

## DON'T BLAME US – THE GOVERNMENT MAKES MOST OF THE RULES! “NANNY RULES THE ROOST “

Local Councillors increasingly have their hands tied behind their backs when it comes to many local issues, particularly planning and licensing. Rigid rules from Westminster are making local decision making more and more difficult. Both Julia and Suzanne have been, and will continue to, stand up for residents, but “nanny knows best” and rules the roost.

### CHANGES TO RE-CYCLING

Despite claims by local Conservatives, Liberal Democrats on Stockton Council have never asked for normal waste collections to be made fortnightly. Cllr Maureen Rigg, Lib Dem group leader has written to the Conservative Parliamentary candidate asking for an apology and retraction of his statement. At the time of going to press he has not provided any proof at all that there is any substance in his allegation.

Surveys that Suzanne and Julia have done throughout different parts of the ward have shown people asking for plastic & cardboard recycling for the last 4 years, and requests have been put into the Council (for example *Focus 187*). Under the Labour leadership it was refused.

Now, following the review of waste management that Maureen chaired, the collection will start in a few weeks' time. Suzanne and Julia have the details of which streets will start first. Leaflets will be distributed very soon to those roads.



Jacquie Bell, Parliamentary Spokesman for Stockton South said “ *This Government cannot manage its own problems properly, it should stop interfering, and let local councils get on with making local decisions for local people*”.

### VODAFONE MAST APPLICATION

There have been many objections to the recent Vodafone application to site a phone mast on Darlington Back Lane. Unfortunately, government rules are so strict about these applications, stating that local authorities cannot consider such things as



concerns about health risks that there is very little that the council can do to prevent them. Julia and Suzanne are doing all they can within the existing law to have your concerns listened to.

You may be interested to know that Liberal Democrat M.P. Andrew Stunell recently moved an amendment to the Planning Bill at The House of Commons. This would have meant that all applications for phone masts would require full planning permission.

Also, full information about the beam would have to be given to help with making the decision. Schools, hospitals and so on would have protection and the lack of scientific evidence about the possible effects could be taken into account. The Conservative party made a manifesto commitment to introduce this change to planning rules. However, on the day of the vote, only the Liberal Democrats voted for the changes. Once again Labour and Conservative MPs stopped your councillors having the power to help you.

## CALLING NORTH TEES HOSPITAL:

Julia was disappointed to receive a letter from the hospital recently which invited her to call them on the expensive 0844 telephone number despite hospital bosses claiming in February that they had scrapped the number. This was after she had campaigned against the use of such expensive numbers where

patients were contributing in the region of £15,000 per year towards hospital finances simply by ringing them up. If you need to ring then use the 01642 617617 number To cancel or change appointments you should ring 01642 383838. Please let us know if you get any letters from the hospital using the 0844 number.



## SNIPPETS

Footpaths in **Malton** and **Norton Drive** have been reported for repair..... **Whitehouse Drive** street nameplate is finally back up; ..... we have asked for paths on the **Whitehouse Farm Estate** to be cleaned and treated for weeds.....

## BISHOPSGARTH COTTAGES

Yet another planning application for the development that is already there has had to be put in as the previous one's did not give the facts that not all of the land is owned by the developer of the houses. So if you want to make representations to the planning officers there is still time to do so. In the meantime Julia and Suzanne have met with Planning Officers and the applicants to try to reach some possible compromises to lessen the impact of the houses as they are built now. It will be up to the planning committee to make the decision on what will be allowed though.

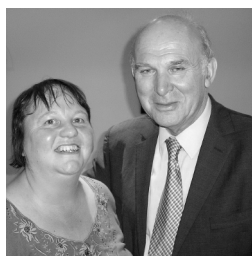
## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS ARE THE PARTY OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

At their conference in Bournemouth recently, Liberal Democrats overwhelmingly approved policies to help people suffering through the present recession.

**Measures to cut the number of homes being repossessed, to improve education for all children, to reduce waste and to reduce the tax burden** were all endorsed.

As Nick Clegg said *"Labour can't, the Tories won't. Only the Liberal Democrats can make this happen."* For more details on Liberal Democrat policies visit <http://www.libdems.org.uk>.

Jacque Bell spoke on the need for an **end to means testing for Pension Credit**, which many do not claim because it is so complicated to claim just the basic amount that the Government reckons everybody needs to live on. She also spoke of the special needs of those with dementia in claiming this vital benefit. Jacque called for a state Citizen's Pension for all.



## SKIPS

The next skips will be Tues 7<sup>th</sup> at Marske Lane and Wed 8<sup>th</sup> October at Mosston Rd (both 24 hrs). And and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Marske Lane 9.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.



Unfortunately this service will stop after March 2009. It is the only way possible to pay for the costs of cardboard and plastic recycling AND keep a weekly refuse collection Also there are many problems caused by some commercial traders dumping rubbish in the skips instead of paying to dispose of it properly and some people putting dangerous chemicals in skips.

## Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November

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 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November

6pm to 6.30pm

## Contact us by:

**Letter** - Julia Cherrett, 12, Holywell Green, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9HH

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

**or** - Julia Cherrett and Suzanne Fletcher, FREEPOST, NEA 765, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, TS16 9BR ( no need for a stamp)

**Phone** - 01642 785473 (Julia) or 787652 (Suzanne)

**e-mail** - [julia.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:julia.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk) (Julia)

or [suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk) (Suzanne)

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