



THE STINK



Cllrs Marion Reddish and June Walklate are calling for the landfill site that is causing unnecessary smells to be closed.

The Environment Agency says conditions are improving but more needs to be done and they have increased their site monitoring. Walleys Quarry Ltd say they are working within their guidelines. We say this is not sufficient; the bottom line for residents is that the stink remains just as annoying.

Local Lib-Dems joined the campaigns of protest. We will continue to work for you on this important issue; we see little progress on reducing the smell and conditions for residents are not acceptable.

Please play your part by reporting incidents every time by e-mail ics@environment-agency.gov.uk or ring **0800 807060**.

CORONA VIRUS HELP

If you need help due to being confined to home, then you can enquire by contacting one of the following:

Staffordshirecares
@staffordshire.gov.uk or
ring 0300 111 8050

Newcastle Borough Council
01782 717717

HilaryAJones@outlook.com
or 01782 632895

MORE CORONA VIRUS INFORMATION

The only thing that's gone well is the vaccination programme and most people's response to the virus, but with another wave at the moment, we still need to be vigilant. WARD LEVEL DATA is updated weekly on <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-workareas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

Latest guidance for the under 40's can be reached on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-advises-on-covid-19-vaccine-for-people-aged-under-40>

THANK YOU to all who voted for the Liberal Democrat team in the Staffordshire County Council elections in May. The Conservatives held the seat here that includes Thistleberry, so Cllr Simon Tagg continues on a Conservative dominated County Council. It is never healthy for decision-making when one party has a huge majority. As is now becoming the case on the Borough Council, it is tempting for the ruling party to stifle debate that comes from other groups and not be prepared to amend any of their proposals. It is also worth remembering that well over 80% of your council tax goes to the County, not the Borough.



HARRIET HIGGINS CENTRE

A request has gone to the management of the Harriet Higgins Centre in Poolfields to improve the exterior of their premises with regard to rubbish and weeds.

WHITFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE near the tennis courts off Wedgwood Avenue available for hire.

This small but good facility is now active again as Covid regulations ease. If you are interested please contact CLLR. MARION REDDISH. The centre railings need painting and the council have agreed when funds are available.

THISTLEBERRY AVENUE has long been of concern about the flow of traffic due to the narrow bend. In order to help reduce parked cars, we have asked that the access road behind the properties be improved, with rubbish removed, bins stored correctly and weeds removed by the fences.



SNEYD AVENUE WITH NO TRAFFIC ? A RARE SIGHT.

Traffic along Sneyd Avenue continues to increase with some speeding. We have asked the County Highways to look at solutions, without road humps or a one way system and without moving the problem to other streets. It already has weight restrictions; **please lobby the County Council about your concerns.**

WESTLANDS SPORTS CENTRE CAN YOU HELP ?

Your councillors would like to dispel rumours that the tennis court and bowling area is up for sale. Officers tell us not. This is a much used facility and should remain in the public domain.

However, there is a need for more people to join the team of volunteers that deal with the locking and unlocking of the gates at night and morning. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP; OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE ON THE BACK PAGE.**



CUTTING TREES AND FUNDS SO SHOULD RESIDENTS PAY?



There are 4,489 trees needing attention by the Borough Council and 80 locations where woodland thinning is required. This is in addition to the trees which are the responsibility of the County Highways. *Tree maintenance is another victim of cuts by national government.*

So it has been suggested that Parish Councils and individuals contribute to this work done by the Borough Street Scene team by paying for low priority trees to be cut.

We Liberal Democrats think it is wrong to request individuals to pay and your Thistleberry councillors have said so to the council.

We will continue to ask for trees maintained by the County to be thinned and made safe. Government cuts to local government are now showing their effect visibly as well as to people's quality of life.

HELP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN POOLFIELDS ?

Your councillors are asking the New Vic Theatre young people's team to include the young people of Poolfields in drama productions. They often organise events for the Borough's communities and we hope very much we can progress this here.

FOCUS on EMERY AVENUE.

We have asked the County Council Highways department for some replacement tree planting in Emery Avenue where decayed trees were removed some time ago and nothing has gone in their place. We have also asked them to remedy the problem of parking in Emery Avenue, particularly near the junction with Wedgwood Ave; residents have rightly complained to us about this situation.

NEWCASTLE AND KIDSGROVE TOWN DEALS

For long term investment, government has awarded £23.6M for Newcastle and £16.9M for Kidsgrove, together with £11M for Newcastle's Future High Street fund. We are pleased that the new Kidsgrove Sports Centre is well underway to be completed by June 2022. The Borough and County Councils were very slow to cooperate on this project a few years ago. We are also pleased at long last to see the old Zanzibar derelict building demolished. The old civic offices will be demolished from early August, taking 44 weeks to complete.



Other projects for Newcastle include efficient LED lighting for 40 stalls on THE STONES market and we Lib-Dems are supportive of plans to re-design the market. A unit in the Lancaster building has been refurbished to house a new employment skills hub.

Plans are about to restart for the development of the large Ryecroft Site and Merrial Street, with links to the Ironmarket and High Street. Traders in Astley Place (formerly York Place) are being consulted to see where they will move and the Midway Car Park is planned to be demolished with a replacement elsewhere.

WHERE ARE THE COUNCIL'S PLANS TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLLUTION ?

Local Liberal Democrats are asking this major question after recent delays and announcements of government money.

The council and individuals need to reduce carbon emissions to net zero and we need to understand where our emissions are. All activities are involved and decisions must be made soon about changes in infrastructure, buildings, energy and transport. When will we get more buses and electric ones and more charging facilities for electric cars ?

Better public transport reduces carbon emissions and gives us better air quality.



Cllr. Marion Reddish

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Cllr. June Walklate

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IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR ISSUES,
WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE LOCAL LIB-DEMS ?

You can be a supporter without being a member.
You could deliver leaflets, help with a specific campaign, contribute your views, donate etc.

facebook.com/nulllibdems www.newcastlelibdems.org.uk

THE NEW LOCAL PLAN; WHERE SHOULD WE BUILD ?

The council have decided to opt out of the joint local plan with Stoke, but 'going it alone' has consequences. It will cost the Borough Council an extra £550,000 and will mean more land needs to be used in order for us to reach our national targets. So we cannot make use of the many brownfield sites that exist in Stoke. One of the reasons for submitting our own plan is that we will be steering what we want for the Borough and we might get it done faster. Many are divided about what we should do.

This is a major piece of work and includes sites to build on for housing and industry and we think this should also include transport implications and a vision for business and economic development. In 2018, we Lib-Dems put forward our own substantial comments, which you can find on our website, but little has happened since then.

If you want to know more then please check the planning policy pages on the Borough website under 'current development plan' page.

It is expected that a public consultation will take place in September. The plan is due for completion and acceptance by government in 2024.