



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

### Editors

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Egglescliffe Ward

# Focus

No 124

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## Say YES to the North East

Dear Fellow Residents,  
The people of the North East are being given the opportunity to decide whether or not to have an elected assembly. This is a major decision about the way our region is run.

As your local councillors we urge you to vote YES in the referendum. In this *Focus* we explain why we believe an assembly chosen by the people of the North East is better than what we have now.

The referendum is being conducted by postal vote. For your views to count, your vote must be returned in the prepaid envelope with it by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Best wishes,

*Maureen Rigg John Fletcher*



NE Lib Dems campaigning for a YES vote.  
L-R: Jody Dunn, Alan Beith MP, Ed Davey MP, Fiona Hall MEP

### FLATS

Maureen & John (with their Preston-on-Tees colleague Cllr Mike Cherrett) have been talking to professional planners at Stockton about the rash of applications to fill plots in Eaglescliffe with flats. The basic problem is policy made by the Government for the whole country (on a "one size fits all" basis), which is binding on local authorities. Planners advise that we cannot ban flats. Instead, proposals are out for consultation to ensure better design standards so that every square metre is not covered by buildings and concrete. More details from John or Maureen...

### REAL NAPPIES ?

If your family are "nappy users", and want to find out more about using real ("terry") nappies, there is a coffee and chat session at Splash on the first Wednesday of every month between 10 and 12 (children welcome!) or you can talk to a local real nappy adviser on 527529 about how to use them without it costing the earth either environmentally or in cash terms.



## AISLABY ROAD

Despite all the efforts of objectors, by the Chairman's casting vote, Stockton Planning Committee approved plans to demolish 4 houses and build 29 new ones on land between **Aislaby Road** and



**Leicester Way.** John and Maureen are disappointed by the decision – they feel that it will lead to more car use as people will be afraid (rightly) to walk along Aislaby Road where there is no pavement. Stockton Council's Engineers wanted the developer to pay towards surfacing and lighting the **Teesdale Way** along the river bank from the Pumping Station to **Yarm Bridge**. Our councillors dissuaded the Committee from lighting the path, as they felt that it would still be unsafe after dark and lighting would change the character of the riverside. Money will instead go on pedestrian safety improvements, we are assured – watch this space!

## YOUTH

We are pleased to see the all-weather floodlit pitch at **Egglescliffe School** now in use – out of school hours it is intended for organised community use. Liberal Democrats on Stockton Council had been calling for a **mobile skateboard facility** for a long time and are therefore disappointed at the announcement that it will stay indoors at Stockton Sports Centre in Tilery for the winter. They will continue to press for it to be taken round all parts of the Borough, as is done by a neighbouring council. More generally, they are pressing for improved youth policies covering the whole area.

## PLANNING

There are appeals to Planning Inspectors against the refusal of a bungalow in the grounds of 9 **Heathfield Close** and the retention of the condition requiring extra car parking for the expansion of *Emardi's* in **Yarm Road** (foot of "**Stony Bank**") (*Focus* 121 & 123). At the same time there is an application for extensions at the back and changes to the front.

Alterations to 3 **Langdale Close** were passed by SBC Planning Committee on condition that the outside staircase was removed (*Focus* 123) ... They also allowed alterations and extensions to 15 **Station Road** (*Focus* 123) & Conversion of Clarence Works in **Clarence Rd** into two mews cottages ... There is a new application for Hughenden, 1 **Station Rd**, to convert into 3 flats and build a block of 3 flats in the garden... The previous application for *The Rookery & Sunnymount* in **South View** was withdrawn, but there is a new one to demolish the 2 houses and build 3 terraced houses & 21 flats... Stockton planners turned down an extra house in **West View Terrace** behind 670 Yarm Road. The *Copsewood* application is still pending. A Tree Preservation Order has been made to protect 35 trees on the site. It now seems that the developer may not be allowed a vehicular entrance on **Yarm Road** and must use **The Avenue**... The conversion of the former Eaglescliffe Post Office in **Station Road** for residential use was approved.

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTING

As well as phoning 527615 to report incidents of ASB you can now make reports through Stockton Council's website, [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk). John and Maureen will be very interested to see how this works out.

### We Listen

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

**19 Oct.** Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts La. 6-7 pm

**5 Nov.** Trinity Methodist Ch, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30pm

**16 Nov** Egglescliffe Comm. Cen., Durham La. 6.30-7.30 pm

**3 Dec** Trinity Methodist Ch. Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30 pm

**21 Dec** Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts La. 6-7 pm

**Cllr John Fletcher** 3 Hoylake Way, Tel 786456, Fax 657138, e-mail [sfletcher@cix.co.uk](mailto:sfletcher@cix.co.uk)

**Cllr Maureen Rigg** 4 Monmouth Drive, Tel & fax 782009 E-mail [Maureen.rigg@ntlworld.com](mailto:Maureen.rigg@ntlworld.com)

**Liberal Democrats—Keeping You Informed**

## SNIPPETS

Stockton Council has agreed to John's request for the removal of the piles of driftwood from the **Vinegar Brewery site** on the river near the Viaduct. They had been left when flotsam was cleared off the river. It seems that it accumulates on the upstream side of **Yarm Bridge** as there are now no incoming tides to dislodge it. There were even two birds' nests on the flotsam this year! ... The 'bus shelter on **Durham Lane at Burdale Close** requested by John is now in use – he is still waiting for officers to tell him what they will do for people waiting at the stop opposite **Durham Lane Industrial Park**. ... John has joined residents in numerous complaints about missing or unlit bollards and damaged refuges in the middle of **Yarm Road**. Repairs are promised, with investigation of the need for more durable refuges.

Democratic Services Officers from Stockton Council will be in **Egglecliffe Branch Library** on 25th October 2004, from 10am to 12 noon to let you know such things as:

- What they do and how they can give assistance to the public
- How decision-making works at the Council
- When & where Council & Planning Meetings are held
- How to register to vote
- How to ask a question at public question time during Council Meeting

Lockable cycle lockers are now available at **Alens West Station** and are coming to **Eaglescliffe Station**. Leaflets about cycle routes in the Tees Valley and access to trains are available from John or Maureen ... **Burnmoor Drive & Greenfield Drive**: Following investigation of objections, Stockton Council has decided not to progress the proposed waiting restrictions at this road junction. ... **Allen's West Level Crossing**: Driving will be temporarily prohibited to enable essential track maintenance: 2335 23-10-04 to 0750 24-10-04  
2335 13-11-04 to 0750 14-11-04  
2335 18-12-04 to 0750 19-12-04  
Advisory signs will be placed at both ends of Durham Lane and a diversionary route will be signposted.

## SKIPS

10 Nov Croft Rd Garage Site  
17 Dec Egglecliffe Village Green

**But don't forget about recycling!**



## WESTERN AREA PARTNERSHIP BOARD.

As reported in *Focus 123* the new Interim Board has met. Maureen has been elected chairman. Now we need properly elected representatives from voluntary and community groups. In the next few weeks postcards will be in libraries and community centres explaining how groups can register. Maureen and John encourage groups of residents who are working together, however informally, to register. Not only does this give them a vote in the election to the Board, but also gives access to help if applying for funding.

## HELP!

Building going ahead on the last phase of



this development. At present we rely on deliverers doing extra work to get Focus to Hunter's Green so please get in touch if you could deliver your road or a couple of roads near you.

## FIONA HALL MEP

Fiona now has offices in Durham and Brussels: 55A Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN. Tel: 0191 383 0119

Email: [enquiries@fionahall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fionahall.org.uk)

And: European Parliament, Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 10G246, 60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 BRUXELLES, Belgium Tel: 00 32 2 284 5561  
Email: [fihall@europarl.eu.int](mailto:fihall@europarl.eu.int)

## FIREWORKS

It is now illegal for

- anyone under 18 to buy or have an "adult" firework – this means all fireworks (except items like party poppers and sparklers) in a public place.
- Anyone of any age to have in a public place fireworks meant for professional displays.
- To set off adult fireworks after 11 p.m. except on Nov 5th and other special days.



This is only a summary: more details can be obtained from the Council's trading standards department, and we have asked for them to be on the website.

## Who Backs a YES Vote?

These people do, and they aren't all Lib Dems!

<b>Steve Gibson</b>	The Boro boss
<b>Denise Welsh</b>	actress and former star of <i>Coronation Street</i>
<b>Brendan Foster</b>	North East athlete and Olympic medallist
<b>Bishop Michael Turnbull</b>	until recently the Bishop of Durham
<b>Sir John Hall</b>	creator of the Metro Centre
<b>Ray Mallon</b>	dubbed Robocop, brought 'zero tolerance policing' to the North East, now independent Mayor of Middlesbrough
<b>Suzannah Clarke</b>	internationally renowned opera star from Teesside
<b>Melanie Hill</b>	star of <i>Playing the Field</i>
<b>Denise Robertson</b>	author and TV agony aunt

For more information check out the campaign website:

[www.yes4thenortheast.com](http://www.yes4thenortheast.com)

### A JOB WELL "DUNN"

Lib Dems knocked Labour for six and gave the Tories a knock-out blow in the Hartlepool by-election where Jody Dunn won a huge 19% swing from Labour to come second.

## POLICIES AGREED AT PARTY CONFERENCE

In our debates (yes! we do have real debates in our party.) at Bournemouth, Liberal Democrats set out the top ten reasons for voting Lib. Dem. These are the issues we will be focused on between now and the general election:

- Put patients first – free doctors and nurses from Whitehall meddling.
- Free personal care when you need it – no one forced to sell their home to pay for care.
- No tuition fees, no top-up fees – university affordable for every student.
- More investment in children's early years - spend the £1bn Child Trust Fund money when it matters most.
- 10,000 more police on the streets – cutting crime and the fear of crime.
- £25 more on the pension every week at 75 – a million pensioners off means-testing.
- Free off-peak local transport – for all pensioners and disabled people.
- Axe the Council Tax – Local Income Tax is both fair and affordable.
- We should not have gone to war in Iraq – it's time to restore trust in the Government.
- Take the environment seriously - cut pollution, cut congestion, and boost renewable energy.

## Vote YES for the North East

Liberal Democrats are backing the campaign for a Regional Assembly for the North East  
BECAUSE:

- √ It will bring unelected regional Quangos under democratic control
- √ It will take powers away from London and allow the North East a much bigger say over what happens here
- √ It will be directly accountable to the people of the region
- √ It will cost only about £2.50 per household per year.
- √ It will lead to more sensible, joined up and efficient decision-making in the North East.
- √ It will give the North East a much stronger voice to fight our corner (Scotland, Wales and London have their own assemblies and get a better deal from the government).
- √ An assembly will have about 25 members, all elected by the people on a fair votes system – so it won't be dominated by Labour.
- √ It will replace an unelected assembly that is currently made up of about 70 members who are appointed by councils, business, trade unions and other bodies.
- √ The assembly won't require any new headquarters building, and is likely to be based in Durham.
- √ It will lead to up to 500 fewer politicians as there will be far fewer councillors and tiers of local government in areas that still have county councils.

**Liberal Democracy—Freedom, Fairness, Trust**