

BISHOPSGARTH & ELM TREE

FOCUS

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Edited by:
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Number: 174



Your Liberal Democrat Team

Unanimously selected for Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree Ward in the Stockton Council Election on May 5th.

Julia has lived in Stockton for most of her life and is the mother of two children. She has extensive experience of the voluntary and community sector. Local charity Furniture Reclamation and Delivery Enterprise (F.R.A.D.E.) began life in her home some 15 years ago in response to hearing people on low income talk about the problems of replacing worn out furniture.

Her particular interest is in disability issues and improving the quality of life for those living with a disability.



Julia and Suzanne, looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next few weeks.

Suzanne has been the Councillor for the Elm Tree ward for over 23 years, so is already well known by the people there. She has worked hard with young people in the area, and is the only councillor to hold youth surgeries, as well as other regular surgeries. She leads the Liberal Democrat Group on Stockton Council, and has a particular interest in housing and environmental issues.

Both Julia and Suzanne want to represent the new ward of Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree, to listen to you, take up your concerns, work with you and others to make it a better area, and keep in touch with you regularly.

POLICE NOT PLASTIC!

We want to put more police on the streets. By getting rid of Labour's expensive and ineffective ID card scheme, we could pay for 10,000 more police than Labour is planning. Liberal Democrats would :

- Give the police the technology to spend more time on the street, and less time tied to the desk.
- Make it easier to prosecute drug dealers effectively. Have better treatment programmes for drug users.
- Support "ASBO PLUS" which tackles the causes of antisocial behaviour.
- Have sentences that make criminals repay communities for the damage they've done.

As *Focus 169* said " it is easy to talk tough we need a lot more work on preventing problems and an investment in work with young people".

PENSIONERS MISSING OUT!

Mike Barker, parliamentary candidate, has discovered that over 3000 pensioner households in Stockton are not receiving the Pensions Credit to which they are entitled. "The only guaranteed way to ensure that pensioners have dignity and security in old age is through a decent state pension - payable as of right. That is why Liberal Democrats would guarantee £100 more a month at the age of 75 and over £130 a month more for couples".

This leaflet gives an outline of our policies. If you want to know more visit our website, or get in touch with one of us.

FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. NOW IN ITS 24TH YEAR!

COUNCIL TAX

Liberal Democrat Councillors wanted more money put into youth workers in the community. However Labour said the money needed to be spent on surveying Council reception points, and that £50,000 wouldn't make much difference to youth work.

We think that it would have made a much needed difference and regret that the other Parties did not support it.

THE BECK

Julia has checked that the rubbish she reported as being dumped in the beck by **Bothal Walk / Marske Lane** has been cleared – and is now hot on the heels of the Council to clear away the dumped shopping trolley at the culvert and debris at **Harrowgate Lane** end.

The Environment Agency tested the yellow scummy water in the beck at Julia's request and identified the problem as being mineral oil. Now that the water is flowing again, this has cleared.

The Elm Tree beck has got overgrown and there are reports of lots of rubbish, also causing problems with water flow. Suzanne has asked for this to be cleared, but preserving the natural habitat, and the Council have said that it will be done in April. Areas already reported are **Brundall Close** and **Walsham Close** but if you know of any other problems please let us know.

POST BOX

Julia is pleased that a post box she asked for on **Darlington Back Lane**, by **Celandine Way**, has arrived earlier than expected (*Focus 173*) BUT she has already written to Royal Mail asking for it to be repainted, and for collection times to be displayed.

ELM TREE CENTRE

Following Suzanne's request, the street lighting in front of the Centre has now been improved, to make the area safer. A new lamp column will be going in soon. She has also asked for better lighting on the path behind **Norwood** and **Sorrell Close**.



Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne will be holding her ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday 19th April 6pm to 7pm
Young people, same date 4.30 to 5.30 pm

Contact us by:

Letter - Julia Roberts, 22, Zetland Road, Stockton, TS19 0EQ

or Suzanne Fletcher, 3, Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, TS16 9EU

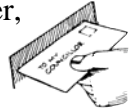
or - Julia Roberts and Suzanne Fletcher, FREEPOST, NEA 765,

STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS16 9BR

(no need for a stamp)

Phone - 01642 882889 (Julia) or 786456 (Suzanne)

e-mail - bluebirdydc@hotmail.com (Julia) or sfletcher@cix.co.uk (Suzanne)



WORKING FOR YOU

Some of Julia and Suzanne's recent actions: Julia has asked for the dog bin by **Verwood**

Close / Bothal Walk to be repainted Suzanne has asked for more dog bins in the Bishopsgarth cycleway area **Bus shelters** on each side of **Darlington Lane** by **The Vale** have been asked for The potholes on **Elm Tree Avenue** and sunken manhole cover on **Darlington Back Lane** near **Celandine Way** are being dealt with The missing beacons and shield on the **Elm Tree Avenue** Zebra crossing are orderedwe are waiting for the Council to come back to us about a pavement at the entrance to **The Vale** The rutted grass verge by **Melksham Square** is being dealt with..... We have asked the Council to repair the pavements outside **Lauder House** the paper bank behind the Elm Tree shops has been removed because of the vandalism problemsa dropped kerb has been asked for at the top of **Elm Tree Avenue**, where it meets with **Darlington Back Lane** The missing light on the **Tollerton Close / Sainsbury's** path has been replaced, but we are chasing up getting the electricity connected !

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The next meeting for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and other interested people is on Wednesday 6th April at 7 p.m. in the Elm Tree Pub. Let us know if you are interested but cannot come along.

NEED A POSTAL VOTE ?

If you are not likely to be able to get to the polling station on May 5th you can get a postal or proxy vote by contacting 526192 or Julia or Suzanne.



THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ALL YEAR SERVICE & ACTION