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Editors:

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Eaglescliffe FOCUS

No 134

WITHAM HOUSE

After long negotiations Stockton Council has decided to transfer its sheltered accommodation to Erimus Housing, a Registered Social Landlord, who will refurbish most of the properties but demolish and rebuild others, including **Witham House**. The rebuilding of Witham House will reduce the number of rented flats in it, and include some for sale. At present meetings are taking place with residents and their relatives (where possible). Mike, John and Maureen are trying to support residents and ensure that everything possible is done to help them with the difficult decisions ahead.

MOBILE SKATE PARK

Following requests from John, Mike and Maureen the mobile skate park visited **Preston Park** during the Spring half term and will be there again on Wednesday August 2nd from 10.30 – 3.30, admission free. Boarders and BMX riders of all abilities are welcome. Pads and helmets are provided. We would like it to come more often to Eaglescliffe, and the best way to get it here is to have it really well used on that day.



LICENSING

Applications to date in Eaglescliffe have not given rise to the excessively late hours which some residents feared. Currently *River Lounge*, **661 Yarm Rd**, have applied to extend their hours till 2am for serving alcohol and 2.30 for “drinking up”. This was the subject of a leaflet distributed in parts of Eaglescliffe and Yarm which asked for objections to be sent to Maureen. The leaflet had nothing to do with any of your ward councillors who have no say in licensing hearings. Maureen says “We know that residents get annoyed by some applications but please think very carefully before putting leaflets through letterboxes.”

ON THE BUSES

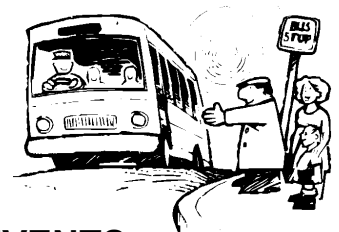
Following residents’ complaints, our Liberal Democrat councillors persuaded Stockton Council to pass a resolution calling on the bus companies to improve their act and the Government to give councils the means to make this happen. *Focus* will let you know their responses.

Apart from subsidised journeys (in Eaglescliffe some early morning and evening buses), the Council has no power over what services the companies run. BUT a lot of public money is spent on shelters, free travel, bus lanes etc.

Our councillors have also taken up with the operator the absence of low-floor buses from Eaglescliffe.

The company replied that there had been no reduction in the number on Teesside, so we wonder where they’ve gone? A few years ago a lot of your money was spent on raising stops on **Yarm Road** to make it easier for people with mobility problems to use low-floor buses.

One success - following John’s request there is now a daily 7A bus at 6.48pm from Stockton to **Yarm Road, Kingsmead** and Yarm, and from Yarm to **Kingsmead, Yarm Road** and Stockton at 7.23pm.



PRESTON PARK EVENTS

Before the Vehicle and Fire Engine rally in June your councillors were pleased to see that cones and tape were in place to prevent dangerous and disruptive parking. We hope it was a sign that last year’s problems will not be repeated.

Malcolm Roots

It is with sadness that we report the death of former Preston Ward and Egglecliffe Parish Councillor Malcolm Roots. Malcolm is remembered by many in Eaglescliffe and our condolences go to his family and friends.

PLANNING UPDATE

Bungalow & Glenrea, The Avenue, revised proposal – refused. The appeal on the original application will go ahead on Sept 12th.

Copsewood, The Avenue, - 7 houses, approved
1/3 Langdale Close – 2 flats in roof space – refused.

Creation Centre in Preston Park - withdrawn

New applications include:

654/6 Yarm Rd – application to demolish & build nursing home

690 Yarm Rd - Conversion to 4 flats & new build 16 flats in grounds

River Lounge, 661 Yarm Rd, application to put decked area in the rear yard to allow outside drinking & eating. Also application to extend hours till 2am

Rivertrees, Teesbank Ave, Outline application still outstanding, Full application for one house pending.

11 Station Rd – application for change of use to beauty salon

The Grange, Urray Nook Rd – appeal dismissed.

No news of any further application yet.

Planning & PPG3

Residents of some parts of the ward know the problems being caused by Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 which counts gardens as “previously developed land” and has led to the flood of applications to demolish big houses and build flats instead. Maureen took the opportunity of the North Region Lib Dem conference to raise the issue with Liberal Democrats from around the region and to enlist the support of members of the House of Lords in trying to change the rules.

SKIPS The next community skips will be

Tues, 25 July, Leven Close

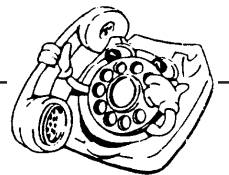
Tues, 15 Aug, Muirfield Rd, opp Health Centre

Mon, 11 Sept, Oak Road

Tues, 26 Sept, Carnoustie Drive garage site.



If you know something of interest, please get in touch with Mike or John or Maureen.



WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on

Fri 7th July, Trinity Methodist Church, 6.30-7.30

Tues, 18th July, Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, 6.30 -7.30

Fri, 4th Aug, Trinity Methodist Church

Tues 15th Aug, Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6 -7



SNIPPETS:

John has asked for hedges to be cut back along **South View** from **The Crescent**

Street nameplates missing or damaged have been reported including **Sunningdale Drive, Muirfield Rd** N end, **Elton Lane, Marion Ave**

Puddles caused by adverse camber on the newly laid pavement in **Sunningdale Drive** have been reported.



PHONE SCAM

Maureen has discovered that her council phone number(785689) has been advertised as a holiday company. This is a scam, resulting in some calls to that number being diverted to a different number and costing the callers a lot of money. BT have been alerted but meantime we apologise if anyone has been caught by this.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Do you live in a historic house? Or one with unusual architecture? Do you live near such a house? Do you know any very old structures - ancient boundary walls, parts of our railway heritage?

Stockton Planning Department is making a list of buildings or structures that are of particular historical or architectural interest or act as local landmarks. After consultation an independent expert will assess the list and decide what should be included. Any planning applications in the future will have to take note of the fact that the building is on that local list.

Or **contact us any time** at:

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Liberal Democrats do Listen