



# Ouseburn Voice

We are here for you

March 2023

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Safe Heaton Trials

We have been knocking on doors around the Heaton terraces to find out what you think of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood trials. Have your say about the new traffic calming in the Heaton Terraces until 23<sup>rd</sup> April at <https://safeheatontrials.commonplace.is>

Alistair said, "We need people to tell us their views and suggest changes if there is anything they want to share. Don't keep quiet!"

### YHN review

The council's review of YHN is under way. Alistair has spoken out about the need to improve the repair service. The review will be out soon....watch this space.

### City Road flats

The replacement of the balconies in the City Road flats was delayed yet again, this time due to problems engaging a contractor. We have received assurance that a new contractor will be in place shortly. Alistair has called for this to be prioritised.

### Shieldfield House

Alistair has urged action on the lifts in Shieldfield House. He has asked that plans to replace the lifts are brought forward to address the issues of frequent breakdown and problems accessing parts.

### We asked Syed why he agreed to stand as your Labour candidate.

"Ouseburn is a unique ward. My young family enjoy the green spaces, parks, and excellent schooling, but there are challenges in Ouseburn too.

It is very diverse; the issues that matter most for Shieldfield or Battlefield residents are not always the same as the concerns people have in the Heaton Terraces or the Quayside and student blocks.

I have lived in the ward since [x], first in Shieldfield where I was active in a tenants' association and now near the Ouseburn community centre where I volunteer on the management committee and work with neighbours on back lane safety and greening.

I've been a victim of anti-social behaviour and I know what it's like. I know what it's like to struggle, and to feel lonely and isolated. Good neighbours and strong communities can make all the difference. I want to use my experience to improve life in our area."



## Introducing Syed

We are thrilled that such a well-known community campaigner has been overwhelmingly selected to represent Labour in Ouseburn in the May elections.

## 'Who's in Shieldfield'

Alistair was at the brilliant launch of the 'Who's in Shieldfield' booklet recently. It features 15 local groups. Together they show the power of justice and inclusion.

Shieldfield organisations are working effectively together to make the area a hub of activity.



Alistair says, "Shieldfield is inspiring. Having been off sick for a while it's wonderful to be back and see the organisations that are close to my heart doing well. I am really excited to be able to keep supporting these projects."

## Labour Listens ....

We met with Sunil, who is part of a resident group campaigning for traffic calming on Ouseburn Road. This road had been considered for closure, but plans have been paused whilst full consideration is given to any possible unintended consequences

Local resident Sunil said, "There's too much traffic in too small a space. Neighbours have organised and voiced our concerns. We want the street to be safer and improved for everyone."



We know from recent conversations on the doorsteps that residents are really keen to improve the back lanes, and to stop cars from using them as rat runs.

Syed said, "We want to explore creative solutions such as planting, gated lanes, imaginative signage and CCTV. I have been discussing possibilities with the council cabinet member who has this in her portfolio and I will keep working on this.

Alistair said, "We value your thoughts. As part of our 'Labour Listens' campaign we asked Jane Byrne, cabinet member for a Connected, Clean City to join us and local residents in a Zoom meeting about the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods trial. Please let me know if you'd like to attend and we'll send you a link."



## Contact Your Local Labour Councillor



Cllr Alistair Chisholm  
T: 07516 524 074  
E: [alistair.chisholm@newcastlelabour.org.uk](mailto:alistair.chisholm@newcastlelabour.org.uk)

## Councillor Surgeries

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 11am-12noon  
At Vinnies in the St. Vincent de Paul Centre, New Bridge Street,



# NEWCASTLE LABOUR - A Fairer, Greener Future

## Safer, Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods

We are encouraging more people to walk, wheel and cycle by doing what we can to make Ouseburn a safer and nicer place to get around.

The Labour Council is introducing new trial schemes to make sure that traffic goes to, and not through, neighbourhoods. By closing some roads to motor vehicles in our low traffic zones, we make sure that less traffic cuts through residential streets. Alistair and Syed are looking at ways to reduce use of back lanes too.

We use experimental traffic orders which mean we can make more changes if needed. Moving traffic causes less pollution than traffic that stops, starts and idles, so diverting traffic to larger roads creates less pollution.

We are also creating "School Streets" by closing streets outside schools at certain times of the day – though residents and blue badge holders will still have access. This makes it safer and more pleasant for children to walk, scoot or cycle

By making it more enjoyable to get around without a car, we hope that people will make fewer car journeys, which is better for our air quality and reduces our city's carbon emissions.

In addition to Ouseburn, Low Traffic Zones are also being trialled in Fenham and Gosforth. Hotspur School was the first "School Street" scheme trialled in Newcastle, but it has now been joined by Grange First, Chillingham Road and Ravenswood primary schools. More are planned in coming months, with careful consideration is being given to Shieldfield and the specific requirements of that area.



**Syed and Alistair admiring the community painted bollards on Heaton Park View.... Beautiful!**

## Welfare Rights – Get what is due to you

Making ends meet is difficult for too many of us.

The Council's Welfare Rights Service helped people claim close to an extra 20 million pounds last year.

The service tackles inequalities across the city, helping residents claim the financial support to which they are entitled, helping them to maintain a decent standard of living and reducing the risk of poverty and homelessness.

Fairer communities with more money in our pockets stimulates the local economy and makes the city better for everyone.

This is why we prioritise the Welfare Rights Service and support the activities of other charities and organisations doing valuable work in this area such as Citizens Advice.

Alistair says "The benefits system is a forest of difficult rules and forms that get in the way of people claiming what they are entitled to.

"A staggering 15 billion pounds of benefits go unclaimed in the UK each year. It's not in our power as local councillors to change a broken system, but what we can do is help people claim what is due to them.

"After I was hospitalised last year, I couldn't have managed without the Welfare Rights Service helping me to claim what I needed."

**Contact the Welfare Rights Service at: 0191 277 2627 or [welfare.rights@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:welfare.rights@newcastle.gov.uk)**

## A Real Living Wage, A Real Difference for Workers

Under Labour, Newcastle City Council has become an accredited Living Wage Council. Both Newcastle and Sunderland gained this badge of honour in November, the first councils in the region to get.

Council staff have been paid the Real Living Wage since 2011, this is currently £1.40 per hour higher than the legal minimum.

*Alistair and Syed pictured supporting workers for better pay*

The council now has a programme to renegotiate its contracts to ensure that suppliers and commissioned services pay the Real Living Wage. This could be worth over £2,000 a year for full-time employees on lower salaries.

**Newcastle Labour believe that every worker deserves a Real Living Wage and we have the ambition to make that the norm across our city.**

## YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT – DON'T LOSE IT



**You need to take photographic ID with you to the polling station on 4<sup>th</sup> May. If you don't have the accepted forms of ID, get a free Voter Authority Certificate at [electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id) or you can sign up for a postal vote in advance – no ID needed for postal votes and it's a convenient way to vote.**

**Further information at [Newcastle.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting](http://Newcastle.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting)**

**Registering to vote is quick and easy. You can register online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://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](http://postalvote.labour.org.uk) Or ring electoral services 0191 278 7878**



# VOTE LABOUR