



Editor:
 Town Cllr Colin Pollard
 Tel 531647
 Colin.pollard2@ntlworld.com



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Billingham North Ward
FOCUS
No 116

Colin Pollard and Fiona Hall MEP wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



News from Billingham Town Council

My thanks first of all to everyone who contacted me after Focus 115. All the proposals for improvements were followed up, but, unfortunately, money for the minor works programme from Stockton Borough Council was, for the most part, committed elsewhere. I hope that more can be done in the next financial year, and I shall continue to press for this.

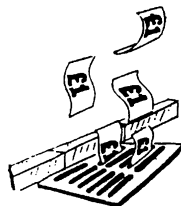
One positive outcome has come, however, as a result of a joint effort involving myself, Mrs Clayton and friends, and the town council. Speed indicating devices (S.I.D.s) are to be installed on Marsh House Avenue, although, as reported in the town council newsletter, not until March 2009. This should improve matters on a major Billingham artery.

My best wishes to everyone, and do not hesitate to get in touch. Remember: the town council is there to represent Billingham interests.

Colin Pollard

A Missed Opportunity

That's the Liberal Democrat verdict on Labour's Crisis Budget. He could have made tax fairer for everyone by cutting income tax for low and middle income people and closing loopholes for the rich. BUT he chose a temporary reduction in the top rate of VAT. That doesn't make food or fuel or children's clothes cheaper. It does make it harder for small businesses who have to change their pricing and VAT accounts twice. And of course it makes it easier to buy expensive imported TVs, cars etc. Where's the fairness in that Mr Brown? Where's the help for struggling residents here?



Warm Front?

Stockton Liberal Democrats were horrified to find that the Labour Government's Warm Front grants don't cover the full cost of basic necessities like insulation and boilers.

Colin says "Yet again the Government claims to be helping those in need but fails those who need it most."



Fiona Hall MEP with an out-of-date boiler which needs replacing

Mortgage Problems?

Are you having difficulties paying your mortgage? Don't put off talking to your bank or building society - the earlier you speak to them the more chance there is of saving your home.

There is help and advice available from:
Stockton Council **Housing Options Team**, 16 Church Rd, 01642 528389 and
The **CAB** at Stockton District Advice & Information Service in Bath Lane, 01642 607445 or 01642 633877
or call in person any weekday morning between 9.30 and 12.30

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

If you would like your real Christmas Tree collected in January please put it out on Mon 12th Jan before 7a.m. where you would usually put your bin.

Wheeled bin collections will move from Thursday 25th Dec & Friday 26th to Saturday 27th & Monday 29th respectively, and from Thursday 1st Jan & Fri 2nd Jan to one day later in each case.



Don't forget to recycle glass, plastic, cans, cardboard, and paper (not foil type wrapping paper)



New Hospital

The next stage of planning the new Hospital site is a public exhibition in the Swallow Hotel from 12 noon to 8pm on Thurs 11 December and Tues 13 January 2009 where you can ask questions.

However, this is not the time to raise objections to the plans. That will come later in the process

Billingham Forum

Colin is pleased to see progress being made on the refurbishment of the Forum. Now that Stockton Council has appointed a contractor work should begin in July next year.



Though it means the Forum closing for a time the refurbished building should put Billingham at the forefront of leisure provision in the Borough.

Liberal Democrats Support Renewable Energy

In these troubled economic times many politicians are all too willing to forget about crucial environmental issues. Our party is standing firm on our principles. They are good for the planet and good for North East jobs.

Fiona Hall, MEP, says: "The North East, in particular, is set to profit from the growing

renewable energy sector. Thanks to the presence of many new and renewable energy companies and research centres in the North East, there is the potential to create thousands of green-collar jobs in the region."



The Worshipful the Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees
invites you to
The Civic Carol Service
in Stockton Parish Church, High St, Stockton
on Friday 19th Dec at 1.30pm.

Have a cup of tea with the Mayor and a tour of the Town Hall
on Wednesday January 14th, between 1 & 3 pm
Only £2.50 in aid of the Mayor's Charities
(Daisy Chain & Justice First)

Liberal Democrats Working With You, For You