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Eaglescliffe FOCUS

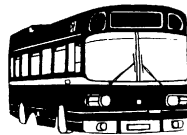
No 133

YOUNG PEOPLE

Some of the young people involved in anti-social behaviour in Eaglescliffe (*Focus 132*) have been talking to our neighbourhood policeman. They said they want somewhere safe to hang out with their friends. They don't want to cause trouble or be in trouble. Maureen is working with Police, Stockton Council Youth Service, the Anti-social behaviour team and others to set up a meeting. It is hoped that the young people and local residents will be able to sit down and discuss possible solutions to the problems.

BUSES - GOOD NEWS AND BAD

We welcome Stockton Council's negotiated deal with the bus companies to give free travel for over 60s all day right across the Tees Valley, instead of just off-peak in Stockton as the government promised. BUT we are very worried that the government hasn't given enough money to the council to fund the scheme properly, so it might not be possible to have the same good deal next year. Local residents can renew passes in Yarm on 12/13th June. Queries will be answered on the helpline, 397106 or 397107.



Arriva has made big changes to their timetables for summer. We welcome 'buses 10 minutes apart in the daytime weekdays along Yarm Road, and hope that they will be more punctual. However, John spotted that a 2-hour gap after 6 p.m. in 'buses to Stockton was proposed, and asked Stockton Council to remedy this. The service along Durham Lane is reduced to hourly, a commercial decision by the 'bus company.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON YARM ROAD

Pedestrian refuges from the Golf Course southwards are well used and much appreciated, though John is trying to get necessary repairs and replacements done. Residents of Witham Lodge have been asking for a crossing near there so that they can cross more easily to the bus stop and Church. Stockton Council says that one is not necessary because there have been no serious accidents there. Mike, Maureen and John don't think we should wait until someone is killed. They are supporting the petition asking for a refuge to be installed.

PRESTON PARK

Our Liberal Democrat councillors have continued their efforts described in *Focus 132*. We are still waiting for the promised liaison group with local representatives. A Select Committee of Opposition and back-bench councillors, including John (in the Chair) and Mike, is now scrutinising Council policy on the Park, Hall and museums for the future. Please watch out for opportunities to contribute your thoughts, or else send them to Mike, Maureen or John. Meanwhile plans are being drawn up for a Creative Arts Centre to be part of the Park.

DENTISTS

Thankyou to everyone who signed the petition (*Focus 132*). It has been given to Steve Webb MP, the Liberal Democrat Health spokesman. He will give it to the Health Secretary. North Tees Primary Care Trust are trying to make sure that everyone has access at least to emergency care within the NHS and to get as many patients as possible registered for NHS dentistry. Stockton's Health & Social Care committee will be looking into the situation. Watch out for ways to contribute.

EAGLESCLIFFE RESIDENT IS MAYOR OF STOCKTON

John is now Mayor's consort as his wife Suzanne, also a Lib Dem councillor, is Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees until May 2007. In this role he serves the whole Borough non-politically, but he continues to represent and serve Eaglescliffe Ward as a councillor along with Mike and Maureen.

MOBILE SKATE PARK

You may have seen in the press that Stockton has a mobile Skate park, suitable for skateboarding and BMX biking. It has been at a number of venues round the Borough during the Easter Holidays. John,



Mike and Maureen have asked for Eaglescliffe to be included in the next holiday period. In fact we'd like to see it visit the ward regularly so that young people can use it instead of roads and car parks.

DO YOU CARE FOR YOUR AREA?

Every year Stockton Council's Care For Your Area team give awards to people who go out of their way to improve their area. Individuals, groups, schools, businesses - anyone can be nominated. So if you know someone who cares for their area, whether by keeping it litter free, doing extra planting or whatever, get in touch with one of your councillors who will give you details. Nominations have to be in by June 16th.

RAILWAYS

The Rail Regulator did award a franchise to Grand Central Railways (*Focus 132*) to run 3 trains per day between Sunderland & Kings Cross via Eaglescliffe, but at the time of going to press GNER is considering an appeal against the decision.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

John, Maureen or Mike will give details to anyone interested:

- The Bungalow & Glenrea - revised application
- Copsewood - 7 houses
- Gayfields, Aislaby Rd - 1 house
- Orchard House, Aislaby Rd - 1 house
- 646 Yarm Rd - 1 dormer bungalow
- 654/6 Yarm Rd - not yet a formal application but developers are hoping to build a nursing home.



Tree Preservation Orders in The Avenue, at 670 Yarm Rd and at Teesbank.

SKIPS The next community skips will be
Wed, 3rd May, Croft Rd Garage Site
Wed, 17 May, Oak Rd grassed area
Thur, 25 May, Egglecliffe Green
Thur, 22 June, Durham Lane near shops



WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on

Fri 5th May, Trinity Methodist Church, 6.30-7.30

Tues, 16th May, Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, 6.30 -7.30

Fri, 2nd June, Trinity Methodist Church

Tues 20th June, Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6 -7



ROADS, LIGHTS & PAVEMENTS

By 31 March 2007 Stockton Council intend to renew footpaths in parts of Butterfield & Carnoustie Drives, Mayfield Crescent, Sunningdale Drive & Urlay Nook Road, resurface the carriageways of Yarm Road (at Preston Park) and Aislaby Road (in part of Newsham Parish) and renew street lighting in Butterfield Drive & part of Mayfield Crescent. Our councillors have more details.



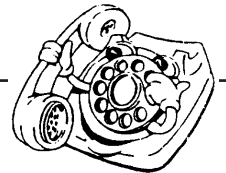
Among problems reported by our Liberal Democrat councillors are

- missing or damaged street name signs in **Aberdovey Drive, Fortrose Close & Muirfield Road,**
- damaged "bus shelters,
- worn-out road markings in **South View,**
- subsidence of **Yarm Road** (between **The Avenue & All Saints'**)
- a "road works" sign erected permanently in **Urlay Nook Road** several years ago!

Stockton Council had promised to improve damaged refuges and faulty bollards in the centre of **Yarm Road** by the end of March - John has reminded them yet again and had a promise of completion by the end of April - let's hope there will be no further delay!

PARLIAMENT IN DANGER!

The Government is currently pushing through Parliament a bill which will allow ministers to change any law they want, just by putting an order to Parliament and waiting to see if MPs object. The Bill is called The Legislative & Regulatory Reform Bill. Although the original idea was to get rid easily of old, redundant laws, the bill goes much further than that. If you think that Parliament should debate any new law that's proposed then write to our MP and ask her to vote against the bill.



Or contact us any time at:

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Liberal Democrats do Listen