

## SNIPPETS

Numerous street lighting problems have been reported, along with damaged street name plates, potholes and footpath defects.

**The Grange, Urray Nook Rd.** Alan continues to keep an eye on the site and report problems. He had the historic Durham CC sign removed safely from the grounds and problems with the fences in the high winds sorted out.

**Durham Lane:** The experimental weight restriction between the **Kingsmead** and **Tesco** roundabouts came into force on January 9<sup>th</sup> so the only HGVs going along that stretch of **Durham Lane** should be those requiring access to properties within it. Combined with the permanent restriction between the **Tesco** and **Hunter's Green** roundabouts this should reduce the number of HGVs travelling through the Western side of Eaglescliffe.

### Do you like to be in the know?

Alan and Maureen send out email news between editions of Focus to residents who give us their email address. Planning applications, consultations, events - you could be among the first to know. Just send us an email and ask to be added to the list. You can unsubscribe at any time and we never reveal your email address to anyone else.



### Keeping in Touch on the Move:



[www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk](http://www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk)

<http://eaglescliffe.blogspot.com/>

## LEGAL OMBUDSMAN

If you have a complaint about your lawyer which you can't resolve through discussion with them then don't forget you can contact the Legal Ombudsman on 0300 555 0333.

## HONOURS

We are pleased to see that George Davies, who was chair of governors at Egglescliffe School for many years, has been recognised in the New Year Honours by the award of an MBE. We also have in the ward an Evening Gazette Community Champion, Phyllis Robinson, recognised for the years she has spent fostering children in need of a temporary home.

## DOG FOULING

Sorry to start the New Year on such a topic, but unfortunately we still have a handful of people who think that pavements and footpaths in parks are provided as dog toilets. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul such places, but perhaps more importantly it's anti-social and it's dangerous to the health of children particularly, who don't always distinguish between good and bad things to handle and put in their mouths. There are special bins provided throughout the ward so please, when you pick up the dog's lead pick up a plastic bag as well and then use it when necessary.



THANK YOU!

Editors: Cllr Alan Lewis 784910

Cllr Maureen Rigg 785689

Lesley Lewis 787842

**LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS**

[www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk](http://www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk)

Funded by local Lib Dems

Printed Locally

Delivered by Volunteers

Eaglescliffe  
**Focus**

No 170 January 2012

## POSTAL VOTES

In order to keep the postal vote register up to date Stockton Council will be asking people who've had a postal vote for 2 years to renew their application in February.

If you don't return the form by 12th March you will have to re-apply. This is a change in the law and Stockton cannot allow even one day's grace.

## DONATE A COAT APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated coats, big and small, to the Donate a Coat appeal. We needed two cars to take them all to the Salvation Army Citadel. The picture shows Alan, Lesley and Maureen delivering them.

The coats went to homeless families, vulnerable elderly people, women and children fleeing violence in the home among others. Thank you for your generosity.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Sadly some people seemed to find it acceptable to leave glass and plastic bottles littering the grass near **Sycamore Rd** after their celebrations. Maureen and Lesley collected several and put them in the Preston Park recycling bins. Maureen asked Care for Your Area to clean up the broken glass as they have the right equipment to do that.



## GOING GREEN

Your Liberal Democrat councillors are cutting their carbon footprints by using bikes wherever possible.

It's also easy to stop them if you want to talk about something.

Alan says "We wanted to cut down on car use as much as possible and cycling is quicker than walking so we can get more done. We hope that people will feel able to stop us and talk about



Printed by SLDPs, 4 Broomfield Ave, Eaglescliffe. Published and Promoted by M. Rigg on behalf of A. Lewis & M. Rigg (Liberal Democrats) all at 4 Monmouth Drive, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9HU

**Focus - The Original & The Best. Now in its 26th Year**

**Liberal Democrats - Up Your Street**



## EAGLESCLIFFE STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Successive Lib Dem Councillors have tried to get improvements to the station for years and are delighted that things are moving at last. This year sees a ticket office being installed. Next year should bring an enlarged car park, improved ramps and a waiting room.



We've also asked that if the Allen's West development is approved the developers should put a footbridge over the railway to make for easy access to Eaglescliffe Station.

## ALLEN'S WEST STATION UPDATE

In December British Transport Police visited Durham Lane and Junction Farm Primary Schools to talk about safety on the railway. Network Rail will continue to promote the safety messages by holding awareness days this year where they will visit the crossing and be available to talk to local residents and give out leaflets. They also confirmed their intention to provide a red man signal on both sides of the crossing in due course, as well as reducing the height of the fence on the south east side. Unfortunately conversion to a full barrier crossing is not likely to take place until next year.



This month Stockton Council Officers agreed the location of the staggered barrier on the south east side of the crossing with a "reservoir area" large enough to accommodate south bound pedestrians to clear the crossing in the event of the level crossing being called. Funding for the scheme was allocated by Western Area Transport Strategy group chaired by Maureen last November and an estimate has been sought from Stockton Council's Direct Services division to

## YARM PARKING

Much has been written and said about the pros and cons of charging for parking in Yarm and some very dubious "facts" have been circulating. Your Liberal Democrat councillors are convinced that:

- Yarm needs more parking spaces to accommodate both workers and visitors
- Stockton Council does not own or lease enough land in central Yarm to provide a car park and the necessary access
- If charging for parking is introduced the funds MUST be used to acquire the necessary land
- If charging is introduced it should allow for varying times of visits, easy ways to pay using the best modern technology and take into account the needs of those residents who have no other place to park than the High St.

We have passed these views on to Stockton Council's officers and also concerns about the possible effect on Egglecliffe Village. We have also met many residents who tell us that they have no objection to paying for parking as long as they can stay for the time they need rather than just 2 hrs.

We now wait to see what Stockton Council will decide.

## STREET NAME PLATES

Alan and Maureen report damaged name plates whenever they see them, and some can be mended quickly. Others are damaged beyond repair and we've been told it can take months to get them replaced.

Please keep on reporting them to us but be patient if it's not repaired immediately.

## ABUSE OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS

On October 19th last year Alan tabled a motion at a Full Council Meeting, deploring the way that some able bodied drivers abuse parking bays designated for disabled drivers in privately owned car parks such as Teesside Park and smaller shopping centres around the borough, especially those in front of catering outlets. We are pleased to say that the motion was unanimously agreed and Stockton Council would be asking the owners of such car parks to do all in their power to ensure that such parking spaces are available for the people who really need them - the holders of blue parking badges.

This will include the owners of the shopping parades in Eaglescliffe so we wait to see what will happen there.



## SAVE MONEY, STAY WARM, GO GREEN

Fiona Hall, MEP, joined Stockton Lib Dems at the start of their campaign to help people Stay Warm, Save Money and Go Green.

The Lib Dems have launched this campaign because big rises in the worldwide prices of gas and oil are hitting local people hard. Eaglescliffe residents are being urged to take advantage of energy saving tips from the Energy Saving Trust and to get advice on grants which might be available by contacting the free Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99 or by visiting the CAB's Horizons next to the Swallow Hotel in Stockton.

Local campaigner Lesley Lewis said, "These price rises are worse here thanks to decades of Labour and Conservative rule. We have some of the coldest, draughtiest houses in Europe meaning that many people have to spend too much on keeping warm."

Fiona Hall said, "I'm delighted that Stockton Liberal Democrats are campaigning on this. Improving insulation and producing more renewable energy will save money in the long run as well as helping to cut carbon emissions."



## MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Fiona Hall MEP can be contacted:

Fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk  
www.fionahall.org.uk  
0191 383 0119



Campaigners intend to visit as many houses as possible over the coming weeks with helpful information leaflets on saving money whilst staying warm. If we miss you & you'd like the information please let us know.

**Liberal Democrats - Helping You to Stay Warm, Save Money, Go Green**