

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

# FOCUS

No 195

Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher  
787652

Cllr Julia Roberts  
606732



## FIRE FUNDING CRISIS

At the Council meeting on 23rd January, Stockton Liberal Democrats urged the Government to reconsider future funding to our Fire Service which is facing massive cuts in future years. The motion was supported by all other councillors and also by Fiona Hall, MEP who said "*The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is densely populated and has a number of COMAH (Control of Major Accident*

*Hazard) sites which back onto residential areas. I fully support this local Liberal Democrat campaign to restore full funding to the local fire service and will be helping in any way I can.*"

The proposed effects of the cuts can be viewed at [www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk) and consultation is open until the end of February.



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Having spent all (and a bit more!) of Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree's Small Environmental Improvement budget this year, we need to look at what is needed for the year beginning in April. We are holding a meeting on FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup> at ELM TREE COMMUNITY CENTRE at 7.30 p.m. for people to come along and put forward their ideas, so we can begin to draw up a list of what to spend next years £13,000 on to improve our area.

We wrote about the improvements done already in FOCUS 193 and 194, including dropped kerbs, bulb and tree planting, part payment for a new path and crossing, and an extra street light.

There are a lot of items on the list from last year not done, but we want to hear what YOU WANT TO MAKE OUR AREA BETTER.

If you cannot come to the meeting, you can call in at ward surgery the week before, or contact us by phone, letter or e-mail.



### Friends of Hardwick Dene and Elm Tree wood

Do you enjoy a walk in these woods or Hardwick Dene? are you interested in what is happening there? If so would you be interested in becoming a "Friend" of the Wood and Dene? Please contact ourselves or Dave O'Brien (Hardwick Dene ranger) on 808417

## MILE HOUSE JUNCTION

We have had many complaints about this junction since it re-opened, all of which have been taken up with Council officers. As a result we have asked for a full review of how the junction is now operating to see what adjustments need to be made.



However we were horrified to discover that adjustments to the traffic lights that were going to be made by Middlesbrough Council (they are responsible for this service) have not even been done yet. We are insisting that it is done as soon as possible.

## ELM TREE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

we are absolutely delighted to report that Marilyn Surtees has now started work as Manager at Elm Tree Community Centre.

The recently completed Sure Start development means that many new services can now be delivered within our own community. Please contact Marilyn on 862090 to find out what is happening or make suggestions about future developments.

## DARLINGTON BACK LANE, MITRE ROUNDABOUT TO WHINNEY HILL

Plans have been drawn up by the Council consultants to make the road safer, following the consultation. They have added better ways for people to be able to cross the road at The Mitre mini roundabout too. They are recommending the Council finds funding for the work. They are asking the Council to look at Yarm Back Lane and its junction next year for any safety improvements.

**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - FAIR, HONEST, OPEN AND GREEN**

## NEW SURGERY UPDATE

As reported in FOCUS 194 "stop press" there are plans for Dr Tunio's surgery at Elm Tree to move to Clarence Street at the junction of the Durham Road by-pass and Norton Road. Julia and Suzanne have done a lot of research into the proposal, and found many problems connected with access.

People will have to take TWO buses to the new surgery, changing in the High Street and get two buses back. If they do not have a bus pass this will cost £3.75.

If they are fit enough they will walk from Bishopton Lane (Station Pub), but it will take nearly 10 minutes; there are no dropped kerbs on the way and the footpath is not in very good condition. THEN they have to cross Durham Road By Pass. Dial a Ride can only take people who are registered disabled, and people may not be able to get a booking to take them both to the surgery and back again.



The car park for the development that will have 4 Doctor's surgeries only has 25 parking places. The relevant Council Scrutiny Committee had already had a presentation before Suzanne and Julia were told about the proposal, and refused to look at it again in the light of the information on the problems that your Councillors had discovered.

So we are both pressing hard for the following

\* A pelican crossing across Durham Road By-Pass BEFORE the surgery opens.

\* The footpath from Bishopton Lane and other bus stops to be made suitable for people to walk on.

\* A bus shelter and seat at the Bishopton Lane bus stop

\* A contribution from the developers to extra services by Dial a Ride

Also, as in the last edition of FOCUS – for the phone number not to be an 0844 one!

*The Health Service need to take into account the needs of real people with real problems in future planning, whether it be Health Centres or Hospitals, and understand the reality of people trying to travel to them.*

## Elm Tree Centre parking

As reported in Focus 194, the Council were going to install bollards next to the Elm Tree Public House to stop people driving onto the paved area in front of the shops. Julia and Suzanne, together with local police officers have argued against this drastic measure.

However, you do need to be aware that enforcement action will be taken against drivers who park on the pavement and if it continues, then bollards may be the only option. Please do consider the safety of pedestrians and use the car parking at front or rear of shops, not the pavement.



## PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

As people who walk on pavements know – walking on them and falling over uneven patches is no fun. So please be more considerate when parking. Suzanne has asked Stockton Council to set an example and make sure that all of their vehicles do not pavement park unless absolutely necessary for health and safety

## NEED TO CROSS THIS ROAD ?

The lights are no longer working at the crossing on Harrowgate Lane by the beck, and are not likely to be replaced. Some people have told us that they need these crossing lights when returning home from the bus stop. Can you please get in touch ASAP if you want the lights re-instating so we can see what the demand is.

## SKIPS

The next skips for household waste:

Both Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Norton Drive, Bishopsgarth ;

Elm Tree Community Centre, car park at rear



## Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, Apr 15<sup>th</sup>  
6.00 pm to 7.00pm

**Bishopsgarth School** (with local Police) Before **Bishopsgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m that all are welcome to come along to.

Monday Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 6pm to 6.30pm

## 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 susanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk (Suzanne)

**WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU!**  
**FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST. NOW IN ITS 27TH YEAR!**