

## **Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum**

A meeting of the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum was held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

**Present:** Councillor Frankland (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Faulks, Noble, Salt, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Fairhurst, S Neale, Mrs Parker and D Parker.

**Officers:** Mrs T Harrison (LD).

**Also in attendance by invitation:** Mrs S Burgess (DNS).

**Apologies for absence** were submitted on behalf of Councillor Dewison, Leonard; Mrs E Chapman (St Johns Living World), Mr R Putt (Stockton International Family Centre), Mrs D Rose (Age Concern), Mr L Stanley (Royal Navy Associates) and Alderman E Wood (Age Concern).

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were agreed as a correct record upon advice from the Democratic Services Officer that the minutes which would be submitted to Council would be amended by removing all references made to "the Arc".

### **Town Centre Changes**

Mrs S Burgess addressed the Forum in her capacity as the new Town Centre Manager.

Members were advised that Town Centre Managers were being introduced into towns suffering decline and who acted as the co-ordinator between the Council's businesses, retailers, Police, highways and transportation, regeneration and the public.

The role of the Town Centre Manager was to encourage inward investment which was essential to prevent further decline of the Town Centre. It was her aim to try and attract investors and users to the Town Centre.

Due to the fact that people had more disposable income and transportation Stockton was in competition with Middlesbrough and Teesside Park, which held a greater quality and range of shops and vast amount of free parking at Teesside Park.

To ensure the survival of Stockton Town Centre, the Town Centre Manager advised, the town would need to find a niche which she believed would be the amenity and accessibility of the town upon the introduction of more short term parking. It was her aim to introduce coach parking which would enable coaches to deliver people to the town centre to shop whilst the coach parked out of town and then collected at the allotted time.

The Town Centre Manager was in discussion with local businesses and retailers to encourage them to open on Sundays as this would help form part of the Stockton Town Centre niche.

Other aspects of the proposed niche would be to make the most of the cultural quarter such as Green Dragon Yard, The Georgian Theatre, Corporation Hall, The Globe and St Marks Basin.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Southern Gateway plan was a high quality redevelopment of Castlegate and the area behind and was intended would improve shopping and provide better retail facilities, however she could not provide Members with any further news of the Southern Gateway development at the time as it was still in its preliminary stages.

Members observed that there was nowhere for elderly citizen groups to meet at minimal cost.

Mrs Burgess was thanked for attending and providing Members with information regarding Town Centre changes.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The reported be noted.
2. Councillor Frankland would speak with Stuart Monk to enquire if he could provide a place for elderly people to meet.
3. Mrs Harrison would make enquiries regarding charges for the elderly people if they wished to use the Town Hall.