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Eaglescliffe Focus

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Tees Valley Music Service (TVMS)



There has recently been a lot of worry by music students and their parents about the future of TVMS. Thank you to all who contacted us about it. We have lobbied both locally and nationally to try to keep this superb service operating. On February 7th the government finally announced that for this year the funding for the music services across the country will be held at the same level as last year. But this was just too late for the teachers who had received their redundancy notification a few days earlier. Stockton Council could not hold off any longer, otherwise the cost of the service across the 4 boroughs for another term might have had to come out of Stockton's budget alone.

councillors, but it is not the end of the story. TVMS is organised by Stockton Borough Council but is funded by a grant on behalf of the four Tees Valley Authorities. If the money continues to go to Stockton the Music Service will be safe this year. If it goes to each authority separately there is no such guarantee. We have now been informed that the detailed funding allocation will be known by the end of February.



We think it very unfair that students and their parents, but especially teachers should be made to wait so long for such an important announcement. The Tory education minister, Michael Gove, should be ashamed of himself and his department.

The announcement is good news, welcomed by your Eaglescliffe

YARM PARKING

There has been a great deal of misinformation and worry about parking in Yarm recently. Stockton Council has consulted on charging for 2 small car parks in order to give people longer to park if wanted and to help towards covering the costs of water rates and maintenance on them. At the same time they wanted to replace

some Keep Clear markings with yellow lines. This has provoked a great outcry. Separately, there is a plan to redesign the parking in the High St to reduce congestion and then to introduce charging to pay for some land for a long stay car park. When the plans are drawn up they will be consulted on. Meanwhile Maureen is happy to try to answer any questions from Eaglescliffe residents.

SNIPPETS

Stockton Council has received applications for:
The Rookery
DEMOLITION of *The Rookery, South View*, & building 3 detached houses on the site.



Paddock, Urlay Nook Road, near the railway bridge over the A67 on the way to the airport.

RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN SITE at *Highbridge*

TREES in the verges of **Ashville & Teesbank Avenues** are affecting pavements – Stockton Council officers have no easy, affordable answer.

That No. 7 bus service – Arriva has replied to most of our complaints (Focus 162), blaming the weather and heavy traffic. Please keep telling us about problems – We will keep pressing them for action.

Stockton High Street - Stockton Council's vision for the future will be unveiled on Mar 3rd. See the press & SBC website and make sure your views are heard.

Liberal Democrats - Delivering for Eaglescliffe

On May 5th we will go to the polls to vote on how we vote!

MAKE YOUR MP WORK HARDER

We will be asked if we want to change to a fairer way of voting for MPs. Instead of just a vote for one person you'll be able to put them in order of preference. The campaign is being led by people of all parties and none - remember those crowds demanding reform last year? Local campaigner Lesley Lewis says: "Changing to the 'Alternative Vote' will mean MPs will need to work harder to get elected. They will be far more accountable to residents and no vote needs to be wasted.

That's why I'm going to be voting YES on May 5th."



VOTE YES! ON 5TH MAY

YARM & EAGLESCLIFFE AREA ACTION PLAN

Remember all those planning applications to knock down big houses and build flats in their place, covering the gardens with car parking spaces? Many people protested and asked for more to be done to preserve the character of **Eaglescliffe & Yarm**. Stockton council seemed to be listening and the Area Action Plan was conceived. Meetings were held and consultation started. Last year the consultation stopped abruptly. We were told that the necessary protection could be included in other documents. This might be true but then



we found that the production of those documents was to be delayed.

The Western Area Partnership Board, chaired by Maureen, agreed to press the council to use the evidence they've already collected to enable the production of a proper Neighbourhood Plan for our area.

We need 2000 signatures on a petition to force a debate in Stockton

Council. Forms will be available soon from our councillors!

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

Fri 4 Mar Trinity Methodist Ch, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

Tues 15 Mar Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, 6.30 - 7.30

Fri 1 Apr Trinity Methodist Ch, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

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



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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