

Editors:

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Alan Lewis 659835

Goodbye and Welcome!

Eaglescliffe Liberal Democrat councillor Mike Cherrett has decided to retire after 8 years on Stockton Council at the election on May 3rd. Stockton Liberal Democrats unanimously agreed that Alan Lewis should stand for election with John Fletcher and Maureen Rigg.

Mike says: "The decision not to stand again was made much easier knowing that Alan Lewis is as committed a Liberal Democrat as me and that he is so keen to represent the people of Eaglescliffe. I have known Alan for about 3 years and in that time he has shown his enthusiasm for the cause of the local community by becoming a local school governor and parish councillor as well as helping your Focus team in the production and delivery of our newsletter. Having lived and worked in the Eaglescliffe & Yarm area for many years Alan will make an excellent councillor, and I am very happy to recommend him to the people of Eaglescliffe"



Alan Lewis met Lib Dem Leader, Ming Campbell, and talked about local issues.

Maureen and John wish Mike a happy retirement and thank him for all his hard work for the people of the ward.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Over recent months there has been an increase in ASB reported to your Lib Dem Councillors. We have passed them all to the local police and Stockton Council's ASB team. As a result there have been extra patrols on **West View Terrace, Durham Lane and Stoney Bank.**

Someone has been arrested in connection with the smashing of glass in 4 bus shelters on **Yarm Road** in January.



Liberal Democrats want to see:

- More police on patrol - **don't waste billions on ID cards**
- Take back our town centres - **let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble**
- Make sentences mean what they say - **life should mean life**
- Compulsory work and training in prison - **to cut reoffending**
- Better compensation for victims - **paid for by prison work.**

Long Newton Interchange

At last the work on improving the **A66** interchange at Long Newton has moved a step nearer. The contractor who will carry out the work has now been announced and hopes to start work later in the spring.

Mike followed his predecessor, the late Malcolm Roots, in campaigning for this improvement throughout his time on the Council and is delighted that serious and fatal accidents should soon be a rarity at the junction.

The completion of the junction improvement will also make it easier for the airport to carry out its expansion plans.

River Tees Heritage Park

The Friends of Tees Heritage Park (*Focus 136*) aims to protect the remaining open areas along the Tees and its tributaries between Yarm and Stockton. As the area is rich in local history, landscape and wildlife The Friends feel it should be preserved and



enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of the surrounding communities.

Fiona Hall MEP expressed her strong support when shown the proposals by Alan, Mike and John.

An information day is being planned for summer.

Planning Update

Stockton Council has **approved**:

- o Extension of *The Rookery*, & a new block (13 flats in all), **South View** (*Focus* 136)
- o Continued waste tipping to form a landscape bund near *Battle House* (across the railway from Preston)
- o Expansion of facilities at the **Airport**

They have **refused** the 16 flats in place of *The Grange*, **Uraly Nook Road** (*Focus* 136).

A Planning Inspector has turned down an extra house at **Trafford Hill**, after a hearing at which John spoke.

Applications pending at time of going to press include:

- o Demolition of *Low Crook Farm*, **Durham Lane**, & building a very large house
- o Extension to *Oakwood Centre*, **Cleasby Way**
- o 8 houses at *Meadowcroft* & 5 at *Hill House*, both in **Aislaby**
- o Conversion of 704-706 **Yarm Road** to hot-food takeaway (still no news on the appeal mentioned in *Focus* 131)

Aislaby Road

Aislaby Rd/Yarm Rd junction - Mike has been chasing up the work here which was promised when plans were approved for the new houses on **Aislaby Rd**. There are still no details of the scheme nor a start date. Residents of the immediate area will be notified 1 - 2 weeks before the start of the work. Meanwhile the Environment Agency is looking into the possibility of surfacing work on part of the footpath from **Yarm Bridge** to **Aislaby Rd**, and Stockton council engineers have done preliminary design work for the whole footpath.

Election Time

Congratulations to all those who've sent back postal vote renewal forms. Reminders will be going out soon to those who've not responded. This election isn't all postal, so there'll still be traditional polling booths for those who wish to use them on the day.



Snippets

Allen's West Crossing will be closed to vehicles for work on the railway track from 9 pm until 7 am the next day on 8 & 15 Feb. and 7 March.

Work will soon begin on pavements in parts of **Mayfield Crescent & Uraly Nook Road** (*Focus* 133).

More parking spaces are being built at the end of **Carradale Close** to compensate for the lack of parking for **Rutherglen Walk** – a problem which John first took up with the Council in **1987**.

Dog fouling in a number of places has been reported by Mike, along with requests for more patrols.

Numerous street light problems have been reported by Alan.

Updates

Council sheltered housing tenants across Stockton are now voting on the transfer affecting **Witham House**.

Newsam Road pavement – the Transport Strategy Group decided to remove the new bollards only.

Neighbourhood representatives will be included in the **Preston Park** Operational Management Group by March.

Enforcement Action is being taken by Stockton Council over motorcycling at *Riverside Lodge*, **A67**.

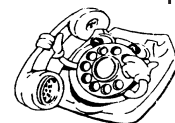
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Don't forget your MEP: Fiona Hall can be contacted at 55A Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN, 'phone 0191 383 0119, e-mail fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Mike, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on



20 Feb. Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6-7 pm

2 Mar Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave, 6.30 - 7.30 pm

20 Mar. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, 6.30 - 7.30

SKIPS The next community skips will be



13 Feb. Leven Close hammerhead
15 Mar. Muirfield Rd opp. Health Cen.

28 Mar. Cedar Cres.

Liberal Democrats do Listen