

## BLENDING INTO THE SCENERY



Many people have contacted us very upset that the Vodaphone mast has been erected on Darlington Lane. However, as we said in Focus 198, the Council had to give planning permission for it as it met Government guidelines. Jacquie Bell says “ *Liberal Democrats wanted a better system of*

*dealing with planning applications for these masts, and made positive proposals in Parliament. But the system started by the Tories and continued by Labour will not change as there was no support from them when the changes were voted on”.*

In the meantime, whilst we know the mast will remain looking very prominent, Julia is insisting that the boxes next to the mast are painted green as promised.

## WARMER HOMES:

When it comes to making our homes more energy efficient there is still much that can be done to help reduce fuel bills and cut greenhouse gases. Fiona Hall MEP is calling on the Government to insulate all North East homes to the highest standards. “*11.5% of North East homes are currently finding themselves in a state of fuel poverty – when more than 10% of annual income is spent paying fuel bills and almost 1,500 people in the North East dying as a result of cold homes in 2007, the Government needs to act fast,*” explained Fiona. “*Making homes energy efficient does not have to be hard work and with the Government’s help does not have to cost the earth.*” Fiona has launched a petition which you can sign at: [www.fionahall.org.uk/signourpetition](http://www.fionahall.org.uk/signourpetition)



## HANDYPERSON SERVICE:

If you are disabled, or over 60 years of age and need small repair jobs doing around your home such as changing light bulbs, gutter clearing, fitting of grab rails etc. there is now a free service available from Broadacres. You pay for the materials and the Handyperson Service will come and do the work for you free of charge. More details from Broadacres Home Improvement Agency on 0845 200 8646

## AND TENANTS THOUGHT IT WAS THEIR MONEY !!

Government has decided to give money to Councils to reduce the Council House rent rises. Sounds good doesn't it!

**BUT**, the Government has only just announced this, and tenants had already been told of the new rent so it is going to cost money to tell people about the changes to their rent, work out new housing benefit rates, and tell people about that.

**SO**, how to pay for all of that – yes, you guessed right, it will come out of money that could be spent on improving housing. Lib Dem MP Sarah Teather is asking questions in Parliament about this. Jacquie Bell, Stockton Parliamentary spokesman, says “*it is adding insult to injury. For years Stockton Council tenants have been paying money back to the Government that could have been spent on things they really wanted like better doors and windows. This was a system set up by the Tories and carried on by Labour. Now they are having to pay for putting into action a Government plan that is supposed to help them.*”

## WHERE WILL YOU BE ON JUNE 4TH?

Will you be able to vote on June 4<sup>th</sup> in the European elections? If

you might be away or busy, or would just rather vote from home you can apply for a postal vote. Ring the council on 526196 and ask for an application form. This must be returned to the council before May 19<sup>th</sup> and your ballot papers will arrive by mail.

You **MUST** be registered to vote by May 19<sup>th</sup>, you can check on the above number to be sure or make arrangements to register by then.

## SEEKING YOUR VIEWS

### MEADOW ACCESS

There is a wildlife meadow next to the cycleway, behind the new housing estate called "The Willows". There is pedestrian access there now and we are consulting on either

- Closing off the access altogether, OR
- Putting in a barrier to prevent bikes but still allowing people to walk.

Please get in touch with your views, and why you hold them.

### BIDDICK CLOSE cut through

A barrier has been requested to prevent children running on to the road, or cars coming on and off the estate at the cut through from Biddick Close to Bishopton Road West. What do you think ? is it needed ? is there a problem ?

### "NO PARKING" ON ELM TREE AVENUE

Council officers are suggesting that yellow lines are painted on Elm Tree Avenue between Foxwood Drive and Bishopton Road West. These would prevent parking by parents at school dropping off and picking up times. We would very much like to hear YOUR views on this proposal

### VIEWS ON GREENSPACE

How would you improve your local green spaces? Stockton Borough Council are looking at how to improve local parks, play areas, etc and would like to hear from you. Contact the Countryside and Greenspaces Team on 526871, or via [www.stockton.gov.uk/countrysideandgreenspace](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/countrysideandgreenspace) There is a drop in session at Elm Tree Community Centre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 3.15pm – 7.30pm if you want to find out more.

### Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May  
6.00 pm to 7.00pm

**Bishopgarth School** (with local Police)  
Before **Bishopgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m at which all are welcome.  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> May 6pm to 6.30pm



Focus funded by local **LIB DEMS**

### SNIPPETS

The faulty street light on **Barlborough Avenue** has finally been repaired

Thanks to eagle eyed residents pointing out problems : The poor pavement repairs on **Whitehouse Drive** are to be redone .....

Contractors are paying the Council £50 to buy bulbs after they accidentally cut down too much hedge on **Darlington Lane** .....

### Recycling Update:

Many of you are already part of the kerbside collection scheme to recycle plastics and cardboard. Phase 2 of the scheme starts in April and those homes will receive collection bags and information leaflets soon. The remaining homes will become part of the scheme in October. This recycling is something that many of you have asked for and we're pleased that it's such a success.

**THANK YOU** to people who take the time to separate items. Stockton's product is very high quality thanks to the fact that residents separate items do this. That means that we can still get rid of our collected material - it's not being stored up like in some other authorities.

### Cuppa with a Copper dates:

Call in at Elm Tree Community Centre for a cuppa with your local beat officers P.C. Greaves and P.C.S.O. Liz Stephenson on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May from 5pm – 6pm. A good chance for an informal chat.



### 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 or Suzanne Fletcher or Jacque Bell 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)



**Fiona Hall MEP**

[Fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk](mailto:Fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk) 0191 383 0119  
[www.fionahall.org.uk](http://www.fionahall.org.uk)

### PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN Jacque Bell

[jacque.bell50@googlemail.com](mailto:jacque.bell50@googlemail.com)

← 07772 383564

### MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT →



**WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU!**  
**FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST. NOW IN ITS 28<sup>th</sup> YEAR!**

