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**Billingham North Ward**  
**FOCUS**  
**Number 109**

**Editors: Councillor Lynne Apedaile 01740 645216**  
**Councillor Colin Leckonby 01642 872896**



**BILLINGHAM TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT**

What a great improvement in the area near the Forum sports centre and theatre now that Forum House has been demolished. It made a better area for the Folklore Festival groups to perform and visitors to see.

The other improvement is happening at the western end of the town centre now that the La Ronde building is being demolished. The 60's concrete building was an eyesore for visitors entering Billingham by road from the A19 area.

Mars Pension Fund leasehold interest was put on the market in July and Stockton Council put in a bid to buy the leasehold so it would then own the whole of the town centre. We now know that Stockton Council bid was unsuccessful, but we can confirm that a developer with a proven track record is expected to complete the exchange of contracts with MARS by mid September.

Lynne and Colin welcome a developer coming on board in partnership with Stockton Council to regenerate Billingham Town centre. A developer is interested in a successful town centre, unlike an investment company who is looking for an income from the rent from the existing properties. The redevelopment will not start immediately as we expect further consultation with Billingham residents to take place before the town centre design is finalised.

**JOHN WHITEHEAD PARK RESTORATION**

Colin attended a meeting of Supporters of John Whitehead Park with two other Billingham Councillors and the group looked at what the Supporters of John Whitehead Park would like to be the final plans for John Whitehead park. What he heard from the meeting was that Stockton Council officers are not being as helpful with the plans as Colin would have expected. From what Colin heard it sounded very much as if the officers were trying to influence the scheme for their own purposes. Stockton Council cannot access directly certain funds for the development of the park, but hope a group like Supporters of John Whitehead Park can obtain such funds. The Supporters of John Whitehead Park would look to continue working in partnership with Stockton Council Officers for the redevelopment of the park. Redevelopment of John Whitehead park is essential to help to make an attractive garden and relaxation area to compliment the redeveloped Billingham Town centre.

**Warning :- P.T.O.**

## STOCKTON-ONLINE

Stockton Online is a community network allowing free and open computer access for all local residents.

It is available in the Low Grange Community Centre and provides a drop in service including free personal e-mail accounts and access to the internet. The other services available are:-

**Friendly & Welcoming Staff,  
Support for Job Search and CV's,  
Learn to use a computer or top up your skill,  
Word Processing, Spreadsheets & Databases,  
Photo-editing, Scanning & Web Design,  
Socialise & meet New People.**

The opening times are:-

Monday 8.30 - 12 noon & 1.00 - 4.30pm

Tuesday Closed all day

Wednesday 10.15 - 12 noon

Thursday 1.00 - 4.30 pm

Friday 8.30 - 12 noon

It is easy to enrol - just visit Low Grange Community centre and have a talk to the instructor. All your questions can be answered and you don't need any previous experience.

## MARSH HOUSE AVENUE / HIGH GRANGE AVENUE

High Grange Avenue has been re-surfaced from Wallington Road to Marsh House Avenue. This now connects with the newly re-surfaced carriageway adjacent to the Billingham North Methodist Church which now replaces the patched up road surface which residents have had to put up with for several years.

Council Officers are looking at putting in a pedestrian refuge in High Grange Avenue adjacent to the children's play area. This will make a safer crossing, especially for children crossing the road to this popular play area.

## WARNING from Page 1

A young man has been around the area knocking on residents doors saying he is collecting money for "Supporters of John Whitehead Park". This is an unauthorised collector and has nothing to do with the "Supporters Group. If he should call on you please report the incident to the Police as the "Supporters Group" have no plans now or in the future to raise funds by house to house collections

## MARSH HOUSE AVENUE PETROL STATION DEVELOPMENT

As you will have noticed all the buildings and old storage tanks have been removed from the old Marsh House petrol station site.

It is now proposed to build a residential home on the site rather than housing. Lynne and Colin have seen the sketches of the proposed building and think it will fit in well with the surrounding residential housing. One thing that pleased both Lynne and Colin is that the exit and entry to the home will still be from Marsh House Avenue rather than the already congested Wallington Road.

## ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

There has been a spate of disgusting anti social behaviour since the start of the school holidays. Low Grange Community Centre suffered several broken windows. The bus shelters on the north and south carriageways of Marsh House Avenue have both had the glass panels broken by some brainless vandals.

## WARD SURGERIES

The next two dates for our ward surgeries are:-

**North Billingham Methodist Church  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006, 6:30 to 7:30pm**

and

**High Grange Community Centre  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006, 6:30 to 7:30pm**

You can contact Lynne and Colin at other times with their details shown below.

You can contact Lynne and Colin by:-

Telephone **Lynne** on **01740 645216** or **Colin** on **01642 872896**

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

You can also write to **Lynne Apedaile** at **1 West Hartlepool Road, Wolviston TS22 5LA,**  
**Colin Leckonby** at **73 Tunstall Avenue, Billingham TS23 3OD.**

**Liberal Democrats - Keeping you in touch all year round and not just at Election time.**