

BISHOPSGARTH & ELM TREE

FOCUS

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

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Number: 184

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Sure Start and Elm Tree Community Centre are working very closely together to develop a Children's Centre within the community centre. This will provide a range of services for children up to 5 years of age *whilst still retaining the facilities of the centre, including the sports hall*. For more information contact Julia or Suzanne. In the meantime, if you have children under 5 and want to know more about Sure Start contact Vicky or Caroline on 528829 or 528041



SAINSBURY'S LIGHTS – PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

There have been complaints about the time given for people to cross at these lights, and Suzanne and Julia are wanting to be sure that the new proposals to be put in next year will solve this. Let us know if you have had problems with crossing the road with the present lights.

SNIPPETS Suzanne has been chasing up the handrail by the bus stop on **Harrowgate Lane**.

It has been promised to be done very soon! But we will be watching! white lines at the junctions on **Dale Close**, **Mowbray Grove**, **Tovil Close** and **Verwood Close** have been asked for and agreedthe application by Bell's Store to install an ATM machine at the **Marske Parade** shop has been withdrawn. Julia and Suzanne both objected to this development which, we felt, would only create a further dark corner for anti social behaviour to take place..... Following complaints about overhanging branches on **Darlington Back Lane** causing problems for cyclists we arranged for them to be trimmed back.....All weeds in pavements are supposed to be cleared by now. Julia and Suzanne have asked for the ones in **Lauder Close** and **Medina Close** to be removed. Let us know if there are any anywhere else ? Missing or damaged street signs – Julia has reported **Norwood & Sorrel Close**, **Hickling Grove**, **Mowbray Grove** and **Norwich Avenue** and asked for replacements. If you know of any others do let us know.....



MARSKE, FELTON and LEAM LANE TRAFFIC CALMING

Contrary to what it says in a labour letter, the proposals for the traffic calming have NOT yet been agreed by the Council. Some concerns by residents during the consultation are being looked at, and the Bishopsgarth Association of Residents will be meeting with the traffic consultant before anything is decided.

It is hoped that the project will be put in next year – but it is important that it is as near as possible to what residents want.

It is not at all likely that there will be a 20 mph limit, as these are only put in where there are sufficient physical barriers to make sure that vehicles cannot drive faster than this – and that is not in the proposals.



ZEBRA CROSSING—progress !

The Council have agreed to apply for funding for a crossing over **Darlington Back Lane** near to the junction of **Felton Lane** and **Rimswell Road** after a survey that was done.

Julia and Suzanne have backed this, to make it safer for everyone crossing at this point.



FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. NOW IN ITS 26TH YEAR!

DARLINGTON BACK LANE WORKS



Julia and Suzanne are working hard on dealing with the problems as they come up.

Just a reminder that planning conditions state that no work should be done outside of the hours of 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday, 8am – 1pm on Saturday. We were recently made aware

that a sub contractor was starting work earlier than this and made representations. The sub contractor was told not to start before 8am. As given in the last Focus, relevant telephone numbers for this development are:

- 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.

Speeding fines

Suzanne has long campaigned for an end of speeding fines not being able to be spent on local traffic calming and road safety education schemes. There is now a move to make it easier for this money to be spent locally on what is needed.

There are also now a number of signs on main roads telling motorists they are speeding – a much better approach to try to change behaviour.

SKIPS

The next skips for household waste are :

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

Wednesday 11th October, Mosston Road 24 hours

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



Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting is on Wednesday November 15th at 7.00 p.m at Medina House. All are welcome who are interested in Neighbourhood Watch.

The registration for Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree is now complete,so let us know if you have not re-registered and think you are a member.



Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday 24th October 6pm to 7pm
Tuesday 21st November 6pm to 7pm
Young people, same date 4.30 to 5.30 pm

NEW SURGERY SERVICE

Julia and Suzanne will be holding a surgery with local police officers before the Bishopsgarth Association of Residents meetings. They will be from 6.00 p.m. till 6.30 p.m. and the first ones are **Monday 9th October, and 6th November** at Bishopsgarth School.

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)



MEDINA HOUSE POLICE OFFICE OPEN AFTERNOON

There will be an open afternoon on **Thursday October 12th between 1.00 and 4.00 p.m.** for local residents to go along, meet local police officers, and find out more about Crime Prevention measures and Neighbourhood Watch.

In the meantime if you need to make contact with local officers try ringing on 306604, or drop a note through their letter box.

POLICE SURGERY

PC David Greaves and PCSO Tracy Widdowfield will be available for any consultations before the Bishopsgarth Association of Residents meetings at Bishopsgarth School, from 6.00 to 6.30 p.m. starting with **Monday 9th October, and 6th November**

There is no substitute for all year round action and service

Labour	Liberal Democrats
<p><u>DENTISTS</u> Continued the destruction of NHS dentistry which the Tories had started. Imposed a contract which caring dentists found almost impossible to accept and many left the NHS as a result. Thousands of local people had to go to private dentists as a result.</p>	<p>We have campaigned at a national level against the way the new contract was introduced. Locally we have worked with Stockton council and the Primary care Trust to improve the situation. We have lobbied Government with petitions signed by hundreds of local people. We are still working and lobbying.</p>
<p><u>OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL</u> This Government started the review by Professor Darzi, which said that consultant maternity services should be at Hartlepool, not North Tees This Health Minister backed it then sent it for an independent review. This Government is going ahead with preparations to implement it without waiting for the results of the independent review.</p>	<p>We campaigned with local people to keep the consultant led maternity services at North Tees, as well as on other issues. We played our part in the Council scrutiny review which concluded that Darzi proposals should not be implemented. We say that the independent review should have been completed before any building work was started.</p>
<p><u>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</u> The Labour Government has passed more and more laws to ban anti-social behaviour BUT it hasn't done anything to fund ways to stop it happening. Stockton's Labour-run council has refused to put more youth provision into Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree ward. The provision here is abysmal – we know- you keep telling us! Despite what Labour politicians claim there will be no more police officers for this ward in the foreseeable future.</p>	<p>Liberal Democrats say that it's no good passing laws if there aren't enough police to enforce them, there aren't enough things to keep young people out of crime, and the courts depend on people keeping diary sheets for evidence. Julia has been discussing with MPs, members of the House of Lords and experts from numerous organisations, ways of dealing with anti-social behaviour that really work. She has called for more use of "professional witnesses" so that everything does not rely in every case on residents keeping diary sheets. We have been asking for more youth provision in the ward for years – but Labour politicians say there is enough!</p>
<p><u>POST OFFICES</u> The Government has been closing down post offices, creating longer queues in those that are left. And that is before a much needed Post Office at Elm Tree was even provided for !</p>	<p>We have campaigned nationally for Post Offices to be kept and given a wider role. Locally Suzanne, joined last year by Julia, has campaigned for years for a post office at Elm Tree, but it has fallen on deaf ears of both Tory and Labour Governments.</p>

DOG FOULING PROBLEMS

Following complaints about dog fouling on the field near **Meldrum Square** Suzanne asked for concentrated action and this has been done, so hopefully people who let their dogs foul in places where children play will know that they are being targeted!

Don't use litter bins for dog waste: while we applaud responsible dog owners for cleaning up after their pets, please dispose of the waste only in the designated dog bins, not in the general litter bins. This is for health and safety of the people who empty them.



ON THE BUSES



Julia has been chasing Stagecoach about the need for a bus service to Teesside Park. Other local Liberal Democrats have been trying to get a local bus users forum, and find where all the low floor buses have gone.

WINDTURBINE—The application for planning permission to install a wind turbine at Bishopsgarth School has been approved by the planning committee. There are various conditions which must apply before it can go ahead. Importantly, if there is any interruption to television reception after installation, the turbine will have to be switched off while investigations take place.

DENTISTS

We both welcome the news that five Vocational Trainees have been recruited in the area but know that this is still not enough to give everyone access to a dentist. These trainees have completed all of their training and then spend a year practising under the supervision of a more experienced dentist. If you are not registered with a dentist and need emergency treatment, or want to find out about waiting lists, contact PALS on 0800 0522863 or e-mail mary.shepherd@northteespct.nhs.uk Julia is very concerned to find that people who are entitled to free NHS prescriptions are having to pay for prescriptions issued by non NHS dentists, She has taken this up with Shadow Health Minister Steve Webb MP

Whitehouse Farm School

A number of residents have asked for a system where they can have residents parking permits where there are parking restrictions for the school. We welcome your views on this, and are putting proposals to the Council.

CYCLEWAY LIGHTING

We asked in Focus 183 for your views on proposals to light the cycleway between **Bishopton Road West** and **Darlington Back Lane**. All the responses that we had were positive, so Julia and Suzanne, as your ward councillors, are backing this proposal.

If you want to report problems on the cycleway connected with litter etc, contact Care for Your Area on 391959



Enforcement unit –

This service is run by Stockton Council to deal with anti social behaviour.

Just a reminder of the information in FOCUS 183. in brief :-

Phone calls in office hours – 528439

More pressing matters needing an urgent response, 8.00 am till midnight – 07970 266660

Other times, the CCTV centre on 528989
e-mail enforcement.admin@stockton.gov.uk

We hope you found the article in FOCUS 183 useful, let us know, and also if you would like another copy sending ?

STILL HERE

Once again a reminder that despite being Mayor of Stockton, Suzanne is still available to constituents for any problems. She and Julia are still your ward councillors and available by phone, fax, e-mail, or face to face.

You can read what Suzanne is up to as Mayor as well at www.stockton.gov.uk/mayorsblog

WORKING FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND !