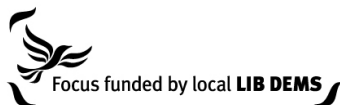


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Eaglescliffe Focus

No 150

**LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS**



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Making Eaglescliffe Safer *with your Lib Dem Councillors*

Last month we reported (*Focus* 149) on the planned improvements to one local footpath (**Yarm Rd to West View Tce**). This month we have succeeded in getting new lights on the path from **Yarm Road/ Wentworth Way to St Andrew's Close**. Our Community Improvement Budget paid for two new lighting columns and we have been promised that the trees will be kept trimmed. Following requests from residents we are now trying to improve the lighting on the "Blue Bridge" from **Newsam Rd to Butterfield Grove**. We can't have anything which might distract train drivers below, but we hope to have a solution before next winter.

As we go to press there is work to improve road safety on **Durham Lane**. Residents will recall changes some years ago to try to improve road safety but serious accidents still occur. Further work was approved by the Area Transport

Strategy (ATS) Group chaired by Maureen and on which Alan and John represent Eaglescliffe. **Yarm Road** bus lane still causes problems -

many people drive in the middle lane when the bus lane is not operational. Alan asked the police to deal with this but without success so he is taking it up at the ATS Group to see if the road markings can be made any plainer. He will also ask for their views and experts' advice on speeding. One resident has suggested installing SIDs (Speed Indicator Displays) – do you think that tearaways would take any notice of them? Please give us your views. We'll report back after the ATS meeting on May 5th.



In this financial year £26860 is

being spent in Eaglescliffe from our Communities Budget to improve safety. In 2009/10 there is already £1445 committed. If you have views on ways in which we could make Eaglescliffe a safer place to live, work and play do let us know.

Snippets

Recently the government announced a programme of Cervical Cancer Vaccination for 12 & 13 year old girls. Commendable, so Alan wrote to the Director of Public Health to ask when older girls would be included? The reply is that a 3 year "catch-up" programme will be offered to all girls up to 18.

Congratulations to The Links Primary School on an Outstanding OFSTED result and to **Egglecliffe Comprehensive** on winning "School of the month" for improving school meals.

Bus Passes: Contrary to rumour your bus pass will operate exactly the same after April 1st as it does now.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON JUNE 4TH?

Will you be able to vote on June 4th in the European elections? If you rather have a postal vote you can apply for one.

Ring the council on 526196 and ask for an application form. This must be returned before May 19th and your ballot papers will be sent. You MUST be registered to vote by May 19th.

ROAMING CHARGES WILL FALL

Thanks to the European Parliament the cap on mobile phone charges for roaming in Europe will remain in place and text costs will be capped. Fiona Hall MEP says "Once again, action at an EU level has greatly benefited the consumer."

Liberal Democrats - The Team You Can Trust

LABOUR'S RECESSION HITS EAGLESCLIFFE

Witham House Rebuild Stops

For more than a year now **Witham House** has stood empty. People moved out on the promise that it would be demolished and rebuilt as a wonderful, modern building with a mix of rented and privately owned flats. Instead Erimus, now part of Fabrick Housing Group, have let us down. They have delayed and delayed. They've told us that they were waiting for other people to do things. They've claimed to be working on plans for the new building. Now they say they can't afford to do it after all. The housing market isn't favourable they say. We say "Tough Luck. You got the building at a time when the market was still buoyant. You took away the only affordable sheltered accommodation in Eaglescliffe. You have a moral duty to replace it as you promised. The people of Eaglescliffe can't all afford to live in luxury private retirement homes. Some do need affordable social housing. You have let them down and you should be ashamed of yourselves."

Your councillors are saddened by the news that **Elementis** are considering closing down the

Eaglescliffe factory which has been a feature of the skyline of western Eaglescliffe for longer than Orchard Estate has existed. We can't do anything about decisions taken in order to preserve American jobs by an American company, but we can and do support all that Stockton Council can offer in terms of help and advice to the workforce.

Alan told Shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable, about the effect the recession is having on local restaurants and hotels which depend on business travellers to keep going.



Who can we rely on at this time of financial worry and chaos?

Amid all the confused words from Government Ministers and others, one person has stood out as a beacon of calm, intelligent advice. Vince Cable, Shadow Chancellor for the Liberal Democrats, has been proved to be consistently right. Had Vince Cable been the Chancellor of the Exchequer instead of Gordon Brown, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in now.

Jacque Bell says, " We're all feeling the pinch. Lib Dem plans would put more money in local peoples' pockets, stimulate the economy and help protect the environment. Only the Liberal Democrats are calling for cuts in income tax for hardworking local people."
So, if you support the Lib Dems' ideas, why not think about joining us?

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

WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Alan, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on
Friday 3 Apr. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 - 7.30
Tues 21 Apr Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane, 6 - 7 pm
Friday 1 May Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 - 7.30

Contact us any time at:

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Focus - 150 and still working for you