



# Ouseburn Voice

We are here for you

March 2024

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ward Money

The ward councillors have access to some pots of money to spend specifically for the benefit of Ouseburn residents. This includes a small annual budget, occasional money from developments and money from the sale of Heaton Library.

**"I believe it is important that use of this money is transparent and fair - after all, it's the people of Ouseburn we answer to"**

### Ward Budget

Some of the marvelous projects that have benefitted this year include: Ouseburn, and Heaton festivals, bicycle repair project, Women's charity, Children's activities, Cookery and community meals projects, cost of living support packs

### Tyne Bridge

The council secured a hard-won government grant for refurbishment of the iconic Tyne Bridge. Work will be completed in time for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2028. Drivers are urged to plan ahead & consider alternative routes or modes of transport.

### Kittiwake 'Hotel'

To protect our precious kittiwakes during the Tyne Bridge refurb, nesting provision has been installed on the roof of both Gateshead towers.

### The Newcastle Plan

Early engagement has started with communities, residents, and stakeholders which will help shape the next local plan for Newcastle. Find out more at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/newcastleplan>

## Determinedly Making a Difference to People's lives

Alistair gets out and about in the ward year-round to listen to your ideas and concerns. Getting some quick fixes is always great, but when there are no easy solutions, he's still determined to find ways forward. Alistair used to be an advice worker. He always says how he loves to hear your complaints and that's because he's passionate about fighting for people's rights.

**"After working with residents in the Gibson street flats for a number of years it is great to see the balcony repairs are finally under way."**



Alistair actively seeks people's opinions and acts on reports of poor repairs, unacceptable living conditions and hold-ups with finding a home, whilst properties lie empty.

Selective licencing is one initiative from the Labour administration that has improved the lives of private tenants.

The Labour-led council is also bringing Your Homes Newcastle back in house in order to improve the service both to tenants and to people looking for a home.

**"I have found there to be fewer problem private lets in the selective licencing area which is why I am lobbying for the selective licencing scheme to be rolled out into all areas of Ouseburn ward. I have also championed YHN coming back to the council. I'll be keeping a close eye on how that goes so the things that you tell me need to change do change"**

Some improvements to the tower blocks include energy efficiency measures that will benefit residents and will further reduce the city's carbon footprint.

We don't just live in our homes but also in the shared spaces outside, and the High Streets scheme is working with residents on improving those spaces

**"At the community gardening meeting last month residents and organisations worked together to identify areas where improvements can be made to our shared spaces. We discussed ideas and how to both develop them and support residents and groups interested in improving our environment. I'm excited to be part of this work and I am also working with disability organisations to urge action on making our shared spaces more inclusive for all"**

Alistair continues to champion local organisations, community groups and small businesses that help to make Ouseburn Ward such a special place.



**"Great things are rarely achieved by one person alone. I believe it's when we work together, inspiring and supporting each other that we achieve the most" - Alistair**

## Contact Your Local Labour Councillor

## Councillor Surgeries



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

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



# NEWCASTLE LABOUR - A Fairer, Greener Future

## Newcastle Labour's Key Priorities are:

- Investing in our services and our communities
- Getting the basics right
- Ensuring we have an economy that benefits everyone
- Working collaboratively to tackle poverty
- Continuing to act on the climate emergency to achieve our target of net zero by 2030



We will continue to provide a vital helping hand to those who need it most whilst investing in the services our communities need.

We will contribute to a strong economy where all Newcastle residents have access to decent, secure jobs, and benefit from the economic recovery of our city.

Newcastle's economy is growing, with new businesses flourishing. Our economy has become more diverse, with digital, creative, technology and health innovation businesses establishing themselves here.

Despite this, health inequalities in our city mean that people in some neighbourhoods suffer ill health more frequently and at an earlier age than in other parts of the city.

We know that people's health is affected by the environment around them, the house they live in and their ability to access education and employment.

We will ensure that all our policies and services are designed with good health and wellbeing at their heart. We will tackle poverty since we know poverty and ill-health are inextricably linked.

**Newcastle Labour will continue to listen, stand up for Newcastle and to respond to the things you tell us are important. Working with and for the people of our great city, we will continue to build a Newcastle that is fairer, healthier, and better off in every way.**

## Susan Dungworth for Police and Crime Commissioner



### Safer Streets. Stronger Communities.

Everyone should feel safe on their local streets, in their communities and in their own homes and businesses.

I am delighted to have been selected as the Labour candidate for the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and hope that, with your support, I will be able to carry on the amazing work of Vera Baird and Kim McGuinness.

I have spent my life fighting for our communities and I know the issues facing you and your families and what needs to be done to make you safer.

As a former youth justice worker and councillor, I have experience of representing people and developing policy.

I know you can't arrest your way out of crime. I know that to cut crime for good and help you feel safe in your everyday lives, we need a return to proper community policing.

I will do all I can to:

1. **Reduce serious and violent crime.**
2. **Tackle the menace of Anti-Social Behaviour.**
3. **Restore neighbourhood policing.**
4. **Communicate with and listen to you.**
5. **Fight for properly funded Police and Public Services.**

## Kim McGuinness for North East Mayor



I'm fighting for a better North East in the region I love. Under the Tories, Newcastle has faced incredible challenges. Food prices are up, energy bills are up, and wages are stagnant. But we can change this.

That's why I'm standing to be the Labour Mayor who makes our North East the home of real opportunity. It's time we had a mayor who will champion our North East and put the pride we have in our region front and centre.

I'll bring your buses back under public control. I'll work with local businesses to create good quality, well paid jobs, and I'll put the North East's arts, culture and sport on the world's stage - I'll make sure everyone has a chance to succeed.

I have a record of delivery as Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner. Under my watch your force has seen the largest increase in neighborhood policing in over a generation, I've put extra resources into Newcastle and campaigned for more youth services to prevent violence. As your Mayor, I will continue to improve our neighbourhoods.

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



**You need to take photographic ID with you to the polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. If you don't have the accepted forms of ID, get a free Voter Authority Certificate before 5pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 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**

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

**Register to vote by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. It's 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**



**Sign up for a postal vote before 5pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April. It 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 on 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY**

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