

## ON (and off!) THE BUSES

Following residents' complaints, our Liberal Democrat councillors persuaded Stockton Council to pass a resolution calling on the operators to improve their act and the Government to give councils the means to make this happen. *Focus* will let you know their responses. Apart from subsidised journeys, the Council has no power over what services the companies run, but a lot of public money is spent on bus shelters, and free travel.

Julia has also taken up with the Stagecoach the absence of low-floor buses locally. They replied that there had been no reduction in the number on Teesside, so we wonder where they have gone... A few years ago a lot of your money was spent on raising stops to make it easier for people with mobility problems to use low-floor buses and we are determined that such money should not be wasted and people have the use of low floor buses.



## SNIPPETS

Following a request from a resident, we have asked for a handrail on the steps to a bus stop on **Harrowgate Lane** to help those with difficulty in walking ..... We are still chasing up the request for a seat in the **bus stop on Elm Tree Avenue** by Lanark Close ..... there will be car parking bays put into **Markham Square** and **Lowick Close**, and we are pressing for more to be done in the future ..... We have asked again for the **path behind Whitehouse School** to be upgraded, and will keep on doing so ..... The path on **old Darlington Back Lane** between **The Vale** and **Norwich Avenue** has been cleared of debris – but let us know if it accumulates again ..... more dumping in the beck has been reported for clearance again ..... we have finally got an agreement for litter clearance to be done around **Lauder House** ..... White lines on the **Dale Close / Mowbray Grove / Tovil and Verwood Close** estate have been asked for at road junctions to make it clearer who has right of way ..... We have asked for the broken manhole cover in **Lauder Close** to be repaired ..... Julia has asked for the bushes to be cut back, and litter removed, from the **Marley Close** to Elm Tree Avenue path.

## MARSKE, FELTON and LEAM LANE TRAFFIC CALMING

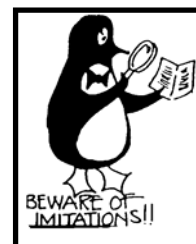
After a lot of hard work by the new Bishopsgarth Association of Residents, working with local councillors Julia and Suzanne, the traffic calming scheme drawn up has been sent to all houses on that estate. The Council will make a decision when it has looked at the replies, and if it is to go ahead, it could be in 2007.



## STILL HERE

Suzanne and Julia want to point out to you all that despite Suzanne being Mayor of Stockton for this year, we are both still your local councillors and available to deal with any ward issues that you may have, working with you and for you, wherever we are able. You can contact us by phone, letter, or e-mail as above, or come to a ward surgery. We do an occasional “e” news on issues between Focus, and will put you on the list if you e-mail us.

You can read what Suzanne is up to as Mayor as well at [www.stockton.gov.uk/mayorsblog](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/mayorsblog)



## DARLINGTON BACK LANE WORKS



The work on "Site 3", opposite Norwich Avenue, between the new development and cycleway is well under way. Suzanne and Julia have been taking up issues about problems caused. Here are the contact numbers again, "just in case" needed.

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- General Development problems Peter Shovlin 526018
- Mud on road etc. Care for Your Area 391959
- Ecological Issues Dave O'Brien 808417

Or, of course, ourselves.

Despite strong representations from both Julia and Suzanne, and 23 letters of objection from the public, the planning committee agreed to lift the planning condition that no house on the new development could be occupied until the works were done to the junction at the Mile House. However we are pressing for the work to be started as soon as possible on the junction and have been told by the Council it will begin in early 2007. We will keep on watching this one!



## Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre**  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 6pm to 7pm  
 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 6pm to 7pm  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 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 606732 (Julia) or 787652 (Suzanne)

**e-mail** - julia.roberts@stockton.gov.uk (Julia) or suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk (Suzanne)



## STOP PRESS—ZEBRA CROSSING

We have just heard that the long awaited consultants report on the need for a safe crossing on Darlington Back Lane between Felton Lane and Rimswell Road has been published. They are recommending that there is a zebra crossing in that location. There are other more detailed recommendations that we can let people see if they are interested.

Julia and Suzanne are delighted at this recommendation and intend to give it their full support based on what people have been saying for years.

Let us know if you have any views on this. If the Council agree to go ahead, it will have to wait for funding to be available though.

## SKIPS

The next skips for household waste are :

Wednesday 2nd August, Mosston Road 24 hours

Wednesday 6th September, Medina House car park 9.30—3.30

Wednesday 6th September, Whitehouse Drive, grassed area 9.30—3.30

Tuesday 10th October, Marske Lane, layby near the beck 24 hours.



## Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and other interested people is on Tuesday 18th July at 7.00 p.m. at Medina House. Let us know if you are interested but cannot come along.



## PAVEMENT PARKING

There have been a lot of complaints recently about people parking on pavements. Not only does this cause costly damage that has to be repaired, it causes problems for pedestrians trying to use footpaths. Please try to be considerate about where you park your vehicle. Parking on pavements may result in you being fined for obstructive parking!

**There is no substitute for all year round action and service**

## ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The new enforcement service run by Stockton Council is there to do their best to deal with issues around anti social behaviour. The contact details are :

Request for service :

- Mon to Friday 9 am until 16:30 Enforcement Despatch 01642 528439
- email : enforcement.admin@stockton.gov.uk

For more pressing matters requiring an urgent response:

- 8.00 a.m. until midnight 7 days per week every day except Christmas, Boxing, and New Years Day ring the Enforcement Supervisor Direct on 07970 266660
- If other lines are engaged or it is outside of the above hours, contact the 24 hour CCTV

Security Centre Control Room on 01642 528989

Enforcement Unit have told us they will deal with:

**Anti Social Behaviour** - intervene and issue ASB13 forms power to demand name and address  
Underage drinking and smoking - seize, Drinking in alcohol free zones - seize  
Litter/household refuse presentation issues/fly tipping - investigate - issue fine/statutory notice/present case at court  
Eviction of irresponsible occupations of public land by Travellers - monitor/supervise and evict where appropriate  
Abandoned/untaxed/dangerous or obstructing vehicles - investigate place under removal notice or seize where appropriate  
Unlicensed/dangerous skips - investigate - place under notice seize where appropriate  
Wheeled bins/ shopping trolleys - abandoned or left out over 24 hours after collection (wheeled bins) - seize and remove  
Illegal waste carriers- bogus scrap merchants - stop check for appropriate license and fine where non production  
Report criminal activity deliberate fire setting utilising on board CCTV to Police and fire services  
Report fires  
Remove hazardous sharps off the street

**Issue fixed penalty notices for :**

Litter, Dog Fouling, Household waste Presentation offences, Graffiti or fly posting  
Commercial sales of vehicles 2 or more within 500 meters on a public road  
Commercial repairs to vehicles on a public road other than breakdowns  
Breaches of street litter clearances and control orders - commercial waste management by shops  
Failure to carry waste licenses and transfer notes

**ALSO**

Issue reward vouchers to responsible youngsters using litter bins  
Provide assistance to stranded motorists and to any resident in distress  
Provide Advice/assistance to any resident on Enforcement or any other issue  
Report any defect where possible that detracts from quality of life or structure of environment e.g. street lights out/dog bin required  
Pass on any intelligence on behalf of public on criminal activity in confidence to Police or any other agency

Enforcement Support will remove any material dumped causing arson threat Mon to Friday 9.00 until 16:00 and forward evidence

Enforcement Support will proactively advise householders regarding waste presentation and issue sec 46 prescriptive notice where appropriate

## HEALTH ISSUES

**Darzi** – Julia has been a member of the Health Select Committee scrutinising the proposals for hospital changes put forward by Professor Ara Darzi. As a result of this review, Stockton Council has written to Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt, urging her to keep the Centre of Excellence for women and children at North Tees Hospital. A midwife led maternity unit at North Tees Hospital is not generally believed to be a financially viable long term option. Watch this space.....

**Dentists** Another subject that the Health Select Committee has “got it’s teeth into”. Five new trainees start at dental practices in the Tees Health area in August 2006 which will result in some additional capacity at local practices but it seems that these places will be taken by people already on the waiting lists. Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Secretary, Steve Webb, said recently *“If the government thinks that NHS dentistry is in a good state, they are living in cloud cuckoo land. Their own figures show that hundreds of dentists have pulled out of the NHS because of the new contract....Without a change of heart by the Government, NHS dentistry will be entering a terminal decline”*

## SURE START

Talks are underway with Sure Start to develop a Children’s Centre at Elm Tree Community Centre. Amongst other things this should bring such benefits as midwife clinics, baby weighing, crèche facilities and other services designed for children from conception to 5 years. It will not have any impact on other classes being run at the Centre which are many and varied. If you want to know more about what is available then ring the Centre on 862090 or call in and enquire.



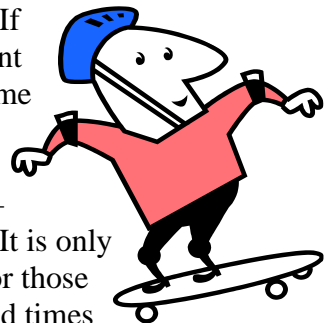
## PLANNING ISSUES

Julia and Suzanne are both concerned about the planning application from **Bells Store** to build an extension to house an **ATM machine**. They feel that this will create a dark corner, away from visibility from the main road where people may congregate and cause nuisance to nearby people. Objections have been lodged with the Planning Dept.

There is finally a date for the Planning Committee to hear the **wind turbine** application at Bishopsgarth School issue – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let us know if you want more details.

## SKATEBOARDING –

following on from the success of the mobile skate park at half term, it will be coming twice in the school holidays - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August & Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. It will be behind the Elm Tree Community Centre from 10.30 a.m. till 3.30 p.m, admission free. Boarders and BMX riders of all abilities welcome. Pads and helmets are provided. If you want it to come again in the future – use it! It is only there for those days and times



## CYCLEWAY LIGHTING

The Council have told us that they now have the funding for putting street lighting along the cycleway from Bishopton Road West to Darlington Back Lane. They have said they will consult people, but let us know what you think.

There will be some lighting on the cycleway from Darlington Back Lane alongside the new building site, funded by the developer.

A number of people have been asking us for lighting further along, behind Selwyn Drive etc., but this will be looked at when the next phase of funding is available.



## MOTORBIKE NUISANCE

There are still problems with off road motorbikes. Do report details to the police if you have any. Julia reported an incident that she had some information on and action was taken the next day.

**WORKING FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND !**