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Marsh House Ward (Low Grange)

Focus

No 103

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NEW WARD BOUNDARIES

This year the ward boundaries for Stockton are changing. Low Grange now becomes part of

Billingham East ward. Colin and Lynne wish to thank all the residents of the Low Grange Area of the Marsh House Ward for their support of the Liberal Democrat councillors over the



last 20 years. It has only been with your help that the councillors have been able to improve the environment and make the area a more pleasant place to live in. We have carried on the Liberal Democrat policy of keeping you informed about what is happening in your area and in Stockton Borough Council through FOCUS. As you can see we have delivered 103 FOCUS newsletters to you over the last 20years.

We hope you will now support the candidates who are going to carry on working for the people of Low Grange, keeping you informed and listening to you all the year round.

Liberal Democrats Keep You Informed

COUNCIL TAX

Stockton's Council Tax rise was kept down to 4.13% this year thanks to a large injection of cash from the Government. Unfortunately that won't happen next year! The Local Government Association has warned that it could be up by over 7% next year.

Stockton Liberal Democrats tried to get some more money moved into Youth Work, but Labour and some Tories voted against.

ELECTION TIME

Don't forget there are elections for Stockton Council on Thursday May 5th. If you think you won't be able to go to a polling station to vote (because it's difficult to walk for instance) ring 526196 and ask for a postal vote.

BILLINGHAM TOWN CENTRE CONSULTATION

Lynne, Colin, 2 Conservative Councillors and one Independent Councillor attended a consultation meeting for councillors on Tuesday 1st March.

Only one of the 8 Labour Councillors from Billingham turned up at the same meeting. Council Officers took away lots of ideas from councillors for the improvement of Billingham Town centre. The developers will listen to what councillors said, but more importantly they will listen to what you, the residents, are saying. Then they will draw up some proposals.

BILLINGHAM FORUM

The expected cost of the Forum was discussed at the Cabinet meeting on the 24th February. A figure of £24million was disclosed. The Gateway Project would have cost £21million, but no funding was ever obtained. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's Office has just announced that some funding is now available for refurbishing Leisure and Sports complexes that cost over £20million so the Council might get some help from that for the Forum.