

Editors:

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Riverside Lodge Motor Cycles

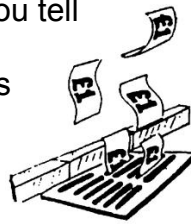
Another planning application has been received by Stockton Council for "change of use to quad bike and small motorcycle leisure facility". The application has some differences to the previous one, so anyone who wishes to make sure their comments are considered should send them to Development Control, Stockton Borough Council, Gloucester House, Stockton-on-Tees as soon as possible.



Alan Lewis shares the worries of many residents. Living on Orchard Estate, Alan can hear the monotonous drone of the motor cycles from Riverside Lodge and replied to comments in the *Darlington & Stockton Times* and *The Northern Echo*. Alan described it as sounding "like a huge swarm of mutant ninja bees waiting to pounce with an almighty sting". His sympathy goes out to all those who live within close proximity to the site. An enforcement notice has been served by Stockton Council. All your Lib Dem Focus team hope we get a swift solution to this terrible problem.

COUNCIL BUDGET

A recent meeting of Stockton Council approved an increase of 3.9% for the Council's share of your council tax. Liberal Democrats, with other opposition parties wanted to change the Labour Cabinet proposal. Over quarter of a million pounds each year will be spent by the Council to set up a telephone call centre for people contacting the council. The Liberal Democrat group believe that the money could be better spent on those things that you tell us are important to you – out of hours noise service, stray dogs as well as homelessness and domestic violence services. Labour councillors voted against and chose to slash the amount that is needed for helping victims of domestic violence.



WITHAM HOUSE

The result of the ballot of Sheltered Housing tenants on the transfer to Erimus is :
 YES - in favour of transfer 97 (87%)
 NO - against the transfer 14 (13%)
 Erimus will be starting full consultation on designs with tenants at Witham House (to be demolished and rebuilt) as they can now begin creating plans for discussion.

ORCHARD SHOPS

Maureen reported the rubbish at the rear of some shops. Environmental Health Officers visited and are regularly monitoring the situation.

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

We are delighted that the experimental "Green Waste Collection Service" will cover the whole Borough from April 2007. We have been calling for this for years. All the Green Waste collected is turned into compost and used on flower beds, parks etc. Compost 'give away' days are also held at the Household Waste Centre at Haverton Hill. These will be advertised by the Council when they happen, and we will post details on our website when we receive them. Green Waste Bags and Leaflets with calendars will be delivered in March and collections take place from Tuesday 10th April until 16th November. Any queries regarding the scheme, please telephone Care For Your Area Services Manager, 391959 or e-mail Richard.Bradley@stockton.gov.uk or contact Mike, John or Maureen.

SNIPPETS

Your Liberal Democrat team have reported Flooding in **Sycamore Rd** and **Aspen Rd** ... Missing Street signs on **Lime Rd** ... Commercial vehicles parking on residential roads ... Various pavements needing repair

In response to many residents' complaints, yellow lines are proposed for the west side of **Yarm Road** between the *Cleveland Bay* and South View.

Stockton Council officers have been unable to find suitable space for a cremation plot in **Eggescliffe Cemetery**.

If the proposed Tees Valley *Metro* goes ahead (not before 2011) a flying junction will be built on the railway at **Eggescliffe Station**.



AISLABY ROAD/YARM ROAD JUNCTION

Since *Focus* 136 was issued, our councillors have seen more details of what Stockton Council engineers propose. At the cost of the developers of **Carr Bridge Close & Burdon View**, the filter lane from **Yarm Road** to **Urlay Nook Road** will have traffic lights and the mouth of **Aislaby Road** will be altered to insert a pedestrian refuge. It is hoped that it will become safer to turn into and out of **Aislaby Road** and more difficult to do U-turns there. The first job will be an exploratory dig on **Urlay Nook Road** to find out what mains services need diversion, on Sunday 18th March.

PLANNING UPDATE

Stockton planners **rejected** the following (*Focus* 137):

- A new large house at **Low Crook Farm, Durham Lane**
- 8 houses at **Meadowcroft, Aislaby**
- Conversion of 704 **Yarm Road** to hot-food takeaway.

Plans for a Rugby clubhouse at the Eggescliffe School playing field in **Durham Lane** and for 5 houses at **Hill House, Aislaby**, have been withdrawn, with a new application for one house next to **Hill House**.

Extensions to the **Oakwood Centre, Cleasby Way**, and **Preston Farm, Preston Lane**, have been approved. Planners are now considering an application for a warehouse between the railway and **Urlay Nook Road** opposite **Elementis Chromium**.

As always, more details from Maureen, Mike or John.

RIVER TEES HERITAGE PARK

There will be a chance for the public to see and hear more about this worthwhile project on Saturday, March 31st at 10.15 in Preston Hall. Supported by your Lib Dem team, Independent councillors from Thornaby & Ingleby Barwick, local Parish Councils and CPRE, this is a project we wholeheartedly commend to you.

YARM BRIDGE

Once again this winter, heavy rainfall has seen tons of debris being washed down the river, a lot of which has, as usual, been caught by the bridge supports. Early in February Alan wrote to British Waterways suggesting they built spear-shaped floating pontoons, from reconstituted wood to retain the character and heritage of the bridge, which would steer the debris around the supports. He's still waiting for a reply.



POSTAL VOTING

Do you need a postal vote? If you are likely to be away from home for work or holidays on Thursday May 3rd, or if you will find it difficult to get to a polling station on the day, then you can apply for a

postal vote.

Don't leave it till the last minute, but the very last time for putting in an application is Wednesday April 18th. Anyone who has had a postal vote previously will need to apply again



Contact us any time :

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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 Mar. Eggescliffe Community Centre,
Durham Lane, 6.30 - 7.30

17 April. Eggescliffe Parish hall, 6-7

N.B. No surgery on 6th April (Good Friday)



SKIPS The next community skips will be

28 Mar. Cedar Cres.
10 Apr. Carnoustie Drive Garages
2 May Croft Rd Garage site



Liberal Democrats do Listen