

FOCUS

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Edited by:
COUNCILLOR
SUZANNE FLETCHER
Tel: 786456
and
JULIA ROBERTS
Tel: 882889

Number: 175



A Liberal Democrat Council will be:

FAIR: making decisions without prejudice or favour, on the basis of genuine need.

HONEST: making decisions with respect for the people of the Borough – all of its communities and people

OPEN: making decisions only after genuine and full consultation with those affected

GREEN: making decisions which recognise our commitment to the environment

A
RECORD OF
ACTION
A PROMISE OF
MORE

Local people sum up....
"We need a team we can trust to get things done for local people"

NEW POLLING STATIONS

This election the Council has made arrangements for polling stations to fit in with new boundaries and changed circumstances. Whitehouse Farm School will no longer be used as a polling station, and everyone who used to vote there will use Elm Tree Community Centre. If this is not convenient you can get a postal vote by ringing 526196, or e-mailing electoral@stockton.gov.uk for a form. Anyone can ask for a postal vote, wherever the polling station. The deadline for applying is **5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th April**
NOTE– Liberal Democrats are working, as before, to a strict code of conduct on postal voting, and will not, for instance, watch anyone filling in a ballot paper or touch an unsealed ballot paper envelope.

REMEMBER

In the local elections on May 5th
you have **TWO** votes



Use them both to vote for your local team

The crucial issue at this election is the quality of service you expect from your councillors.

Vote Liberal Democrat to get

- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Doing
- ◆ Caring

Councillors

3	Fletcher, Suzanne		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Roberts, Julia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

WORKING TOGETHER, WORKING FOR YOU!

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

A Record of Action

Local Liberal Democrats, led by Suzanne have campaigned for a change in the rules on siting of **mobile phone masts**.

A pledge to **work with** local schools, businesses, residents and Authorities to tackle issues here.

Working with the local **police** officers is vital to tackle many of the local problems. Suzanne and Julia believe that by working together so much more can be achieved.

“**That Path**” remains an issue! Suzanne is continuing to work with the Council on having better cleansing, hedge cutting, lighting and pathway. The path is well used, particularly by school children and we are determined it will be fit to use by them.

Julia and Suzanne are working hard to try to get **Neighbourhood Watch** more active in the area.



New housing on **Darlington Back Lane**. Suzanne has successfully campaigned on new building not covering the special meadow, keeping most of the front hedge, other environmental issues and getting traffic improvements, including those needed at the junction with Durham Road.

Ramped crossing asked for last year now here!

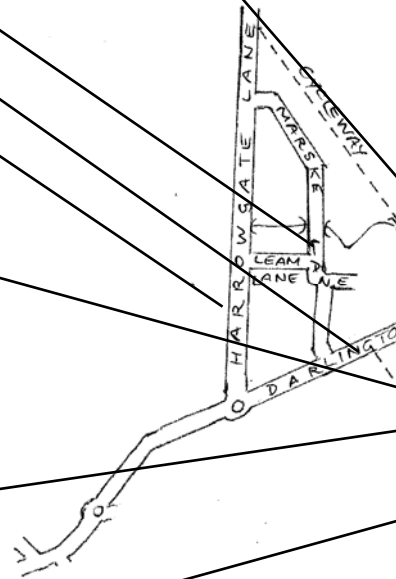
Still working for a pedestrian crossing near **Felton Lane**



Suzanne has constantly prompted the Council to deal with problems such as litter, dumping, graffiti, nettles around gateways etc. on the **cycleway**.

Julia and Suzanne have been keen to work with the local community, police and Council to make improvements to the **Elm Tree Centre**, and make it a safer and better place to visit, live and work. Better lighting is already in place.

Suzanne has campaigned for many years on the “Daylight Robbery” issue, of the government taking away part of the rent that local **council tenants** pay. One third of rent paid is now lost. Suzanne is shown here speaking out at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference on this issue.



Julia is delighted that in response to residents requests the new **post box** not only has been erected but Royal Mail has now repainted it and put up the collection times as she asked.



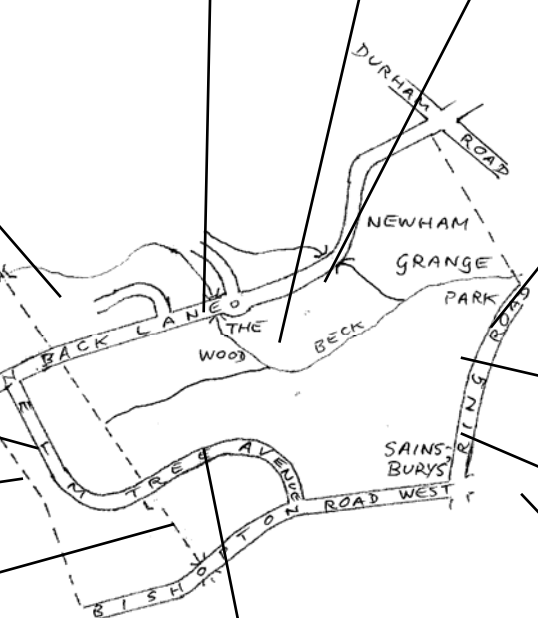
Countless potholes, broken pavements, street lights and street name plates have been dealt with .

Julia and Suzanne are happy to work with the Friends of **Newham Grange Park** who are working hard to make improvements to the Park.

Trying to get a footpath at **The Vale** entrance

The wood has been made into a local nature reserve and the path upgraded (Focus 164)

Suzanne has been successful in getting many **ramped crossings** in the area to make it easier for people in wheelchairs. However it took 4 years to get dropped kerbs on **Spenborough Road**. Julia was horrified to see that there was still quite a drop here though, and is trying to get it levelled off.



Newstead Avenue has all of its lighting upgraded at last! After 17 years!

Made sure that the new **Sainsbury's** store kept to original conditions about litter and delivery hours.

The paper bank behind the Elm Tree shops has now been removed as it was a fire hazard.

Hard work on future arrangements for the Sainsbury's **crossroads** has meant that there will be better pedestrian crossing arrangements at the traffic lights and new proposals are now being drawn up for better and safer traffic flow at the junction. Suzanne has also successfully campaigned for a **toucan crossing** near to Daylight Bakery House.



Suzanne and Julia are **listening to young people**, and want to continue to do so and campaign for better facilities for young people in the local area.

... A Promise of More



PATH ALONG VALLEY WALKWAY

Many people are complaining about the state of the path that runs along the walkway from Foxwood Drive, and behind Dunelm Road to Newstead Avenue and Alford Lane.

The Council have agreed to put down some more material as a temporary solution, but really it all needs proper surfacing and lighting putting in. Let us know what you think.



BISHOPSGARTH RESIDENTS GROUP

Some interested residents have already got together and had a very positive first meeting. They are going to meet again to look at traffic and other issues that are of great concern to them. If you would like to know more or come to the next meeting, then contact Suzanne or Julia for more details.

SNIPPETS

The roundabout on Darlington Back Lane at the entrance to **Gentian Way** is going to be weeded and cleaned following on from complaints from residents The **Lauder Close** street sign is being put back in againmuddy grass verges on **Bishopton Road West** have been reported for repair, and a longer term solution ...lighting behind the **Elm Tree Community Centre** and **Cedar House** has been asked to be repaired We are chasing up the lack of a seat in the **bus shelter** on **Elm Tree Avenue** outside the shopsStreet lights in **Bothal Walk** not working been reported Grass on pavement in **Madison Square** asked to be cut and removed ! Possibility of bulbs being planted on **Elm Tree Avenue** later this year, if people are interested

BUS SERVICES

Stagecoach have just announced changes to local buses to come into effect on 24th April. The Ring Road between Durham Road and Sainsburys' is losing all services completely. Bishopton Road West between Elm Tree Avenue & The Rimswell is losing evening & Sunday services. The frequency of evening & Sunday buses along Harrowgate Lane, Malcolm Drive & Elm Tree Avenue & at Whitehouse Farm stop is reducing to hourly. Through buses to Tesco are being withdrawn.

Julia has written to Stagecoach about these cuts & Suzanne has taken it up with the Council (but they have no control over what commercial operators do).

It is a disgrace that such an important service for the public can be cut like this.

YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE !!

Julia and Suzanne think it is important that you should be able to contact ward councillors. Every issue of Focus has no less than 7 ways of contacting us by phone, e-mail, letter (including Freepost). Regular ward surgeries have been held for over 23 years. Focus goes out regularly to every home in the ward and e-circulars to those who want them.

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)