

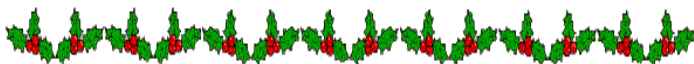


Editors:

Cllr Mike Cherrett 783491 Cllr John Fletcher 786456 Cllr Maureen Rigg 785689



Mike, John and Maureen wish everyone
a very happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year.



DARZI REPORT

Liberal Democrat members of the Health & Social Care Select Committee are looking closely at the implications of the Health Review for the people of Stockton Borough. Professor Darzi's main remit was to consider how the fullest possible range of services could be maintained at Hartlepool Hospital. He was asked by the Secretary of State for Health to do this after the Labour majority in Hartlepool fell drastically in the 2004 by-election and they were facing possible defeat in the 2005 general election. If you want more information you can get a copy of the report from www.countydurhamandteesvalley.nhs.uk or by contacting Maureen, Mike or John.

Fair Trade Town

At last, Stockton has a steering group working towards the Borough becoming a Fair Trade Town. People from all walks of life, not just councillors, are working together to promote Fairtrade goods. When you see the Fairtrade symbol it means not only that the producers have been paid enough to cover their costs, but that they've had a bit more to invest in improving life for their community. You can buy over 60 Fairtrade products including bananas, chocolate, roses, rice, pasta, sugar and footballs. Why not buy Fairtrade goods and try them? Why not try asking restaurants and cafes to use Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar?



Chemical Industry

Our Liberal Democrat MEP, **Fiona Hall**, has been working hard in the European Parliament in support of strong action to control chemicals in the environment.

She has also met the TGWU about *Elementis Chromium's* plans to cut half the jobs at **Urly Nook** and is taking this up with the company.

Read all about Fiona's work every week on her website www.fionahall.org.uk.

A66 Long Newton Interchange

Mike has written to our MP asking about further possible delays to this vital addition to our local road infrastructure. It seems that the Highways Agency are demanding more studies on the effects of the interchange on the Durham Tees Valley Airport expansion plans.

A Vote Too Far?

A proposal has come from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Yes, It's That Man Again!) that the Borough Council Cabinet should be directly elected by everyone in the Borough. At present they're elected by the Council from amongst the Councillors that you've elected. If the new idea goes ahead it will mean elections every 2 years – alternately for the Cabinet and the rest of the council. And we would have another set of boundary changes and a smaller number of councillors, probably working on their own in smaller wards instead of in a team like now.



Your Liberal Democrat Councillors think this is a daft idea which will do nothing to increase voter turnout or to give you better representation on the Council. You could end up with a Cabinet of people who don't even know each other let alone want to work together.

Let us know what you think!

Police and Fire

Something not getting much attention is proposed changes to the **fire brigade cover** in the area. There would be huge changes in how Cleveland is covered, with staff working more on education and less in the fire station. Copies of the consultation document are available at www.clevelandfire.gov.uk or contact Maureen for more details. The closing date is 2nd February 2006.

On the subject of fire – smoke alarms do save lives! If you have one fitted please check it at least monthly and don't let the battery be "borrowed" for that Christmas toy! If you don't have one and want one fitted *free of charge*, or just want advice on how to prevent or escape from a fire please contact Cleveland Fire Brigade on 01429 874063

Since our last *Focus* the Government has decreed that Police Authorities be reorganised, and despite attempts from local people to have a Tees Valley force, is saying that it must be a **Regional Police Force**, merging with Durham and Northumbria.



PLANNING UPDATE

Since our report in *Focus 130*:
Stockton Council have approved:

- * *Hughenden*, 1 **Station Road** – Rear extension & conversion to 3 flats
- * *Cinnamon Restaurant*, **Sunningdale Drive** – takeaway & Sunday opening
- * *Rosecote Farm*, **Newsham** – conversion of land to a riding establishment
- * *Riverside Lounge & Restaurant* – 661 **Yarm Road** – Later opening hours

They have turned down:

- * *The Grange*, **Urley Nook Road** – Demolition & building flats
- * 9 **Heathfield Close** – revised plans for an extra dwelling
- * *Glenrea & The Bungalow*, **The Avenue** – demolition of 2 houses & replacement with 42 retirement flats. There is now an appeal against this refusal, which will be heard by a Planning Inspector (appointed by the Secretary of State) in 2006.

Council planners were considering (at time of going to press) applications for:

- * 646 **Yarm Road** – extra house to the rear
- * **Trafford Hill** – extra house near **Aislaby Road**
- * **Preston Primary School** - new hall and kitchen, & demolition of temporary buildings. The new dual-purpose hall will be used for school dinners and sports.

A Planning Inspector will consider an appeal against Stockton Council's requirement to remove the new fascia & windows at 704 & 706 **Yarm Road** (bathroom shop). Earlier this year a private developer proposed to the Regional Assembly commercial, leisure, recreation & social housing between **Moorhouse Estate**, the **A66** & **Durham Lane**. So far, this has not been supported by the Assembly, who concluded that a new "strategic employment site" was not needed here &, if needed in future, should be on the **Airport**.

More details on all these from our councillors, who welcome your comments.

SKIPS The next community skips will be

- 14 Dec. Cedar Cres, grassed area
- 18 Jan. Eggescliffe Village Green 9.30 am to 3.30 pm
- 30 Jan. Durham La. Near shops
- 14 Feb. Oak Rd
- 23 Feb. Leven Clo. Hammerhead



SNIPPETS

A stretch of **Aislaby Road** in **Newsham** has been resurfaced (*Focus 130*) – John objected to the short public notice given by the Council for the temporary road closure.

Mike reported the damaged street name sign in **Elton Lane**.

The builder has at last put up street names in **Lartington Way**, **Mickleton Drive** & **Hunter's Green** (*Focus 130*).

The builder has proposed the name "Orchard Mews" for the flats being built at the corner of **Urley Nook Road** & **Durham Lane**.

If the proposed through train services to London (*Focus 130*) go ahead, the train operating company propose to put staff on **Eaglescliffe Station** again.

The water leak on **Carnoustie Drive** has at last been repaired by Northumbrian Water engineers after 4 weeks of complaints. However, there are now 2 more excavations nearby! We wonder how many more will appear before the problem is solved.

HIGHWAY PROPOSALS

Thank you to everyone who responded to *Focus 130*. Most favoured closing central reservation gaps of **Yarm Road** between Concorde Way & the A66, but Stockton Council officers said "No" because of the lack of accidents. Reducing the speed limit on the **A67** west of Hunter's Green roundabout is still being considered – residents' reactions varied.

CHRISTMAS RUBBISH & RECYCLING

27th - 31st Dec Collections will be made one day later than usual.

3rd Jan 2006 onwards: Collections as usual.

If you want an extra blue box for all those bottles & cans ring 391959 and one will be delivered to your door free of charge.

Christmas Trees will be collected from your usual bin/bag spot on Monday 9th January.

The waste site at Haverton Hill is open for any extra rubbish 8am - 6pm every day except 25/26 Dec and 1 January.



Or contact us any time at:

Mike Cherrett, 12 Holywell Green, Eaglescliffe

michael.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk tel 783491

John Fletcher, 3 Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe
sfletcher@cix.co.uk tel 786456 fax 657138

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tel 785689



WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone:

- 6 to 6.30 pm**
- 20 Dec Eggescliffe Parish Hall, Butts La.
- 6.30 to 7.30 pm:**
- 6 Jan. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave.
- 17 Jan. Eggescliffe Community Cen., Durham La.
- 3 Feb. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave.
- 6 to 7 pm** 21 Feb. Eggescliffe Par. Hall, Butts La.