

The Little Things That Mean a Lot.

Local Lib Dems have reported numerous little problems, many of which have been fixed already:

Many pot holes have been reported and repaired including in **Sycamore Rd, Ashville Ave., Greenfield Drive and Seymour Grove.** Graffiti removed from a telephone box in **Whinfell Ave.**, also from name plates in **Muirfield Rd and Rutherglen Walk.** Broken litter bin replaced outside the fish shop at **Orchard Shops.** There is still a lot of hedge trimming which we reported to be carried out. This will be done in the autumn. Some hedges are on private land and the land owners have been asked to trim them back from footpaths.

Stockton council's website had the wrong price for school meals on the first day of term. Lesley pointed it out and had it changed.

AUDIO FOCUS

We are now able to offer our Focus on Audio Disc. So if you or if you know of anybody would benefit from an audio version of the Focus just let Alan or Maureen know by email or telephone and we will arrange to have one delivered. The price of this service will be covered by your Liberal Democrat Councillors, so the disc will be free of charge to you.

Keeping in Touch on the Move:



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

<http://eaglescliffe.blogspot.com/>

Contact us any time at:

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Or see your Liberal Democrat Councillors at Ward Surgery (no appointment needed):

Tues. 13 Sept 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane.

Fri 7 Oct & 4 Nov 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave

Tues 18 Oct 6 to 7pm, Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane

Tristar Homes

Work to replace doors, windows and bathrooms is finally due to start in the next few months. This is long overdue. Both Alan and Maureen welcome the long awaited investment in these homes. But, as we have said in the past this work could have been done years ago if the previous government hadn't taken £177m over the past 20 years from Stockton tenants' rents.

Tees Valley Housing

Following up on discussions with some residents Maureen had a meeting with representatives of Tees Valley Housing. As a result we are now meeting regularly with them in the hope of avoiding problems in the future.

Planning Applications

Stockton Council is considering an application from **Teesside High School** to erect solar panels on its roof and a slimline 15m high wind turbine on land near the river bank. Maureen has expressed concerns about the impact of the turbine on the Tees Heritage Park which includes that stretch of the river bank. Friends of Tees Heritage Park and Friends of Preston Park have objected.

Allen's West moves a step nearer to becoming a full planning application this month with the completion of a consultation event on the history of the site, led by Brigantia Archaeology. A full community consultation event should be happening in the next month or two, when the proposals will be revealed.

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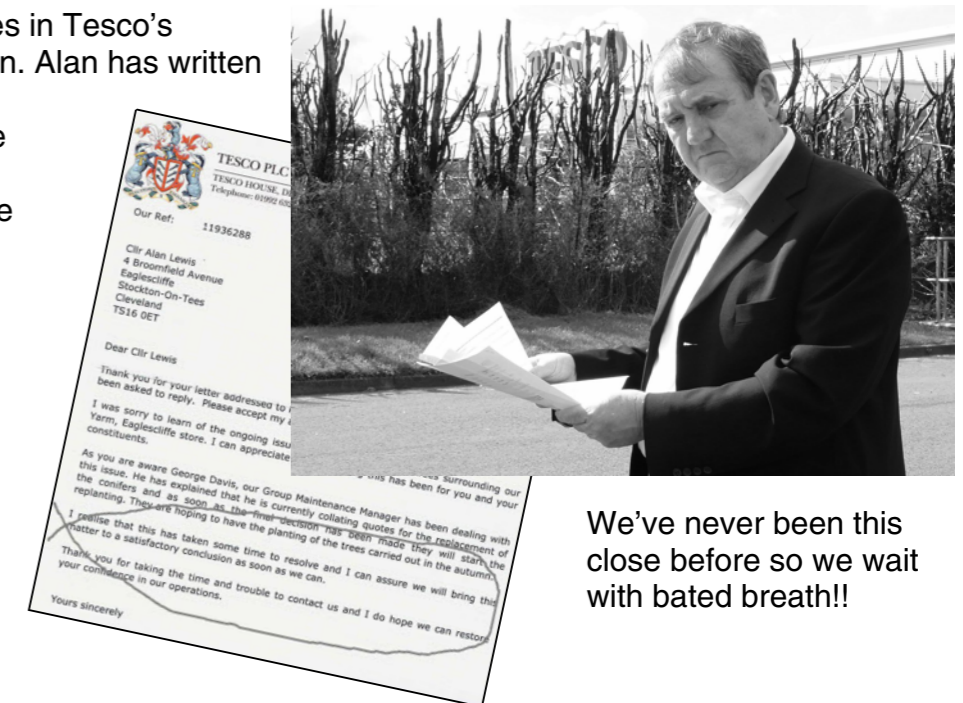
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TESCO TREES - The Final Episode?

After 3 years of letter writing could this be the year they're replaced?

About three years ago some trees in Tesco's perimeter hedge were burnt down. Alan has written again and again about them. Promise after promise was made to replace them, but it didn't happen. Finally Alan wrote to the Chief Executive of Tesco asking him to sort the matter out as three years was a ridiculous length of time to wait.

On August 25th Alan received a reply from the Chief Executives Office saying they were sorry to learn about the ongoing issue with the fire damaged trees. They say that they hope to start the replanting in the autumn.



We've never been this close before so we wait with bated breath!!

GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS.

The Lib Dem team would like to congratulate the young people in the ward on their exam successes. We are sure that they will go on to achieve their aims in their future learning or career choices.



We are proud to have 2 excellent schools in our ward. Teesside High and Egglecliffe both do outstanding work which shows that it's not how the school is funded or "controlled" that makes the difference - good staff and students will do well without ministerial gimmicks.

Crown Green Bowling anyone?

We have had a suggestion that a bowling green would be a great addition to Preston Park. Before this is looked at any further we need to know how much support there is likely to be. Do get in touch if you have any thoughts.

YARM FAIR.

Don't forget the Fair will be arriving in Yarm on the evening of Tuesday 18th October. It is usually all cleared away by mid-afternoon on the Sunday which will be the 23rd October. The High St will be closed to traffic at the height of the fair and for the setting up on Tuesday evening. Expect queues and bus delays.

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Inside: Rail Safety, Spending Money and more

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BUDGET

Spending Your Money

Thanks to pressure from Liberal Democrats in Stockton Council each ward has a budget to be spent on improvements to the area. Eaglescliffe has about £23000 per year. Every year we ask for suggestions on how to spend it, then work out which we are allowed to spend money on, then which ones we can afford. In the past we have funded flowers, streetlights on dark paths, improvements to footpaths, bins and so on.

This year we have paid for more litter and dog waste bins and are funding several other projects:

- Hard edging to the green area in **Larch** and **Cedar Crescents** to reduce vehicle damage
- Providing dropped kerbs on **South View** to make it easier for people pushing prams to cross the road
- A study of the 3 main roads in the ward to see where trees can be planted with a view to ensuring



Preston Park entrance

that we do not lose the benefits of mature trees for future generations as some existing ones reach the end of their lives

- Kissing Gate at the entrance to **Preston Park** from **Teesbank Avenue** to deter motorcyclists

- CCTV monitoring of some emerging problem areas in the ward.

- We hope to work in partnership with Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe council to improve a piece of derelict land

owned by Network Rail on **Urlay Nook Rd.** The idea is to work with the community to convert it into a garden area, perhaps in readiness for the

celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee next year. If you'd like to help please let Alan know.



But that's not all.....
Between Dunottar Avenue & Beechwood Rd there is the old railway slope to nowhere that used to be a bridge over to Crossleys quarry. When the bridge was demolished it left the slope which is now heavily overgrown. It is still used for pedestrian access to the embankment so can't be closed but we hope to work in partnership with Preston Parish Council to get it tidied up. Again if anyone is interested in helping please let Alan know.



Thank you for all the suggestions. Alan and Maureen have worked hard with council officers and the Eaglescliffe Conservative councillor to find ways to make the money go as far as possible.

Allen's West Rail Crossing

Residents have told us how worried they are about the half barrier at the crossing. Children's natural curiosity can lead them to stray too close to trains on the side where there's no physical barrier stopping them. The barrier was installed before children from Kingsmead needed to cross to reach primary schools on the other side of the railway.



Maureen contacted HM Inspector of Railways and as a result Network Rail are being required to re-assess safety at the crossing. We await their findings.

Elton Lane "Rat Run"

We were asked again recently if the cut from Elton Lane to Butterfield Drive could be closed off after a resident witnessed a car entering Elton Lane from Butterfield Drive and just missing a young boy from Egglecliffe Comprehensive as he was crossing Elton Lane on his way home from school.

This issue was discussed in detail in 2000 and Stockton Council proposed a closure. However, some residents objected to the proposal and it did not go ahead.

Since then though, the traffic queue to get into Yarm has got much worse. It is often past Butterfield Drive but can be as far as the level crossing. Your Liberal Democrat councillors decided that it was time to have another look at this issue.

We distributed 200 letters to homes along the route taken by "rat runners" - Greenfield Drive, Birchfield Drive & Butterfield Drive and to all homes on the Marion Avenue Estate. If you want to comment and haven't yet done so please get in touch.

Butts Lane

What do you do on Sunday mornings? A number of children attending St John's Church (Egglecliffe Parish Church) cross Butts Lane to the Parish Hall. Sometimes drivers coming from the Village come round the bend a bit faster than is wise and there have been one or two scares for the children and the adults supervising them. Please be aware when you're driving out of the village that children don't only cross the road on school days.

Section 58

Contrary to the suggestion in the recent Conservative leaflet, Section 58 orders **do not** result in cars being crushed - they give notice of road works! We think that they are probably referring to Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 which allows police to stop a vehicle and issue a warning to the driver in certain circumstances related to careless driving and causing a nuisance. Repeat offenders can have their vehicle impounded, which might eventually lead to crushing. However, this is not a new power. We wonder what other "facts" they are getting wrong.

Elementis Update

Alan and Parish Council representatives met with Elementis staff in August to receive a progress report. The demolition is expected to be completed by the end of the year, leaving just the office block, warehouse and water treatment plant



bringing it in line with modern regulations. The Environment agency is satisfied that no pollutants

standing. The lagoons are being capped as they are no longer needed. The mound at the west end of the site is going to have the vegetation stripped off and further clay added to the top,

are going to escape into the surrounding soil.

There are no plans yet for the former Ecology Park, but ponds are being specially constructed to ensure that the newts have suitable homes.

At the moment there are no plans for development anywhere on the site but long term thinking is that it will probably remain as industrial land rather than housing.

MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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