



www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

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Preston Ward

inc.

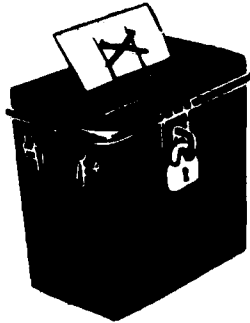
LONG NEWTON, ELTON, AISLABY & NEWSHAM

FOCUS

No 97

NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

Following the re-organisation of the Borough ward boundaries, the Boundary Commission for England have announced new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries for Stockton.



The main changes will be that the parishes of Elton and Long Newton, as part of the new ward of Western Parishes, and parts of Parkfield, as the new ward of Stockton Town Centre will move from Stockton South to Stockton North. This is in an effort to balance the population of the two constituencies and bring them into line with the national electoral quota. Representations to the Boundaries Commission will be considered up to 25th April.

Further details can be obtained from Mike or at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/psc/review_areas/clevel and

Lib Dems listen to Young People

The Lib Dem Spring Conference agreed on a policy, promoted by their Youth and Students group, to impose a tax on plastic bags, similar to the successful Irish one. This would reduce the amount of oil used to make the plastic, reduce landfill, reduce litter and make people more aware of the excess packaging used in this country

OPEN GOVERNMENT - STOCKTON STYLE!

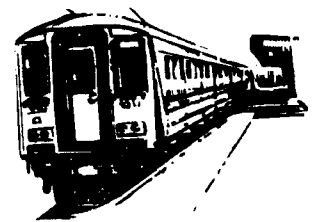
At a recent Council meeting, a Lib Dem motion proposed the sharing of the chairs of select committees amongst all groups on the Council according to size. This is one way Parliament makes sure its select committees can properly scrutinise government. The Labour majority voted against and the Tories abstained, showing their disdain for the principles of open and fair government.

TRANS-PENNINE TRAINS

For many years, Mike together with his Lib Dem colleagues in Egglecliffe Ward have campaigned for trains from Middlesbrough to York, Leeds and Manchester to stop at Eaglescliffe Station.

With the advent of new operators taking over the running of the Trans Pennine service, further initiatives have been

made to ask them to consider improvements to the service for the residents of Eaglescliffe. We will report back any positive (or negative) responses.



COUNCIL TAX

This year was a very difficult one for balancing the budget, because of well publicised pressures. The Tories proposed a small cut in the tax. The Lib Dems could not support this saying that any savings that could be made should go to social services to improve care for our most vulnerable residents. At the very next council meeting the Conservative group complained about the shortage of money for the social services!!!

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AIRPORT DELAY VICTORY

Lib Dem MEPs helped vote through plans that mean that air travellers whose flights are cancelled or overbooked will be entitled to cash compensation. Compensation payments could be up to £415. Research by the Liberal Democrats has shown that delays at Britain's biggest airports are getting worse year on year. In 2002, the time spent waiting for plane departures due to delays was the equivalent of 250,000 people having a week's holiday! Fiona Hall, Lib Dem European candidate for the North East is now calling on the UK Government to support the legislation:

"The European Parliament has passed the new compensation laws. Now it is up to the Labour Government to agree to the package as soon as possible. Until then, air passengers will remain at the complete mercy of air carriers with no right of redress."

Fiona at the airport



SURGERIES

Mike will see anyone who calls between 6.30 and

7.30 pm on Fridays, 7th May, 4th June & 2nd July at the



Vestry, Trinity Methodist Church, Preston (Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Cllrs Mrs. Maureen Rigg and John Fletcher) and 16th April, 21st May and 18th June at the Wilson Institute, Long Newton . You can also write or ring him at :-

12, Holywell Green, Egglecliffe, STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS16 9HH 01642 - 783491 or e-mail him at michael.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk

Also you can write to LIBERAL DEMOCRATS FREEPOST NEA 765

STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS16 9BR

SKIPS

The next skips are due at Wilson Institute Tuesday 4th May and at Oak Rd Thursday 27th May.



Phone Stockton 391959 for free collection of bulky household waste.

Contact the SITA recycling centre for disposal of all household waste including oil and garden chemicals. Phone 202300

SNIPPETS

SANDY LEAS LANE PLANNING APPLICATION

The retrospective application for the change of use of agricultural land to a private gypsy site was deferred at the recent meeting of the Stockton Planning Committee for further consideration of material planning matters.

At the recent Annual General meeting of Stockton Council Mike was appointed one of the Council's 3 representatives on the Cleveland Community Forest Steering Group. As a substantial part of Preston Ward is covered by the Cleveland Community Forest, he will be able to report on any developments in that area.

