

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

FOCUS

No 199



Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher
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Suzanne, Julia, Fiona Hall MEP and Jacquie Bell wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



If you would like your Christmas Tree collecting please put out before 7.00 am on Monday 12th January where you would normally put your bin.

A missed opportunity

That's the Liberal Democrat verdict on the Labour Chancellor's Crisis budget.

He could have made tax fairer for everyone by cutting income tax for low and middle income people, by closing loopholes for the rich.

BUT he chose a temporary reduction in the top rate of VAT. That doesn't make food or fuel or children's clothes cheaper. It does make it harder for small businesses who have to change their pricing and VAT accounts twice. All it does is help the "big spenders"..

Where's the fairness in that Mr Brown ? Where's the help for struggling residents here ?

Warm Front gives the cold shoulder:

Julia was contacted by a resident having problems with Warm Front grants, meant to help people to insulate and heat their homes and reduce fuel poverty. She was shocked to discover that even with the grant people cannot afford for essential work to be done.

She is working hard with Fiona Hall, Lib Dem

European MP to get things changed urgently. Fiona said " I am appalled that money meant to keep people

warm, is not reaching those most in need because of Labour Government rules".



Fiona Hall M.E.P., pictured here with Julia inspecting a worn out boiler that needs replacing.

Having difficulties paying your mortgage?

If you are **even beginning** to have problems with repayments :

Get proper advice, and if it gets as far as court **Always turn up at court**. The chances of keeping your home will be much higher.

Talk to your mortgage lender.

Don't panic, but do get in touch and negotiate. When homeowners ring their mortgage company, they are often told 'It's too late and in the hands of our litigation department'. It is not up to the lender. It is up to the court to decide what is reasonable.

Contact the **Housing Options** team at **16 Church Road, Stockton** or call **528389** for help.

The **Citizens Advice Bureau** at SDAIS, Bath Lane, Stockton will be able to assist you with any legal matters concerning housing. This includes free help, information and representation in court if you need it. The number for this service is **607445** or **633877**, or you can go along any weekday morning between **9.30 and 12.30**.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - FAIR, HONEST, OPEN AND GREEN

Scrutiny at Stockton Council:

Julia is part of the Health Scrutiny Committee that is looking at the provision of Audiology services. If you have experiences, good or bad, that you would like to share then get in touch.

Both Suzanne and Julia are part of the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee which is looking at Neighbourhood Policing, Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV.

Other current in depth reviews include Tees Active, pavement parking, and Animal welfare & dog fouling. Scrutiny meetings are open to the public. Contact us or the Scrutiny Team on 528158 or e-mail them on scrutiny@stockton.gov.uk with any views or for dates of meetings.



HARROWGATE LANE:


Following many requests the pedestrian traffic lights at Bothal Walk junction have been re-instated. A new footpath has been laid from Harrowgate Lane to Marske Lane.



Stockton 6th Form College

A planning application has been submitted to build a new 6th Form College on the present site. A decision is expected in December. We have both raised concerns about parking, access, landscaping and security.

THANK YOU



To all our deliverers. Without you **Focus** wouldn't reach every home in the ward, year in, year out. If you would like to join the team contact one of us

ELM TREE SHOPS

Unfortunately, despite repeated requests for people not to park on the paved area in front of Elm Tree shops, people continue to do so. This causes damage to the pavement which is not intended to take the weight of vehicles and also an obstruction for pedestrians. We have now had to agree to the installation of bollards to stop this. Works are due to start on 5th January and last up to 2 weeks.



SNIPPETS

Repair requested for **Norwood Close** and **Briardene Walk** street signs, and a new one for **Drovers Lane** ... bus shelter at **Dunelm Road** reported for repair (again) – **Barlborough Avenue** and many other faulty street lights are being chased but waiting for power to be re-connected..... The path behind **Sorrell Close** has had a dangerous hole, uneven paving slabs, and litter dealt with.....The slope from **Benwell Close** is being levelled to make wheelchair access easier.....

SKIPS The next skip for household waste is
Tuesday 16th December, Mosston Road.



Small Environmental Improvement Budget

A lot more work on costs needs to be done on the proposed path-way behind Whitehouse Farm School, and a group of residents needs to be set up to be able to apply for more funding so this is on hold till next year now. Get in touch if you want to be involved. Some of the projects we plan to put on order if there are no big objections are :

- North East corner of **Newham Grange Park** (near the Mile House on Green Lane) closure of gap that allows motorbikes through into the park.
- dog bins on Elm Tree Avenue near the head of Benwell Close and on the old Darlington Lane where The Vale crosses it.
- Measures to stop motorbikes and cyclists on the cut between Marske Lane and Briardene Walk.

Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

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

Tuesday 16th December 6pm – 7pm

Tuesday 6th January 6pm – 7pm

Tuesday 3rd February 6pm – 7pm

Bishopsgarth School (with local Police)

Before Bishopsgarth Association of Residents meeting at 6.30 p.m.

Monday 12th January 2nd February, 6pm to 6.30pm



Contact us :

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