



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

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Egglecliffe Post Office

Post Office Ltd confirmed that the Post Office in **Station Rd** will close from 4th August. John and Maureen are disappointed that PO Ltd did not make any effort to find alternative premises and they will be watching carefully to see what effect the closure has on people in the area. Sometimes it is possible to have a community post office opened if there is enough demand, so let us know if you find the new arrangements too difficult.

Western Area Board

As reported in *Focus 117* an Area Board is to be established to cover Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Preston and associated villages and to have an input into strategic policy planning for Stockton as it affects this area. There has been a meeting of those who initially expressed an interest, and more will take place in the autumn. Meanwhile if there are businesses or community groups who would like to know more, please ask John or Maureen. More people are needed to make it work effectively.



Europe, here we come!



Thank you to everyone who helped us in any way in the European election last month or just voted Lib. Dem. Fiona Hall was elected, so for the first time the North East has a Lib Dem. MEP. Her contact details are as follows until her office is properly established: tel:

01665 574383; e-mail:

fiona_jane_hall@btopenworld.com. Fiona will be happy to take up issues which can be tackled within the European parliament rather than the UK.

Planning



Stockton Council's Planning Committee gave permission for demolition of *Norlyn*, **Elton Lane**, & building of 6 flats; refused permission to build a bungalow in the grounds of 9 **Heathfield Close (Focus 121)**; approved the satellite dish on the Co-op, **Sunningdale Drive**, & a Yarm bound 'bus shelter for *Kingsmead*, **Durham Lane**, but retained the condition on *E-Mardi's at the foot of "Stony Bank"* which stops expansion unless the extra car parking is provided (all in *Focus 121*). The **Aislaby Road** development and the alterations to 3 **Langdale Close** are scheduled to go to committee on Wed 4th Aug with site visits the day before. There are new applications to alter and extend 15 **Station Rd** to provide 4 additional flats, and to demolish *Copsewood* (corner of **Yarm Rd & The Avenue**) and build 33 flats and 14 houses. The planning inspector refused the extension (involving conversion to flats) of *Hughenden* (corner of **Station Rd & Yarm Rd**) (*Focus 118, 119 & 121*). There is no further news at the time of writing on the *Rookery/Sunnymount* application in **South View**.

Regional Assembly

After much dithering Mr Prescott has finally named the date for the referendum, subject to approval by Parliament. On Nov 4th the people of the North East will have the chance to decide whether they want a regional assembly which will bring some of the powers currently held by Westminster and unelected quangoes to local people. Liberal Democrats have always called for more power to be held locally, with central government only doing things which must be done nationally. John and Maureen will be campaigning for a "Yes" vote in the referendum.



Snippets

- ☹ Local police warn about “2 in 1” burglaries where burglars break into your house to take your car keys and then steal your car from the drive. 
- ☹ The new train company mentioned in *Focus 121* has had its plans turned down.
- ☺ Cyclists can find out about the new lockable cycle sheds at **Allen’s West Station (Focus 116 & 121)** by ringing 528499. 
- ☺ Stockton Council’s *Care for your Area* recognised 2 local volunteer groups at a ceremony at Preston Hall – residents of **Kingsmead Estate** who keep verges tidy, and Friends of Victorian Eaglescliffe, who have worked on **Eaglescliffe Memorial Park** and the **Station** yard.
- ☹ John wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister to ask when the law would come into force allowing Orchard leaseholders to choose their own insurers. The reply estimated some time in February 2005, without promising this. Meanwhile, leaseholders can get free, independent advice on their rights from the Leasehold Advisory Service, 70-74 City Road, London, EC1Y 2BJ (tel: 0845 345 1993 or 0207 490 9580). We think that this is too long a delay for legislation passed by Parliament in 2002.
- ☺ There is now a local nature reserve at Quarry Wood, Preston Park.

Where are your Children?

Now that the schools are closing for the summer holidays there will be children playing outside for longer. Please remind your children of the need to be careful with ball games, skateboards, cycles etc, and to stay away from roads and railways which are not designed as play areas.

SKIPS



16 Aug. Leven Close –hammerhead

9 Sep. Muirfield Rd – opp. Health Centre

Don’t forget you can recycle glass, cans & paper in your blue boxes & bags.

Out & About

Maureen & John want to know what you think about:

- The cycleway along **Yarm Rd** is now complete, with advisory signs on the detours round **Muirfield Rd** and **Albert Rd (Focus 120 & 121)**. How is it working?
- The changes at the junction of **Butts Lane, South View & Yarm Rd (Focus 119 & 121)**, now complete.
- Closure of Billingham Forum – do you use it? Lib. Dem. councillors tried at a recent Stockton Council meeting to stop the changes needed to the Local Plan, but were defeated by the Labour councillors’ votes.
- Pensioners’ ’bus passes – Stockton Council is likely to be faced with putting up either the flat-rate fare or the charge, to make the books balance. Which would you prefer?

Why not Join Us?

Liberal Democrats are not supported by big business or rich sponsors. We rely on the subscriptions and fund-raising efforts of members. The more members we have, the more we can do to make Stockton a better Borough in which to live. If you want to know more please speak to us.



We Listen

Your Liberal Democrat councillors, John and Maureen, will be pleased to see anyone who calls:

17 Aug. Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts La. 6 to 7 pm

3 Sep. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 to 7.30 pm

21 Sep. Egglecliffe Community Cen., Durham La. 6.30 to 7.30 pm

1 Oct. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 to 7.30 pm

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Liberal Democrats keeping you informed all the year round