

UPDATE, AUGUST 2017

HEATON GREENS



Andrew Gray



Iris Brickfield park is a haven for wildlife, dog walkers and families alike. Its quality depends on ongoing work and maintenance by Friends, volunteers and staff working together

PRESERVING OUR PARKS AND ALLOTMENTS

IS OUTSOURCING TO A CHARITABLE TRUST THE BEST (OR ONLY) SOLUTION?

Over 4,000 people responded to the Council's consultation on whether to outsource the management of our parks and allotments to a charitable trust. This high response rate is no surprise: Heaton residents value both Heaton and Iris Brickfield parks.

Newcastle Green Party's response to the consultation stresses the need for an overall vision for our green spaces, before deciding governance or funding

arrangements. Elements of our vision are set out below, and our full response is available on the website.

Andrew Gray has spoken in the Council Chamber against outsourcing public services. This proposal reflects the Council's failure to manage our parks effectively and with innovation. There is no guarantee that a monolithic city-wide Trust could better engage volunteers or serve the community.

A VISION FOR OUR PARKS AND PUBLIC GREEN SPACES

EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES IS ESSENTIAL FOR LEISURE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our response to the proposed trust set out key roles for our green spaces.

- 'Greenery' with plentiful trees: a "green lung"
- Space to protect and enhance wildlife
- Peace and quiet, away from the noise and bustle of urban living, and a respite from air pollution
- Opportunities for healthy exercise
- Opportunities to reduce social isolation
- Scope for urban food production
- Positive role in water retention and

corresponding reduction in flooding risks.

Before a Parks Trust is set up, we need reassurance:

- that income-generating activities and events will be appropriate to each location, and not detract from the enjoyment of quiet public space;
- that car-parking won't be expanded to bring in extra charges;
- that local community and volunteer links will be enhanced.



The pond in Iris Brickfield park is an example of how our parks serve both people and planet. It also shows why continued funding is needed, combined with work by dedicated volunteers and an imaginative vision

ALLOTMENTS AND URBAN FOOD SUPPLY

HELPING US ALL TO DITCH THE SUPERMARKET, CUT FOOD MILES AND SUPPORT LOCAL PRODUCERS

Food production is too important to be left to agri-business, and supermarkets should not hold a monopoly on our food supply. Our city could generate far more of our own food, from roof spaces in the city centre to spare ground in the neighbourhoods.

Heaton is well placed to lead by example on urban food production.

- Food Nation on Heaton Road, educating the community to cook and eat well
- Jesmond Food Market (3rd Saturday of each month, Armstrong Bridge, 10am–3pm), bringing fresh and local produce within walking distance of Heaton and linking up with local

farms and producers

- Community orchard in Iris Brickfield, spare space in derelict front gardens

Our Council should be working with all parts of the local food chain, not separating off allotments as a potential 'cash cow' for the proposed Parks Trust.

The presence of the East End Foodbank on Heaton Road is a reminder not to take cheap food for granted. With rising prices expected following Brexit, building a resilient local food supply is more important than ever.

<http://newcastleeast.foodbank.org.uk>



Andrew Gray shares an allotment in Heaton

ANDREW GRAY WORKING FOR HEATON ALL YEAR ROUND

LEARNING FROM GOOD PRACTICE ELSEWHERE

Green Party councillors across the country have been able to save and enhance public green spaces.

- In Cannock Chase, Paul Woodhead launched a petition that stopped the Council selling its green spaces.
- In Frome, Green councillors stopped the Council selling an island of green space between a school and houses, instead leasing it back to the community for use by local children and parents.
- In Lancaster, Greens secured the opening of the first new allotment site for many years in 2014.



In Sheffield, the Labour Council recently took legal action against Councillor Alison Teal and local residents, who have campaigned to stop widespread tree felling.

WHY WE NEED TREES

Walking through trees has been shown to reduce heart rate and stress levels. Larger trees reduce the effects of urban flash flooding and increase wildlife diversity. All trees provide shade, capture carbon and improve the landscape. In Heaton, we even celebrate with our own Shoe Tree.

So we need more trees included in urban regeneration schemes, additional street trees, and road schemes that are designed to accommodate trees from the start (to prevent salt damage). When trees are too expensive for the Council to replace, we can work with charities, schools and the community to plant new ones. Maintenance budgets must be retained, to prevent occasional problems arising from damaged or overgrown trees.



Please sign the Tree Charter online, to reconnect people and trees.
www.treecharter.uk

UPDATES ON ... HOUSING

Our last leaflet focussed on housing, and specifically what the Council could do to improve private rented housing in Heaton. If you did not receive this newsletter, please contact Andrew or click the HEATON GREENS page on the website (below left).

Clarification: the image of a letting board in the last leaflet dated from 2015, soon after the ban on letting boards in most Heaton terraces was introduced. Andrew is happy to confirm that he knows of no recent instances of boards by Uni-Lettings in these streets.

Following the Grenfell tragedy, the spotlight in Newcastle has turned to private providers of student accommodation. After local campaigns, the developers of both St James' Point (city centre) and The Shield (Ouseburn) have agreed to remove aluminium composite cladding materials. These examples demonstrate why information from Building Control needs to be collated and published, so that all our residents can have independent reassurance that they are living in a safe building.



CONTACT DETAILS

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For news from Newcastle Green Party, to deliver leaflets in your street, or to view copies of previous updates from Heaton Greens, see the website or contact Andrew.

<http://newcastleupontyne.greenparty.org.uk>

[facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty)

[@NCLGreenParty](https://twitter.com/NCLGreenParty)



UPDATES IN BRIEF

New street litter bins have now been installed. The Council promises that they are being continually monitored and locations will be reviewed in September. Please contact Andrew if you have information for the review.

JESMOND FOOD MARKET

Armstrong Bridge, 10am-3pm, 19th August

HEATON BACK LANES LITTERPICK

See Friends of Heaton Back Lanes on facebook, or join us outside TSB, Chillingham Road, 1-2:30pm, Sunday 27th August

HEATON PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Deadline to submit your photographs is 31st August: search for Chillingham Road Heaton Community page on facebook