

EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 87

April 2016



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Assembly will be held on Thursday 28th April at 7.30pm in Eggescliffe Community Centre on Durham Lane.



Your Councillors will report on the work of the Council during the past year and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and air your views on any topic which concerns you. This year we will be trying a slightly different format in an effort to make the meeting a little less formal whilst still covering everything we need to tell you. If you haven't been before why not make it a first this year and find out what's happening and what's not in your community.

Maxine Reid, winner of our 2015 community award, will be coming along to receive her award and will give a brief presentation on Eaglescliffe Forest School. Eggescliffe Village and Eliff's Mill allotment awards for 2015 will also be presented at the meeting.

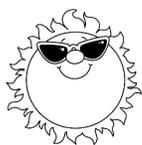


The meeting will be followed by the Chairman's Social Evening and you are cordially invited to join us for light refreshments and a chance to chat informally with your Councillors



Sunday 12th June 2016

Last year's Summer Fete was another roaring success. We had great entertainment from American Girl and the Student Choir all the way from Dallas, Texas; the mix of music was enjoyed by all. We had stalls, the Fire Brigade, sports activities; tombola and childrens' games. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a memorable occasion. This year the fete will be held in conjunction with St John's Church Flower Festival to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday. There will be some great entertainment and stalls; lots of fun activities and a tombola which is always a hit with great prizes to be won. You don't want to miss out, so put the date in your diary and watch this space in our next Newsletter for more information. The Parish Council is already looking forward to this years event and hopes everyone has a fantastic time



COUNCIL TAX A BIT OF GOOD NEWS



By now householders know that the Council Tax they must pay in the year ending 31st March 2017 is greater than that for the previous year. However, the total they pay to Stockton Council includes the amount collected on behalf of Eggescliffe & Eaglescliffe Council (E&EC) **which has reduced**. The occupier of a Band D house will pay £17.89 for E&EC services in 2016-17 (that's just over 34p per week), compared with £18.27 in 2015-16. Apart from a fixed grant of £5446 per year, E&EC receives no government funding and nothing from business rates. As always, E&EC has carefully reviewed its expenditure, past, present and projected. Its policy has not been to borrow money (so there is no future years' commitment to repayment). Having had the money before spending it, your local council can now say that it no longer needs to collect large sums for big projects, such as the work done on play areas over the last few years which is nearly complete. Rather than filling the whole of this newsletter with financial information, a genuine offer is made to any resident wishing to know more or ask questions to come to the Parish Meeting or contact the Clerk.

PLANNING

Your Parish Council has the right to be consulted by and make comments to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) on planning applications in our civil parish and has recently commented on two important applications, which, at the time of writing, were awaiting decision by SBC:

Urlay Nook Road (west of Valley Gardens) – We expressed concern about the impact of 22 new homes, including traffic problems at the roundabouts due to the number of extra dwellings proposed on the west side of Eaglescliffe.

1 Abbeyfield Drive – The former *Abbeyfield House*, which used to be operated by a charity as very sheltered accommodation for older people (not as a care home), is now being used as a guest house (*Abbeyfield Lodge*) by a new owner. Although there is a restrictive covenant on the property restricting it to over-55s' accommodation, this does not determine the outcome of the retrospective planning application for this change of use to an hotel – these are two separate areas of the law which have to be considered independently of each other by SBC. We have told SBC that we do not think that the site has sufficient parking for its new use (Abbeyfield Drive is needed for school access and should not be treated as parking space). We have also passed on to SBC residents' concerns about having a guest house so close to a primary school, the pupils of which could be seen in school from guest bedroom windows.



The red telephone kiosk on Eggescliffe Green was 'adopted' by your parish council in 2009 and is used as a community notice board. In early November last year the kiosk was targeted by thieves who stole the door after wrenching it from its hinges causing damage to the fittings. Despite your council's best efforts a second hand replacement could not be found locally so a new door has now been fitted. Thanks to the new fittings and a local resident who kindly repainted the kiosk it is now looking smart on the outside and just in need of a little more TLC to the interior .

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It's a bit early to be thinking about Christmas when summer hasn't got started yet!

However, we have heard some very positive feedback about the lights in the live tree at South View last Christmas. This year after paying for the displays to be installed and taken down there may be sufficient funds left in the budget to light one or two more live trees. If you have any ideas as to suitable trees please contact the Clerk with details of the location, bearing in mind that the trees will need to be those situated near to a lighting column to access the electricity supply.

Congratulations

To Maxine Reid winner of the 2015 Community Award for her work at Eaglescliffe Forest School. The Forest School encourages children and young adults to explore the environment in order to develop healthy bodies, social skills and a love of the natural world, whilst learning new ways to co-operate and communicate.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

Since 1978 the night-time view of the medieval Eggescliffe Parish Church (in part dating back some 800 years) on top of the hill has been enhanced by floodlighting, for which Eggescliffe & Eaglescliffe Council (E&EC) has paid. During 2015 this lighting failed. It became clear that trying minor repairs would be throwing good money after bad, and replacement of major parts would be necessary. This could not be done overnight, because:

- The replacement installation had to be designed. The use of more modern technology will result in consuming less electricity and the lighting will come on automatically at nightfall.
- The money had to be found – by law no further council tax for E&EC could be collected before 1st April 2016. *Elementis* kindly gave a donation of £500 and our borough ward councillors contributed £1000 of the Stockton Council money at their disposal in the ward Community Participation Budget. Fortunately, by combining underspends on other activities with postponement of some other projects the money was found to start straight away.
- The work was put out to competitive tender.
- Additionally, because everything is on consecrated ground, the law requires the consent (a "faculty") of an ecclesiastical judge before work can begin, to be given only after consulting various Church of England authorities, local and diocesan. This judge has required further paperwork but has now issued the faculty.

People walking through the Churchyard rely on the lighting. Fortunately, as an interim measure it was eventually found possible to switch back on lights for the path while the floodlighting was unusable.



Thank you to everyone who came to one of the consultation sessions. The working party is now going through all the comments before moving to the next stage which includes formulating policies for our Parish. If you missed the consultations and would like to help with proposals either for extending the Conservation Areas or routes for more possible cycle paths please contact the Clerk to the Council. The winners of the prize draw, held at the meeting of the Public Relations Committee on March 1st were: 1st Prize £100 - Mrs G Bashford; 2nd prize £50 Muse Voucher - Mrs S Pocock; 3rd prize Wine and Chocolates - Mr & Mrs Sutcliffe

WHERE DO YOU PARK YOUR CAR?

Our parish is very lucky to have many grass verges and small patches which make it look green and attractive. Unfortunately some people think that it's OK to park their cars on them or to drive across them to get to houses rather than go round by the road. The ruts that are left in wet weather look terrible and are the subject of many complaints to councillors. It is both illegal and dangerous to drive over the green areas. No-one expects a vehicle to be coming along there and these are often areas where children play.

If you see a vehicle driving across the green areas or parked on them you can take the number and report it directly to Stockton Council Parking Enforcement on 01642 528439 or by email to:

enforcement.dispatch@stockton.gov.uk.

This is much quicker than relying on the Parish Council office which is only staffed part time. You would never be identified to the vehicle owner so there should be no fear of repercussions for you.

We also have problems with drivers who think that they can use the pavement for parking in order to leave enough space on the road for other vehicles. The pavement is provided for pedestrians, not vehicles. In general Stockton Council will not take action if one set of wheels is on the pavement provided that there is enough space left on the hard surface for a wheelchair or pram to pass. If you prevent a wheelchair or pram from using the pavement you are guilty of obstruction and liable to a fine.

ROAD SAFETY

Your Council recently alerted SBC to a safety issue regarding vehicles cutting the corner when turning in to Newsam Road from Croft Road. As a result SBC carried out a site visit and found that this is likely due to parking on both sides of Croft Road near the junction which is causing vehicles to exit in the middle of the carriageway; vehicles were also parked over the dropped tactile paving which would cause difficulties for any pedestrians trying to cross at this location. SBC propose to introduce road markings in the area to resolve the issue.

EGGLESCLIFFE COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS & EVENTS

All are welcome to come along and make new friends at the Social Group; the next meeting is 7.30 pm on 14th April with an event entitled "Happiest of their Days"

Meanwhile, the computer café is held on the third Monday of each month 1.30-3.30pm, where there is tuition on different topics and help at hand for anyone experiencing problems. Enquiries please call Barbara Martin 01642 767795 or Peter Brown 01642 652420.

The Whist Section meets on Fridays 2 till 4pm. All welcome!

Other events include:

23rd April - Queen's Birthday Coffee Morning

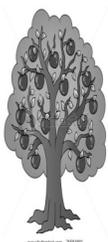
5th May - Charity Evening in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance with entertainment by the Seasonal Singers

6th August - Vintage Day

23rd September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

8th October - Quiz Night

GREENFIELD DRIVE ROUNABOUT



Last year we reported that we were seeking a quote from Stockton Borough Council for implementing the design they had worked up for us. Unfortunately when the quote was finally produced it was significantly higher than their original estimate and the budget your council had set for the work. After much discussion we concluded that the design proposed by SBC would not represent good value for tax payers' money. As a result we have decided to have a much simplified roundabout with a single specimen tree reminiscent of those that would have grown in the original orchard that gave the estate its name. An interpretive plaque will still be designed and erected near to the roundabout so that newer residents understand why the area is known as "Orchard Estate".

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS & MEETINGS

Chairman:	Cllr Alex Lamond	01642 652293	Email: alex.lamond@ntlworld.com
Vice-Chairman:	Cllr John Fletcher	01642 786456	Email: johnfletcher851@googlemail.com
	Cllr Mark Chatburn	01642 656080	Email: markchatburn@hotmail.co.uk
	Cllr Jim Clarke	01642 645821	Email: jimclarke2018@gmail.com
	Cllr Geoff Colling	01642 648470	Email: geoffrey@synergybroadband.co.uk
	Cllr John Milburn	01642 894353	Email: johnmilburn1619@gmail.com
	Cllr Maureen Milburn	01642 894353	Email: maureen.milburn@ntlworld.com
	Cllr George Perrie	01642 652498	Email: g.perrie@ntlworld.com
	Cllr Rose Reynolds	01642 781978	Email: roseroyolds2@virginmedia.com
	Cllr Maureen Rigg	01642 782009	Email: maureen.rigg@googlemail.com
	Cllr Reg Rowlinson	01642 787660	Email: rowlinson_r@sky.com
	Cllr Geoff Turner	01642 652081	Email: alonturner@btinternet.com
	Cllr Felicity Wray	07734 275612	Email: felicity.wray@northumbria.ac.uk
	Clerk to the Council	01642 785951	Email: egglescliffepc@btconnect.com

Residents are welcome at Council meetings, these are held in Egglecliffe School, Uray Nook Road on the first and third Thursdays each month except during school holidays.
 Forthcoming dates: April 14th; May 5th & 19th; June 16th; July 7th

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Enforcement Dispatch Service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round 01642 528439

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Service responds to complaints of nuisance and environmental issues, and delivers educational and preventative measures to stop problems occurring in the first place.

Anti Social Behaviour 01642 607943 Email: ASBTeam@stockton.gov.uk

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team is a multi-agency team that deals with serious and persistent anti-social behaviour issues across all housing tenures. Based in Stockton Police Station, the team includes two seconded Police Officers and a Fire Officer.

Neighbourhood Policing Call 101 Issues investigated by your Neighbourhood Policing Team include: drug misuse & drug dealing, off-road motorbikes, drunken people causing a nuisance and crimes in your area
In an emergency or if a crime is actually taking place, **ring 999**

Care For Your Area 01642 391959 Email: careforyourarea@stockton.gov.uk

Refuse collection, street cleansing, kerbside recycling, horticultural services, highways maintenance, fly tipping (removal) etc.

Street Lighting 01642 526769 Damaged or defective street lights - quote the identification number from the light, bollard or sign and the address of the closest building or road name

Samaritans Helpline for emotional support **National 08457 909090** Local branch **01642 217777**

COMMENT SHEET

You are invited to complete and return this section with any comments, suggestions or complaints about anything happening in the Parish (or even anything not happening!)

COMMENT:

.....

.....

.....

Please print your details to enable us to respond:

NAME: ADDRESS:.....

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

Please return to: Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council, The Old Offices, Uray Nook, Eaglescliffe TS16 0LA