

NORTH TYNESIDE NEWS

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North Tyneside News is sponsored by North Tyneside Community Independents. We are a membership organisation run by local residents. NTCI aims to win a better democracy for residents in our borough. Doing this by supporting community issues and standing local candidates in local elections. ntcommunityindependents.org

Monkseaton High School: Facing closure?

In 2009 through the Labour Government's Building Schools for the Future programme, they gave the go ahead to build Monkseaton High School at a cost of over £20 million.

At its opening in September 2009 the school was heralded as a school for the future. Its eco-friendly, cutting-edge spaceship design reduced the costs of seasonal heating. Why are staff and families now having to campaign to keep their school open? Monkseaton is struggling to attract enough pupils, while surrounding schools, like Whitley Bay High, Churchill Community College, Marden and Kings Priory in Tynemouth are oversubscribed.



<https://co-curate.ncl.ac.uk/monkseaton-high-school/>

This ridiculous situation is all about the allocation of resources. At a very well attended meeting, on the 23rd September, the local community made it clear that they will fight to save their school. The council has failed to give enough time for a full consultation where a full impact assessment could be made.

The ongoing **Monkseaton High School Campaign** has a Facebook page and has already attracted over 1500 signatures to their petition. Residents are asked to send letters to their MP Alan Campbell, the Mayor and Councillors. It is vital that the community aren't going to see the school close without making their voices heard.

We can't have a situation of crowded classes and falling ceilings in some schools at the same time as considering pulling down a modern school that cost £20 million to build less than 20 years ago. Surely Labour didn't mean their flagship policy to turn into building schools with no future?

To join the Monkseaton High School Campaign get in touch by emailing mhsparentcamapign@gmail.com. There is also a Facebook group Monkseaton High School Parents Action Group.

Cath Davies. An Independent Mayor for North Tyneside.

I am standing as the Community Independent candidate for Mayor of North Tyneside in May 2025.

As a Labour Councillor, for Preston Ward for 11 years and then a Community Independent Councillor for 1 year, I lost count of how many times I've heard residents complain that they are not listened to by the council. They feel that decisions are being made without proper consultation.

How the council works at present is undemocratic.

At present the Mayor is also leader of the Council and runs a cabinet system of a few councillors, who she selects and rewards. Other local authorities are run by a committee system. All local councillors should have a real say on matters, like Monkseaton High School, that affect your lives. This is more democratic.

In North Tyneside, we have 60 councillors and an elected mayor. The mayor receives £68,499 plus £3,333 for being leader of their party (2023/2024 figures). Councillors receive £10,829 and, if their face fits, also receive extra payments for other responsibilities.

However, the most powerful positions are appointed by the Mayor. This now includes the chair of planning and the chair and deputy chair of the council. These positions used to be elected by all councillors, but as from this year they are also appointed by the mayor. It's all part of the gravy train.

A different kind of politics

We need a council that genuinely represents residents and not the party machines. We don't

need a Mayor who appoints her friends. In fact, we don't need a Mayor at all. I will be standing on the pledge to have a referendum to scrap the Mayor and Cabinet position. I want to see it replaced with a committee-based system where all councillors get the chance to affect policy as true representatives of their communities.

Councillors should be expected to hold quarterly public meetings to find out what their communities want and what community ideas can be taken forward to improve the lives of residents.

A people's budget

Residents should get a say on where the money goes, not simply accepting what officers and cabinet think best. If elected as your Community Mayor, I will have the ability to direct policy changes and resources to return power back to you. I will change the system, so that the policies the council is responsible for, will be developed by your elected councillors, together with local communities. You will be able to hold them accountable.



Cath meeting with Fisherman, Paul Robinson, at Cullercoats Boatyard

Track Record

As a former councillor, I challenged the council on their decision to outsource school lunches to private companies. It was apparent to me

that they were more concerned about cost, rather than the welfare of our children. This is exactly the sort of thing that should be the responsibility of elected councillors and the Mayor. The current Mayor should be demanding extra funding from the government. As your elected Independent Mayor, I will challenge our MPs and demand they do better for their constituents. I will not be subject to any party loyalty or control. Only a Community Mayor can promise to put you before party, and party politics. **If you feel politics is not working, perhaps it's time for you to vote for someone independent of party politics. I want to hear what you want and know how to deliver for you.**

Public Meeting

Join Cath and let her know your concerns for the borough.

CULLERCOATS COMMUNITY CENTRE. Tuesday 26th November, 7pm. Belle Vue Street, Cullercoats, NE30 4QX

Community Campaign to continue the 500-year history of fishing in Cullercoats.

There is a current dispute between the council and North Shields fisher-folk. The Council claims that the boatyard was never intended for maintenance and repair, but that is not true. Cullercoats village was founded in 1539. It was mostly dependent on fishing. The land of Cullercoats was passed to Thomas Dove from the Delaval family in 1644. In that year, fisherman Richard Simpson leased the land and was given permission to fish with one boat. However, it had to be built and repaired on the land in partnership with Thomas Dove. The natural harbour at

Cullercoats helped the village grow and eventually attracted many artists.

It is the Watch Tower, Newcastle Universities Dove marine laboratory, the lifeboat station and the fishing boats that sit on the land next to the Queens Head pub that all serve as a reminder of what Cullercoats once was and, for the many still is. In its 'visit North Tyneside' tourist information the council highlight the past fishing industry and how tourists can still see small fishing boats in and around the bay.

This dispute could see these boats disappear altogether. This would be the end of what is left of the almost 500-year history of fishing and repair in Cullercoats. The council claims that the boatyard was never intended for maintenance and repair yet that is exactly what was insisted on by Thomas Dove all those centuries ago. The fishing community have argued if they do not keep the boats safely maintained they will not be able to retain their licences to operate from the Government.

The council complains that the boatyard is overgrown with weeds and littered with derelict vessels. The fishermen are Council tenants. They pay a licence fee which requires the council to maintain the land. The fisherman allege that the council have failed in this responsibility for the past 10 years.

There is also a worry about the new lease the fishermen are being pressed to sign. It would put them in a position where they could no longer meet the terms of their fishing licences as they could not maintain their boats on the land.

Thomas Dove knew the answer for the village. Fishing is an integral part of Cullercoats rich heritage. In 15 years Cullercoats will be celebrating its 500-year foundation as a fishing village. How devastating it would be then to find a fishing village without fishing boats.

Do you know you can attend council meetings to ask a question?

'The Council has agreed that at three meetings during each Municipal Year the public (ie residents of North Tyneside and persons employed in the Borough) will be able to ask questions of the Mayor and Cabinet Members.'

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1111/ask-question-council-meetings>

Next meetings	Deadline for question
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21 Nov 2024	5pm 13 November
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23 Jan 2025	5pm 14 January
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Restore Palestinian Artwork at Tynemouth Station Group

After campaigning for the return of the Shatila Friendship Mural to Tynemouth Station this community of residents have been successful. North Tyneside Officers have agreed to restore and return the artwork to its rightful home. Welcome back!

Stop Playing Politics with our Cycle Paths!

For the past 3 years Preston Road, North Shields, has been a key part of a master-plan of cycle routes across North Tyneside.

Street life which campaigns for safer streets, cycle infrastructure across the borough as well as traffic free school streets, had some concerns about the scheme during the consultation in 2021. After further consultation and amendments to the plans it was confirmed that the construction of the cycle lane would start in spring 2023. It was then put back to summer 2024. However, after a recent meeting with Conservative councillors a few residents

voiced concerns and the scheme was abandoned. What happened to the cycle safe routes to schools strategy?

To support this campaign or find out more you can contact Street Life by email at admin@streetlifetyneside.org.uk or on X @NTStreetLife The group are encouraging residents to contact local councillors or the council cycling champion Cllr Sandra Graham Sandra.graham@northtyneside.gov.uk or Mayor Norma Redfearn norma.redfearn@northtyneside.gov.uk or the regional mayor Kim McGuinness mayorsoffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk

NORTH TYNESIDE COMMUNITY INDEPENDENTS

Founded to support candidates who represent real people, not just political party lines. Folks across North Tyneside are eager to step away from traditional politics and make a real difference in their neighbourhoods.

We'd love for you to turn your initial support into active membership! Just follow the link below to get started <https://membermojo.co.uk/ntci/joinus>

<https://ntcommunityindependents.org/>

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SCAN ME

