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**Billingham North Ward  
(Marsh House Ward &  
High Grange, Wolviston Ward)**

**FOCUS  
Number 99**

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**BILLINGHAM REGENERATION**

The latest “Gateway” special produced by the Billingham Labour Party states **“REMEMBER – DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION”**, but this is what the Labour controlled Stockton Borough Council has done in Billingham for the last 20years.

There has been very little investment in the BILLINGHAM TOWN CENTRE, even on the part that is owned by Stockton Borough Council. This has also happened with the FORUM LEISURE COMPLEX where only cosmetic upgrades have been done and there has been very little money for regular maintenance.

As we reported in our **“FOCUS 86”** there was a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June last year of the Labour controlled Stockton Council Cabinet at which Billingham Regeneration was scheduled to be discussed and a decision made. There were a large number of protesters at the meeting and the following decision was made - **“That a decision on the future of Billingham Regeneration proposals be deferred to allow the re-formation of the of the Billingham Regeneration Partnership Board; and the opportunity for the newly formed Board to carry out further consultation with the residents of Billingham on the content of the regeneration proposals”**

The Liberal Democrats said at that time **“We should now go back to the drawing board with a clean sheet of paper and the people of Billingham holding the pen”**. We still believe that this consultation should have taken place, but it didn’t. The Billingham Regeneration Board was reformed and included two Billingham Labour councillors but no Billingham Liberal Democrat or Conservative councillors. A form of consultation took place which basically asked, “do you support the Gateway Project or not” with no other options.

A Planning Committee meeting took place on Saturday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2004. This was a shambles with the meeting having to be moved from the Billingham Community Centre to the Forum Theatre because of the number of protesters who attended. At the end of the meeting all the Labour Councillors (8) on the Planning Committee forced through a vote in favour of the Gateway Project and the Liberal Democrat, Conservative and the Thornaby Independent councillors (7) voted against it. The Liberal Democrats and Conservative councillors in Billingham think that with such a close vote and the inconclusive consultations, the people of Billingham should have more input into the plans to regenerate the Billingham Town Centre and the Forum Leisure Facilities.

**Liberal Democrats – Working for YOU**

## EUROPE, HERE WE COME



Thank you to everyone who helped us in any way in the European election last month or just voted Lib. Dem. Fiona Hall was elected, so for the first time the North East has a Lib Dem MEP. Her contact details until her office is properly

established are: telephone: 01665 574383.

e-mail: fiona.jane [hall@btopenworld.com](mailto:hall@btopenworld.com).

Fiona will be happy to take up issues which can be tackled within the European parliament rather than the UK.

## LOW GRANGE POST OFFICE

It is with much regret that the decision has been taken to close the Low Grange Post Office. Lynne and Colin, together with many other residents, battled hard against the closure as we realise the hardship it will cause. We were backed by the Consumer watchdog, Post Watch, but this had no effect on the decision. No date has been given yet for the closure and we will keep you informed of any other developments.



### SNIPPETS

**TUNSTALL AVE** The centre hatching and bend warning signs are to be implemented during this financial year. The waiting restrictions will not be included in this part of the safety scheme.

**BUS PASSES** Stockton Council is likely to be faced with putting up either the flat rate fare or the annual charge for the passes. Which would you prefer?

**CRIME PREVENTION** Remember! Secure your doors and windows, especially in this warm weather. Opportunist thieves are ready to steal whatever they can. While you are in the garden or away from the main doors in the house make sure the doors are locked.

**HGV's in BILLINGHAM** A recent survey has shown an increase to four HGV movements per hour from two on Low Grange Ave/Hurworth Road. We are awaiting the measures to be applied to the northern section of Low Grange Ave.

**HALIDON WAY FLOODING** Stockton Council and Northumbrian Water are looking into redirecting some of the road drains into the adjacent culvert. This is to alleviate the house flooding problems suffered by the residents in August last year.

Do you know anyone over 6yrs who is looking for an interesting and challenging pastime?

### KEMPO KARATE

Now recruiting at Low Grange Community Centre, Low Grange Ave, B'ham.

Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00pm

No membership fees, No hidden costs

Free suit for all new members

Registered and experienced instructors

(Persons under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult to register)

### Stockton-on-Line

The computer room in the Low Grange Community Centre has been expanded to allow three extra computers to be installed which will reduce waiting times. This is a free service with instructions to enable residents to become computer literate and use the internet.

### WARD SURGERIES

Lynne and Colin will be holding ward surgeries at the following venues from

6.30 – 7.30pm

13<sup>th</sup> Sept. & 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2004

Low Grange Community Centre

8<sup>th</sup> Aug. & 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2004

North Billingham Methodist Church

You can contact Lynne or Colin at other times by telephoning Lynne on 01740

645216 or Colin on 872896.

e-mail:- [lynne.apedaile@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.apedaile@stockton.gov.uk)

[colin.leckonby@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:colin.leckonby@stockton.gov.uk)

You can also write to Lynne Apedaile at 1 West Hartlepool Rd, Wolviston TS22 5LA. Or Colin Leckonby at 73 Tunstall Ave, Billingham TS23 3QD.