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**LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS**

Eaglescliffe
Focus

May 2011

No 166

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Thank You

From Alan Lewis, Maureen Rigg and the Eaglescliffe Lib Dem Team

to all the people who voted for Liberal Democrats in last week's election. Your support and trust mean that Alan and Maureen can carry on campaigning and working with you and for you.

We are very sorry that Lesley didn't get the 3rd council place but she is still a valuable and active member of the Lib Dem team in the ward and will be working with Alan and Maureen for Eaglescliffe.

Suitable picture - Alan & Maureen?

Your votes mean that we can carry on:

- Working to keep building developments in Eaglescliffe to an acceptable level
- Working to get much needed improvements in the rail service and the stations, including the new Tees Valley Metro, alongside road safety improvements.
- Working in partnership with police and others to keep Eaglescliffe's crime level down at one of the lowest in the Cleveland area.
- Doing all the things that you tell us you appreciate and keeping you informed, all year, every year.

Stockton Council political composition:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Labour | 27 |
| Conservative | 12 |
| Ingleby Barwick Independents | 6 |
| Thornaby Independents | 5 |
| Liberal Democrats | 4 |
| Billingham Independents | 2 |

As the largest group the Labour group will probably lead the council. The leader will be elected at the Annual Meeting held in public at 11a.m. on **25th May** in Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. Liberal Democrats will, as always, take a full part in the work of the council across the borough.

Liberal Democrats - Delivering for Eaglescliffe

Alan, Lesley and Maureen thank local volunteers

Eaglescliffe councillors and campaigners have paid tribute to the hard working volunteers who deliver Focus all the year round no matter what the weather. "This campaign could not have succeeded without you all. Thank you.

We don't rely on donations from business or unions - every local campaign is funded by local people and relies on volunteers."

If you'd like to be part of the team - get in touch. Contact details at the bottom of the page.

Coming soon - Difficult Decisions

Cuts imposed by the Conservative minister, Eric Pickles MP, mean that Stockton Council has more difficult decisions to make in the coming months.

Could the roads be swept less often? Or the recycling collected less often? or not at all? Or should the grass be cut less often? If not, how do we cut the huge amounts we have to out of the budget?

The other parties didn't mention this. Their election campaign was about the things they wouldn't cut. Now we need to see what they will cut!

Focus 162 warned you of the cuts ahead as far back as January. We said then:

"Some services will be reduced, others will be done differently. Some savings from previous years will be spent, some things will cost more. Local Liberal Democrats have protested to the government about the scale of the cuts in Stockton's budget but ministers haven't listened.

We councillors scrutinise proposals with a fine-tooth comb, constructively challenging. We can't guarantee they won't hurt, but we'll do our best.

We sympathise with all whose jobs are threatened by cuts and are thankful that Council workers continue to serve us all despite their uncertain futures."

We say now: "We will work with other councillors and council officers to try to ensure that the cuts are fair and necessary. We will keep you informed about progress and we will ask your opinion whenever possible"

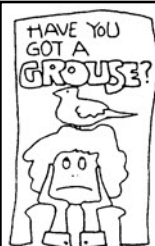
Photo with recycling bag/boxes?

Contact us any time at:

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WARD SURGERIES - Open to any resident of the ward to discuss issues of concern or seek advice.

Friday 3rd June, 6.30-7.30pm, Trinity Methodist Church Vestry, Witham Avenue

Tuesday 21st June, 6-7pm, Eaglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane



FOCUS - printed locally, paid for by local Liberal Democrats, delivered by local volunteers
ALL YEAR ROUND , NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME!

Focus - now in its 26th year