



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Billingham North Ward
FOCUS
Number 112

Editors: Councillor Lynne Apedaile 01740 645216
Councillor Colin Leckonby 01642 872896
Hilary Aggio 01642 564358



BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Billingham Town Council was born out of the frustration felt by residents of Billingham that the Labour controlled Stockton Council had put very little investment into Billingham Town Centre and was not listening to the residents over the redevelopment of the Forum, Town Centre and John Whitehead Park.

Through the sterling voluntary efforts of the Billingham Town Council Steering committee over the last few years the Town Council has now completed all the stages required to allow elections to take place on the 3rd May. This is the same day as the Stockton Borough Council elections and there will be 3 Town Councillors for each of the present wards in Billingham.

The precept for the Billingham Town Council has been set this year by Stockton Borough Council as the Billingham Town Council will not be in existence until after the May elections.

The precept for the year 2007/2008 is:-

Table with 8 columns: Band, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and corresponding precept values from £5.21 to £15.64.

We don't know where the Conservatives got the precept figure of £50 to £100 as stated in their last leaflet, they must have just plucked it out of the air. They are against a Town Council, but Conservative national policy is to devolve decision making as close to grass roots as possible.

Some residents of the ward have been paying a precept to Wolviston Parish Council as part of their council tax. This year they will only pay the Billingham Town Council precept which is listed above.

Some of the services Town Councils may provide are:

bus shelters, car parks, community transport schemes, crime reduction measures, leisure facilities, litter bins, open spaces, public lavatories, planning, street cleaning, street lighting and traffic calming measures.

If you are interested in standing for the Town Council you do not need to represent a political party as you can stand as an independent.

To stand for the Town Council you MUST be:-

On the Stockton electoral roll, eighteen or over, be a resident in, or within three miles of Billingham, or work in Billingham,

be a British National, or citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and be nominated by two other Billingham electors residing within the ward where you are a candidate.

If you are considering standing for the Town Council or feel you have something to contribute please contact Colin Pollard at 196 Station Road, Billingham, telephone 531647, or visit the website:-

http://homepages.tesco.net/~g.robertson/
for further information

We deliver FOCUS throughout the whole ward

LOW GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Low Grange Community Centre takes place on **Tuesday 20th March at 7pm**. It is your Community Centre and requires your support to continue.

BLOOD DONORS SESSION

There is a Blood Donor session in the Low Grange community Centre on Thursday 29th March from 3pm to 7pm

LESLIE'S GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS

Leslie's Gentle Exercise class every Wednesday 6-7pm in the Community Centre. For the older person who feel they should do more exercise.

GREEN WASTE

From April this year the green garden waste scheme will be rolled out through the whole of Stockton Borough which includes all areas of Billingham. In March a roll of 26 plastic bags will be delivered to each house to cover the 6 months growing season and the full bags will be collected with the normal refuse collections. Should you require any more bags, these can be purchased from the "Care for you area" department at £2 for a roll of bags.

COMMUNITY SKIP DATES (2007)

14th March

Low Grange Avenue/Wolviston Back Lane

24th April

Vincent Road – grassed area opposite Casson Way

19th June

Wallington Road – grassed area at side of No150

18th July

Low Grange Avenue/Wolviston Back Lane

17th September

Vincent Road – grassed area opposite Casson Way

BILLINGHAM TOWN CENTRE

We can report that the Halladale Group have been acquired by Stockdale UK development Ltd. Stockton Council have been assured that this acquisition will not adversely affect the sale of the town centre interest. It is anticipated that this should be completed by the summer of 2007.

Lynne, Hilary and Colin fully support the new development by Halladales as we stated in our last FOCUS newsletter 111 after years of neglect by the Labour controlled Stockton Council.

HIGH GRANGE HOUSE

As a result of the ballot of residents of the sheltered housing schemes in Billingham and Stockton there was an overwhelming majority to transfer to Erimus Housing. The Government does not allow Stockton Council to access funds to improve the housing stock whereas Erimus Housing can do this. It is good news for the residents as over the next couple of years the improvements will take place.

WARD POLICING

Billingham North ward has its own dedicated police constable who is PC Mike Burns and he can be contacted by e-mail on:-

Michael.burns@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

You can leave non urgent messages on his e-mail address which he reads when on duty.

We also have a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) covering both Billingham North and Billingham West wards.

Any urgent problems should be reported to police headquarters on **01642 326326**.

WARD SURGERIES

The next date for our ward surgery is:-

High Grange Community Centre
Monday 2nd April, 2007, 6:30 to 7:30pm
And

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

You can contact Lynne, Colin and Hilary by:-

Telephone **Lynne** on **01740 645216**, **Colin** on **01642 872896** and **Hilary** on **01642 564358**

e-mail

lynne.apedaile@stockton.gov.uk

colin.leckonby@stockton.gov.uk

hilaryvaggio@ntlworld.com

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