



**LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS**

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

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Focus funded by local **LIB DEMS**

Eaglescliffe **Focus**

No 160



Goodbye Garden Grabbing

The Liberal Democrat/Conservative Coalition Government moved quickly to change the rules on gardens. They are no longer treated as "previously developed land" so it will be much harder for developers to get planning permission for housing in gardens. Eaglescliffe would look

very different now if the new rules had been in force 10 years ago.

In 2003 Cllr John Fletcher spoke at the Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in favour of a motion calling for greater freedom for local councils in planning matters and describing the problem of Garden Grabbing in Eaglescliffe (*Focus 115*). Since then we have campaigned for gardens to be re-designated but Labour wouldn't listen.

The Coalition has delivered.

Durham Lane Cycleway

Years after we first requested it, there is now a foot- & cycle-way along **Durham Lane** to serve people going to the **Industrial Park** & the **Oakwood Centre** (*Focus 154, 158 & 159*).



Fairer votes mean more power to you

Britain's unfair and outdated voting system is at the heart of what's wrong in our country.

It has allowed Governments and MPs to ignore us and take us for granted.

But all that can change with the Fairer Votes Referendum on 5th May 2011.

Under the fairer *Alternative Vote* system all votes will count making sure your voice can't be ignored any more.

A Yes vote on 5th May will put power back in your hands - where it belongs.

Yes!

Fairer Votes Referendum

Preston Park

Cllr John Fletcher attended the Picnic in the Park organised by the **Protect Preston Park** group. He says "This event demonstrates just how popular the park is."

Stockton Council's cabinet meets in public at 1630 on Oct 14th to discuss options for the borough's

schools. The coalition government halted the wasteful Building Schools for the Future programme and is looking at other ways of funding new schools.

FALSE ALARM! The appearance of a crane and contractors' huts led some people to think that a start was being made on the proposed school in the Park. Not so – thank goodness! A new jetty was being built.

A start is being made on a cycleway from Ingleby Barwick to the Park, but via the existing Jubilee Bridge.

Meanwhile, we are delighted that the bid for Lottery funding to refurbish the kitchen garden and orchard has passed stage 1 of the process. Your Lib Dem councillors fully support the bid.



Liberal Democrats - Delivering for Eaglescliffe

Elementis Update

Elementis met with Borough and Parish Councillors recently to inform us that the Eaglescliffe site is to undergo a year long demolition/dismantling program. It is anticipated that the skyline will start



to change from around November this year. The new modern office will remain, as will a couple of lower level buildings, but the majority will be demolished/ dismantled and recycled. The local management team has contracted engineering consultancy firm (RVA) to assist in this process and assure us that RVA has significant experience and a demonstrated track record for the safe, environmentally sound and efficient decommissioning of similar chemical sites. Both the site management team and RVA are committed to maintaining excellent safety and environmental standards throughout.

Your Lib Dem Councillors will continue to keep you informed about any future developments.

SNIPPETS

Residents were divided for and against the changes to the yellow box on **Urly Nook Road** at the mouth of **South View** (*Focus* 157 & 158). Surveys so far suggest that the number of motorists using South View as a “rat run” has reduced.

The west end of **Carnoustie Drive** (*Focus* 157) will close for resurfacing in half-term week (from 25 October).

HGVs

Residents often complain about lorries taking a short cut through Eaglescliffe over **Yarm Bridge**. A weight limit (except for access) was suggested on **Durham Lane** between the *Tesco & Kingsmead* roundabouts. Some firms on the **Industrial Park** have objected to the extra mileage. We might have more HGVs on **Yarm Road**.

What do you think?

PLANNING

- A Planning Inspector upheld Stockton’s refusal of the latest application for 15 **Station Road** (*Focus* 158).
- Stockton’s Planning Committee approved (on the Chairman’s casting vote) replacing 1 **Butts Lane** by a larger house (*Focus* 158).
- When *Timothy Hackworth Court, The Avenue*, was planned we said there wasn’t enough parking, but were overruled by SBC engineers and the Planning Inspector.

Residents found that more spaces are needed and Council planners have agreed.

- As we go to press, Stockton planners are considering applications for a replacement ‘phone mast at *Tesco, Elton Lane* (although legally it’s difficult to refuse ‘phone masts), and a MOT testing station at *Eagle Service Station, 506 Yarm Road*.
- The ecology centre near **Urly Nook** has planning permission to relocate to Marshalls, **Durham Lane**.

WE KEEP IN TOUCH Alan, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on

Tues 19 Oct Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6 - 7 pm

Fri 12 Nov NB Changed date Trinity Methodist Ch, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

Tues 16 Nov Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, 6.30 - 7.30

Friday 3 Dec Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 - 7.30

Tues 21 Dec Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6 - 7 pm

Would you like a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Visit from your local Firefighters? This will include **FREE** Smoke alarms fitted in your house. Book an appointment on 01429 874063

Contact us any time at:

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Don’t forget your MEP: Fiona Hall can be contacted at 55A Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN, 0191 383 0119, e-mail fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

Liberal Democrats still working for you