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### Editors

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# Eggescliffe Ward

# Focus

No 121

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### LIB DEMS LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The Lib Dem Spring conference agreed on a policy, promoted by their Youth and Students group, to impose a tax on plastic bags from shops, similar to the successful Irish one. This would reduce the amount of oil used to make plastic, reduce landfill, reduce litter and make people more aware of the excess packaging used in this country.

### PLANNING

Our councillors, Maureen & John, have been kept very busy on your behalf. If you'd like to know any more, please get in touch.

Stockton Council have **approved**:

- Hunter's Rest, **Urlay Nook Road**, as livery & riding stables (*Focus* 117 to 119). At John's request, manure burning will be controlled.
- Cash machine at *Alldays*, **Sunningdale Drive**
- Houses in place of 1 **South View** (*Focus* 118 to 120)
- Unit 2 at **Sunningdale** shops has permission to convert to a restaurant, but no take-away facility.

The Council has **refused** retrospective permission for the wall & fence at *Burlington House*.

**Appeal pending** for 1 **Station Road** (*Focus* 118 & 119)

Applications **withdrawn**:

- Conversion of *Clarence Works*, **Clarence Road**, into mews cottages (access problems)
- Supermarket & new library at **Orchard shopping parade**, with demolition of library – an application lodged in 1998, opposed by our Lib Dem councillors and already rejected by the Council as owner of the present library – do you remember that campaign?

The Planning Inspectorate have **not allowed**:

- Flats in place of *Norlyn*, corner of **Durham & Elton Lanes**)
- 31 flats in place of *Orchard Filling Station* (corner of **Urlay Nook Road & Durham Lane**) (*Focus* 114 & 117 to 119). Stockton Council had **allowed** instead 10 houses & 6 flats (*Focus* 119).

The latest on the **Aislaby Road** flats proposal (*Focus* 119) is a suggestion that the developers pay towards a tarmac surface & lighting on the riverside **Teesdale Way** path from the sewage pumping station & under the viaduct to Yarm Bridge. Please let us know how you feel about this change to the **Tannery & Vinegar Brewery** sites.

- Applications **pending** for:
- A further police training facility at **Urlay Nook**
- Satellite dish on top of *Alldays*, **Sunningdale Drive**
- Extra dwelling at 9 **Heathfield Close** (re-application)
- More parking in the grounds of Junction Farm School, **Butterfield Drive** (*Focus* 119)
- The condition on parking space at *Emardi's* to be removed.

### IS YOUR CAR AT RISK?

After a spate of damage to cars parked in some of our narrower roads, especially Newlands Rd and Croft Rd, John and Maureen remind people to report damage to the police. Although they are unlikely to catch anyone at the time they can't put on extra patrols unless reports are logged. Meanwhile, tell John or Maureen about any other problem areas.



**Liberal Democrats, Keeping You Informed All The Year Round**

## SNIPPETS

Stockton Council officers have opposed Yarm Town Council's request to graze horses on the **Vinegar Brewery** site next to Yarm Bridge during Yarm Fair. John has been assured that the Environment Agency will make good the land following their clearance of driftwood.

Thank you to everyone for comments (which we passed on to Stockton Council's consultants) about the proposed:

- Changes to the 'bus lane, etc., on Yarm Road at Croft Road / South View / Butts Lane. (focus 119). The legal process is now going through to do these.
- Cycleway via Yarm Road from Muirfield Road to Preston Lane (*Focus*120). Despite some objections it will go ahead; work has already started.

## LIB DEM ACTION!

Among the issues taken up by John & Maureen:

Request for a southbound 'bus shelter at **Kingsmead, Durham Lane**.....Footway along the east side of **Durham Lane** from **Chaldron Way** to the **Industrial Park** entrance – this should be built, with a cycle path, this year.....Fires in ruins near **Preston Cricket Ground**.....The state of the old barrier in **Durham Lane** in front of *Allen's W Cottage*.....Potholes in **Muirfield Road & Carnoustie Drive**....Standard of repair of **Egglescliffe Bank (Stony Bank)** (*Focus* 118 & 120) – now redone....Further traffic calming in **Grassholme Way** is planned.....The new lockable cycle sheds at **Allen's West Station** (*Focus* 116) will be "launched" in May.

## TRANS-PENNINE TRAINS

Over many years our local Lib Dem councillors have asked for the expresses from Middlesbrough to York, Leeds & Manchester to stop at **Egglescliffe**.



the Durham Coast to these cities. No promises yet, but this isn't the end of the campaign!

Maureen has now written to the new operators of the service and John has approached a new company proposing a few trains down

## WE LISTEN:

John & Maureen will hold ward surgeries:

**Tues.20 Apr** 6 to 7 p.m. *Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts La.*

**Fri. 7 May** 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. *Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Avenue*

**Tues.18 May** 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. *Egglescliffe Community Cen., Durham La.*

Surgeries at *Trinity Methodist Church* are held jointly with **Cllr Mike Cherrett**, Preston Ward councillor

If you can't come then please write, ring or e-mail:

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**Cllr Maureen Rigg**, 4 Monmouth Drive, tel/fax 782009, e-mail [maureen.rigg@ntlworld.com](mailto:maureen.rigg@ntlworld.com)

## OPEN GOVERNMENT, STOCKTON STYLE!

At a recent council meeting Maureen proposed a motion to share the chairing of select committees amongst all groups on the Council according to size. This is one way Parliament makes sure its select committees can properly scrutinise government. The Labour majority voted against and the Tories abstained, showing their disdain for the principles of open and fair government.

## COUNCIL TAX

This year was a very difficult one for balancing the budget, because of well publicised pressures. The Tories proposed a small cut in the tax. Your Lib Dem councillors could not support this, saying that any small savings that could be made should go to social services to improve care for our most vulnerable residents. At the next council meeting the Tories complained about the shortage of money for social services!!

## EUROPEAN SUCCESS!

Lib Dem MEPs helped vote through rules which mean air travellers whose flights are cancelled or overbooked will be entitled to cash compensation. Fiona Hall, Lib Dem European spokesperson in the North East, is now calling on the UK Government to support the legislation:



"The European Parliament has passed the new compensation laws. Now it is up to the Labour Government to agree to the package as soon as possible. Until then, air passengers will remain at the complete mercy of air carriers, with no right of redress."

## SKIPS

The next skips will be:

Thurs. 15 Apr **Carnoustie Drive** garage site

Wed. 12 May **Croft Road** garage site

*SITA recycling centre (for household items, cardboard, garden waste & chemicals) tel. 202300*

**Liberal Democrats – The Effective Opposition**