locally. We can all play a part in improving our environment and your Labour-led Council will continue to work towards a sustainable future.



Leading a planting and tidying session in the Terraces



Visiting the brilliant ‘Wild Roots’ community garden in St Ann’s

Did you know?Carbon emissions across the City have fallen by 42% since 2005. The Labour-led council has unlocked national net-zero funding to decarbonise public-sector buildings and introduce low-cost, low carbon “heat zones” for residents and businesses. All new council vehicles will be low-emission (usually electric) and we’ve overseen the planting of 8,500 trees and 657 metres of hedgerow over the last 12 months.

Greening Ouseburn

Rewilding Ouseburn initiative launched

Run by Wild Intrigue and involving bodies such as The Ouseburn Trust, Ouseburn Farm and Wild Roots Community Garden. There are plenty of ways to get involved. Find out more at wildintrigue.co.uk

Fixed Rate Mortgages

People struggling with mortgage debt, as fixed rate terms come to an end, can e-mail the council’s Money Matters debt advice service. They can direct you to appropriate ways to get support and advice. moneymatters@newcastle.gov.uk

Contact Your Local Labour Councillor



Cllr Alistair Chisholm
T: 07516 524 074
E: alistair@ouseburnlabour.org.uk
F: <https://facebook.com/OuseburnAlistair>

Councillor Surgeries

1st Friday each month, 11am-12 noon
Caring Hands, 34 Wretham Place, Shieldfield

Online surgery
3rd Wednesday each month, 5.45pm – 7.30pm.
Book your place at <https://tinyurl.com/alistair-surgery>



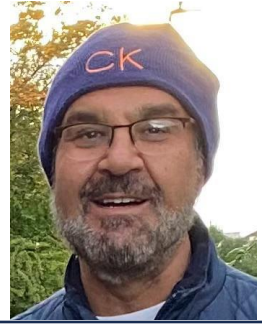
NEWCASTLE LABOUR - A Fairer, Greener Future

Taking Action to Keep You Safe

Alistair wants Newcastle to be a city where everyone can travel without worries and where women are safe and are treated with respect. The Labour-led Council has made many strides towards this in recent years. Here are just a few:



- 'Get Me Home Safely' – A campaign born out of concern for workers' safety. Late night licences now require venues to put on free transport for staff after 11.30pm.
- Safer Lives, Better Communities - a wide range of schemes and community projects to reduce crime and create safer neighbourhoods.
- Neighbourhood & City Centre Task Force, operating Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Taxis – plans approved for Newcastle's black and white licenced hackney carriages (black cars with distinctive white bonnets) to make them easier to identify.
- Private Hire – Private hire vehicles will need to display a green council number plate and the operator's details on the rear passenger doors.
- Neighbourhood wardens patrol and target anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- The Council's in-house victim's service to provide additional support to victims of anti-social behaviour.



Lesley says "Safety at night, is a huge priority. To have The Better Lives, Safer Communities programme and the Street Marshals is brilliant especially as the Street Marshalls have at least one woman in each patrolling pair."

Syed says "As a taxi driver I'm fully behind the changes the Council has brought in to keep passengers safe. Everyone should be able to take a taxi or mini cab without fear."

Everyone Deserves a Decent Home

Alistair listens to residents and takes your complaints to the highest level

"Local politics has to be about more than just pointing at problems. It has to be about fixing them, and I'm committed to getting things done to fix Ouseburn's housing issues."

The Labour run Council is taking back direct control of the city's social housing stock. We are listening to residents and we want to use this moment to do things differently.

As part of our 'Labour Listens' campaign we've invited Cabinet Member Irim Ali, who leads on Housing to meet with residents at one of our Labour Listen's Zoom meetings. Let us know if you'd like to attend and we'll send you a link.



Alistair has been working with residents in the Gibson St /City Road estate since before lockdown about issues on the estate. "I'm glad the repairs are scheduled now and plans for improvements to the shared play space are well under way. I'm aware that rats have long been a problem here and I will continue to push for a solution to be found"

"The Labour council has been able to improve many of the high-rise blocks in the city. It's high time that that low rise housing (like the blocks on Clarence Walk in Shieldfield, aka "The Stilts") got the same investment. One resident told me that they used to be proud of living in The Stilts, but that pride has gone now."

Working with YHN, Alistair has got much needed work done on several individual flats in the blocks and YHN is also going to take action on some of the major issues affecting everyone.

- A pilot is starting to put new ventilation units in to tackle the problems caused by damp.
- Fire doors will be strengthened to stop non-residents forcing them open.
- Painting works due to start later this year will now include the underneath areas to improve the appearance of these common areas.



Your Labour-led council introduced selective licencing to give more safeguards to people renting from private landlords in certain areas. Alistair is pushing for this to be extended to every private tenant in Ouseburn Ward.



Alistair visited Shieldfield House as scaffolding was being erected to deal with the issue of falling debris from around window frames. He met with the leader of the council the same day to raise his concerns.

A drone has been used to assess the outside of the building and a structural survey arranged. Alistair has been assured that there is no reason to believe that the structural integrity of the building is compromised and he'll keep a close eye on updates.

Planning Corner

Alistair stands firmly against the development that has been put forward for Malmo Quays. He put an effective submission to planning committee. The luxury high-rise scheme would blight river views and use land that he hopes might one day be a nature filled area for everyone to enjoy.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Registering to vote is quick and easy. You can register online at gov.uk/register-to-vote

Or ring electoral services 0191 278 7878



Signing up for a postal vote means you don't have to go to the polling station to make your vote count.

You can register online at postalvote.labour.org.uk

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VOTE LABOUR