

PRESTON PARK

Our three Liberal Democrat ward councillors have now had a top-level meeting with the Stockton Council officers responsible for Preston Hall and the Park. Guidelines are being written for future events there in light of comments made at the residents' meeting last year and complaints through our councillors. These should prevent a repeat of last year's problems and give a variety of events large and small in the Park & Museum..

There were times last year when Council officers, the Police and event promoters did not work together to minimise nuisance to neighbours. We hope that things will be better this year.

There will be feedback to residents, with local representatives on a liaison group. Mike, Maureen & John know that Preston residents have suffered inconvenience many times, while having on their doorstep the best park in the Borough, maintained at the cost of all Stockton Borough residents for the benefit of them all. As your local councillors they take a keen interest in both short-term and long-term plans for the Hall and Park and press for the interests of local residents to be protected



TOOTHACHE?

There is now a crisis with many people not being able to access a dentist locally without having to pay private charges. The Focus team have heard from some very distressed people who have not been able to register with an NHS dentist. The team have now drawn up a petition calling for a new contract that takes into account the needs of both the patients and the dentists. These are available from Mike, Maureen and John.

Mike Cherrett said "After lack of investment by the Tory Government, this Government did nothing to prevent the looming disaster. They haven't listened to either dentists or patients, and now they must move urgently towards a solution"



Labour is not listening!

BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX

Thanks to a very poor grant from the Labour government Stockton's Council tax rise is 4.5% this year. Liberal Democrats proposed having some money put aside for wards to decide on how it should be spent - pot-holes or flower beds, pavements or something else. Labour shouted it down and Tories joined in. So all the decisions will be made at the centre yet again.

URLAY NOOK

Lib Dem MEP for the North East Fiona Hall and John have met with Elementis Chromium site manager David Raw to discuss the forthcoming kiln closure with the loss of 120 jobs. Fiona said: "I am angry that the decision to close the kiln has been driven by a short-term boardroom concern about share prices. The Eaglescliffe plant is a long-standing operation with a loyal workforce, producing a high-quality product, but its business plan has been overturned in the interests of short-term profit. Those facing redundancy must be given a fair severance and pension package and every possible assistance in finding new employment. For the future, it is vital that the remaining kiln remains in profitable production. Rising gas prices are a concern and I will be seeking a response from the European Commission if there is evidence of gas prices being manipulated."

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Our councillors have passed on to the Police and Stockton's Anti-Social Behaviour Team residents' complaints, especially from the area around **Orchard shops** and at **Sunningdale Drive** shops. One Eaglescliffe youth has had an ASBO made against him. The ASB Team can be contacted on 527615. If an incident is serious involving violence, please contact Stockton Police on 326326 (dial 999 or 112 if it is happening now).

SNIPPETS

- Stockton Council officers concluded that speeds were too high on the **A67** west of Hunter's Green roundabout (*Focus* 130 & 131) for a 50 mph limit (which the Police opposed) without further measures.
- The Rail Regulator, "mindful" to allow 3 trains a day between **Eaglescliffe Station** & London (*Focus* 130 & 131), is to hear further objections before deciding.
- The takeaway at **2A Lime Road** has applied to Stockton Council to extend its opening hours.
- Clearways will be enforced for the *Kingsmead* 'bus stops in **Durham Lane**.
- An Airport-bound 'bus stop in **Urlay Nook Road** has been moved nearer Valley Gardens.
- John suggested street names for the new development on **Aislaby Road** (*Focus* 130), which will be Carr Bridge Close & Burdon View, reflecting the nearby bridge over Nellie Burdon's Beck.
- The NHS Primary Care Trust plan to replace **Eaglescliffe Health Centre** on its present site.
- Dog fouling, litter & graffiti – our councillors continue to report these when they know about them.
- Councillors are often asked for suggestions for Governors for local schools. If you're interested, please contact Mike.

PLANNING UPDATE

Since *Focus* 131 was issued:

Stockton Council have approved:

- **13-15 Station Road** – further extension (after administrative errors and a tied vote in Committee)
- **646 Yarm Road** – additional dwelling (single storey)
- *Pavilion, Sunningdale Dr.* - alterations

They have turned down:

- **670 Yarm Road** - dormer bungalow to rear
- *Newsham House Farm, Newsham* – rebuilding outbuilding as holiday accommodation
- **Trafford Hill, Newsham** - additional dwelling

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

- **1 The Mews, Station Road** – 2-storey extension
- *Eagle Service Station, 502 Yarm Road* – hot food takeaway
- **12 Teesbank Avenue** – 3 extra dwellings
- 8 new dwellings in place of *Meadowcroft, Aislaby*

A Planning Inspector will decide appeals against Stockton Council's refusals of demolition & building flats at *The Grange, Urlay Nook Road*, and of an extra dwelling at **9 Heathfield Close**.

More details from our councillors, who would welcome your comments.

SKIPS The next community skips will be Monday 20th March, *MUIRFIELD RD*, grass opposite Health Centre
Wed. 29th March, *CEDAR CRES*, on grassed area.



Monday 10th April, *CARNOUSTIE DRIVE*, garage site.

Wednesday 3rd May, *CROFT RD* garage site.



WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on
Tuesday 21st March, 6.30-7.30 at
Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane
Friday 7th Apr & 5th May, 6.30-7.30 at
Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Avenue
Tuesday 16th May, 6-7, Egglecliffe
Parish Hall, Butts Lane

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 787652 fax 657138
Maureen Rigg, 4 Monmouth Dr. Eaglescliffe
maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk
tel/fax 785689

Liberal Democrats do Listen