

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOTE!

During this month forms will be dropping through your letterbox to enable you to put your name on the electoral roll for next year. Some points to remember:



- If your name isn't on the register you can't vote in any election next year, local or national.
- 16 & 17 yr olds need to include their names.
- If there are no changes to the people in the house, you can register by phone or online

PLANNING UPDATE

Since *Focus* 134 went to press Stockton Council has received applications for:

- *The Rookery*, **South View**- extension & conversion to 8 flats and a new building to form a further 5 flats
 - *Preston Farm*, **Preston Lane** - alterations and extension to existing farmhouse & outbuildings to form 3 dwellings and 2 domestic garage blocks.
 - *Riverside Lodge*, **A67** - change of use to quad bike and motorcycle leisure facility.
 - *Eaglescliffe Logistics Centre*, **Durham Lane** - renewal of permission granted in 2001 for warehousing, offices and ancillary car parking
- Stockton Council has allowed:
- 654-656 **Yarm Rd**, outline permission to demolish 2 houses and build a nursing home
 - 661 **Yarm Rd**, *River Lounge*, to install an outdoor eating area at the rear
 - 1 **South View**, permission to demolish one house and build two.
 - Ground Floor, 11 **Station Rd**, change of use from retail to beauty salon.
 - 558A **Yarm Rd**, conversion from flat to office.
 - 12 **Teesbank Ave**, building of one new house (application for 3 houses withdrawn)



Stockton Council has refused:

- 661 **Yarm Rd**, *River Lounge*, permission to open beyond 1 a.m.
- 7 **Butts Lane**, Eaglescliffe, permission to fell a Scots Pine Tree.

Eaglescliffe Logistics Centre, **Durham Lane**, has been the centre of some press speculation. Stockton Council has been told that the owner is interested in a mixed development, including housing, on the site but so far no application has been received. Your Liberal Democrat councillors will keep you informed.

PPG3

John Hemming a Liberal Democrat MP, has added his voice to ours on the "gardens as brownfield land" debate. He has called on the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government urgently to amend PPG3 to give the Local Planning Authority discretion as to whether to regard dwellings and their curtilages as brownfield, until such time as the wording and effect of this part of PPG3 is thoroughly reviewed and appropriate revisions are made. So far the minister (Ruth Kelly) has made no comment. Meanwhile your locally elected councillors have no choice but to follow central government rules.

Mike and John have passed on complaints that extensions to 15 **Station Road & Preston School** were taller than approved – action awaited. Some neighbours of the school complained that they did not receive consultation letters. *Focus* 131 informed everyone last Christmas.

A Planning Inspector will decide an appeal against refusal of a dormer bungalow at 646 **Yarm Road**. *Parklands* site, **Yarm Rd** - when the render was removed from the arches of the historic coal drops they were found to be in danger of collapsing. After consultations with Tees Archaeology, the tops were removed and capped off for safety reasons.

ON THE BUSES

The Council has been slow to follow up the resolution mentioned in *Focus* 134. Meanwhile, John has asked for a weekday No. 7 bus to Stockton between the 6.05 and 7.23 p.m. – when empty buses go along Yarm Road to the depot. *Arriva* have this on a "to do" list.



YOUNG PEOPLE - PLACES TO GO AND PRESTON PARK THINGS TO DO

In July Maureen and Mike met with PC Burke and a number of residents to discuss these issues. Problems of anti-social behaviour are increasing and young people want somewhere safe to be with their friends.



Afterwards Maureen asked Stockton Council Youth Service for help to find a suitable site for a Teen Shelter, and ways of getting funds. They said no funds are available but residents might want to form a group and apply for lottery funding. Anyone, of any age, wishing to be part of such a group please contact us.

The play area near the cafe will close for maintenance on Mon 11th, re-opening Fri 15th Sept. Thanks to all who sent comments to the Stockton Council committee on which John and Mike sit (*Focus 133*). We await the report. Meanwhile your 3 Lib Dem ward councillors work for you on Park-related issues. They have reported a list of items, including the state of Quarry Wood and the toilets and the continued absence of a liaison group with local representatives.

Residents needing parking permits when their streets are coned off may apply to the Council's Events team in the *Environment Centre*, **West Row** tel. 527344 / 527345 / 527346.

SNIPPETS

ACTION

Damaged or missing street name plates have been reported for **The Avenue, Holywell Green, Dinsdale Drive, Aberdovey Drive** Damage done to the green area and footpath in front of *Orchard Shops, Durham Lane*, was reported to the shop owners who have asked the tenants to stop any deliverers using that route The sewage overflow problem in **Seymour Crescent** is ongoing. Northumbrian Water say it is caused by the sewer becoming blocked by litter so the grid will be modified to try to prevent this Traffic calming is proposed in **West Back Beechwood Rd** Problems with an open trench in **Swinburne Rd** and an overgrown hedge in **Station Rd** were reported and eventually resolved.

GRAND CENTRAL TRAINS

The new train service to London is scheduled to start on December 10th, with 3 services in each direction daily, Monday to Saturday. Sunday services are yet to be confirmed. Grand Central also hope eventually to refurbish *Egglecliffe Station*, including adding a staffed ticket office. Our Liberal Democrat councillors have long been campaigning for expresses to stop at Egglecliffe and will keep you informed of progress.



GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS

We are delighted to report that: Maxine Reid won the Care For Your Area award for her dedication to the *Ecology Centre* at Elementis Chromium; Commendations went to *Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane* for the garden, and to 1st Egglecliffe Brownies for their work on *Egglecliffe Parish Hall* garden. Mark Walsh, of *Preston Primary School*, won a Certificate of Merit in the Northumbria in Bloom Painting Competition.

Or contact us any time at:

Mike Cherrett, 12 Holywell Green, Egglecliffe
michael.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk
tel 783491

John Fletcher, 3 Hoylake Way, Egglecliffe
john.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk
tel 787652 fax 657138

Maureen Rigg, 4 Monmouth Dr.
Egglecliffe
maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk
Tel/fax 785689



Don't forget your MEP: Fiona Hall can be contacted at 55A Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN, 'phone 0191 383 0119, e-mail fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on 19 Sep. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham La. 6.30-7.30

6 Oct. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

17 Oct. Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts La. 6-7

3 Nov. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

21 Nov. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham La. 6.30-7.30



SKIPS The next community skips will be



Mon, 11 Sept, Oak Rd grassed area

Tues, 26 Sept, Carnoustie Drive

Tues, 31 Oct. Croft Rd Garage Site

Liberal Democrats do Listen