

MILTON MATTERS

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Oct. 2010

Issue No 42



*Meon Milton Under 12a Cup Winners 2010 – see centre page.
In this issue - Saturday play scheme for St James Field
pictures of Picnic on the Green and a special Junior Forum at Meon
Junior School on Play in Milton*

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 6 October 7.00 pm

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

AGENDA

Development at Milton Village Hall – C. Richards & D. Lambert

Brent Geese in Milton

13/14 Bus Service Changes

FORUM MINUTES

16 June 2010

MILTON VILLAGE HALL

Planning applications have been submitted to add a café to Milton Village Hall. The Forum suggested moving the hedge closer to the public toilets so that access to Milton Park could be gained from the new café. The Architect will be invited to next Forum to explain the plans and project.

ST. JAMES FIELD

Cllr Scott is looking into adverse comments on the design of the Pathfinder play scheme which is now open. The scheme is being well used and 2 new benches have been installed from Barclays funding. A Grassroots Grant for a playscheme at St James Field has been given to the Forum.

(Details on page 4)

PICNIC ON THE GREEN

This year's event was very successful with good attendance despite the World Cup and Isle of Wight Festival on the same day. The Chair thanked particularly the Forum Committee who worked extremely hard, supported by their families making a major contribution this year. Local community groups gave tremendous support and yet again the weather was kind.

POLICING UPDATE

PC Andy Frost advised that a new anti-social behaviour campaign had begun in June when police shifts were changed to ensure ASB hotspots are covered. New reporting standards will mean the Police will always make direct contact with the person reporting ASB.

WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE

Following the explanation at the last Forum from officers of the Council responsible for dealing with roads and pavements during the very cold winter, the Chief Executive, David Williams had accepted the invitation to tell the Forum about emergency planning in the City including snow.

He explained that a group of Police, Fire & Rescue, Coastguard, Council and Health officials meet on a regular basis to plan for emergencies. Their strategic control during emergencies is from Netley but may be moved to a more accessible site.

He agreed that there were issues with action during the cold spell but these were largely due to salt levels – a national issue as it became rationed to priority roads and hospital access.

He said lessons had been learned and there would be better co-ordination of local services; predicting how much salt is needed; listing which roads needed to be salted including bus stops and convenience stores; plus pacing and managing staff to sustain services during emergency.

He introduced Cindy Jones, the Council's Emergency Planning Officer who explained the work that had been done into ensuring access was maintained to QA Hospital in February

Many council workers take on different roles during emergencies and emergency planning documents can be seen on a range of scenarios
www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/4300html

FORUM MINUTES 16 June cont

FUTURE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

The Committee had been informed of the Council's need to review Forums and how they operate in Portsmouth. A new framework is being proposed to 'refresh the council's consultation activity' building on the independence of present forums and proposing 'clearer pathways to council decision-making and services'.

The Council feels not enough people attend meetings which are usually in the evening. There is not enough formal link to the Council's constitution and there needs to be clearer interface with the Council's decision-making in Cabinet etc. and inform ward councillors.

The new model could include 'walkabouts' in the area looking at particular streets and problems with Community Tasking Groups and residents. A neighbourhood plan with 4 key consultation activities per year key to the area. A 'newsstand' to obtain wider views of the local community as well as promoting a council service or project with an officer and a volunteer setting up a stall in a supermarket, library, pub or similar venue.

The meeting was asked for their views on these proposals and also what was working well and not so well in Milton.

Those present felt the proposals appeared to be trying to get forums to take on more work and volunteers are not easy to recruit and are already committed.

Forums need to appeal to more people under the age of 30. In order to do this, a school meeting might be a good idea. Ben Dowling, a member of the Youth Parliament, volunteered to join the committee and was accepted.

Peter Mills volunteered to go into schools to discuss forums and issues

There could be a role for the Community Involvement Partnerships to link young people into the forum.

The Council could simply provide a freephone number where residents could telephone issues these could be brought back – with answers and solutions to the forum, rather than the newsstand idea.

In support of the neighbourhood plan, every quarter a resident could present something local that they are passionate about.

The ideal of a walkabout was not supported as there might not be good turnout and weather would affect it.

Meetings are good when there is a big issue, and they must be in place in readiness for when one occurs. Not everyone wants to become involved in meetings as a routine, unless they are directly affected.

There was an observation from the floor at the lack of Councillor attendance at this meeting and how would this impact on their support for the proposals for change?

NEW SATURDAY PLAY SCHEME

ST. JAMES FIELD, LOCKSWAY ROAD

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING FROM 19 SEPT - 21 DEC 2010



The new Pathfinder Play equipment in ST.JAMES FIELD, Locksway Road, was popular during our Picnic on the Green in June

Session 1 from 9am - 10 am for age 3-5 and their parents

Sports play equipment including balls, bats, targets, skittles especially designed to allow children to learn how to catch, control, co-ordinate and kick whilst being guided by their parents through fun games.

Session 2 from 10 am - 12 pm for ages 6-9 years

Based on the format of Start Up Sport programme, a variety of sports and team games will be offered with emphasis on fun and play whilst developing core skills. Long-term athletic development is the aim with routes to local sports clubs and other sports schemes for children who show an ambition to play a particular sport. The on-site play area will be incorporated into the sessions where appropriate.

Milton Forum has appointed Socceracadamy who are working already with the Respect Programme in Bransbury Park to run the play sessions. The funding for these sessions has been obtained by the Forum from Grassroots Grants. Take-up will be monitored and if popular, will enable us to seek further funding for next year. Do come along and make new friends.

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RESOLVED ISSUES?

Thanks are due to the Council for keeping the Furze Lane Bus Lane repaired for the past 2 months. Let's hope that this will continue to be operative.

Also for the improved sequence on Velder Avenue/Moorings Way traffic lights which have been altered to re-act to traffic flows and parking area on Moorings Way has been improved with gravel in-fill.

We are still waiting to hear about 20mph signs in Warren Avenue and the outcome of traffic discussions with St James Hospital.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES? COME ALONG TO THE NEXT FORUM ON 6 OCTOBER AND LET US KNOW.

PICNIC ON THE GREEN



Great weather, a good crowd of supporters despite an England World Cup match later in the day and despite so many people going off to the Isle of Wight Festival or the Baffins Pond Fun Day! Thank you all for coming along and making it a special event for Milton and the people living nearby. Thank you to all the supporters who worked to set up

the tents and prepare the tombola, cakes and games. Thank you to all the community associations who came along this year and gave their time. We do enjoy it despite the hard work. SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!





With grateful thanks to photographers ANGELA & RODNEY BARNES

The Picnic is not a fund-raising event - it costs us about £400 to provide bouncy castles, insurance, first aid, chairs and tables from the Council. It is a community day and we are planning our next one already with a £15 contribution from local organisations who take part to help with costs. If you would like to be there next June, contact the Chair (imadian@aol.com)

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Langstone Church who have been working in partnership with the Milton Village Community Association tell us their plan is to build a community cafe on the front of the existing building (in the square with the tree in front of the entrance) at the same time as they are adding a new second hall onto the back of the existing building and redeveloping the interior. The Architect, David Lambert will attend the Forum on 6 October at 7pm at Mary Rose School, to present the scheme and answer your questions together with Chris Richards known to many for her work with community associations throughout the city..

The Community Association and Church have conducted over 300 surveys at the Village Hall, at Beddow Library and door-to-door in the surrounding area. These have shown an overwhelmingly positive response, with 88% of people thinking the cafe either a very good or good idea, and 48% saying they would come once a week or more. This showed there is a real demand for such a cafe in the area. Taking a very conservative view of these figures (to play safe) forecasts suggest there could be well over 100 customers per day.

It is estimated the building will cost approx £60k to build. Langstone has already committed £30k from church funds in 2010 towards this. Church members have been asked to make pledges towards the building fund and have already had nearly £20k committed (this on top of their normal giving) once gift aid is included. The Church are also applying to the newly set up Portsmouth Healthy Towns Project Social Enterprise Catering Company for a grant.



MEON JUNIOR SCHOOL junior forum

It was great that some of the youngsters living in Milton went to the trouble to give us their views in the last copy of *Milton Matters*. It was just before the General and Local Elections so they were bang up to date, telling us and through us the Council, what they would like to see provided..

Many of their opinions related to play facilities so we have arranged a Junior Forum on Wednesday 6 October when the children and parents of years 5 & 6 at Meon Junior School can meet in the school hall from 3.20 pm to 4.00 pm to hear about play and have their questions answered. In line with the Council's ideas for new types of Forum events, a crèche will be supplied by the school for parents who have younger children with them and the council will be paying for this.

MILTON OPEN FORUM 6 OCT 7PM

CHANGES TO 13/14 BUS TIMES Concern has also been raised at changes proposed to the 13/14 bus route with all services being removed after 7pm from 24 Oct. We have invited Bus company and transportation representatives to come along, so let them have your views!!!!

LOSS OF BRENT GEESE FEEDING SITES Recent planning requests to pave over key Brent Geese feeding sites at Portsmouth University Playing Fields and Portsmouth College have been given with the support of Hampshire Wildlife Trust. We have invited them to the meeting to hear why they gave their support and how the changes to the Portsmouth College grounds are working out as bird numbers in the area have declined by 6,000 in the last 4 years.

MILTON MATTERS The Council is no longer able to support *Milton Matters* with a grant towards printing and delivery. So this issue comes to you through the goodwill of our team of volunteers and advertisers. We would be sorry to see the end of this magazine as we believe it keeps people informed about their area and supports local businesses. If you would like to express your opinion on the potential loss of *Milton Matters*, please write to the Neighbourhood Forums address on the back of this magazine.

MEON MILTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB 2010



Meon Milton U.15B Team on tour in Paris this year

Meon Milton Youth FC is one of the largest community clubs in the greater Portsmouth area with a long history of serving the Milton community. We are an FA Charter Standard club and currently have approximately 360 children in 20 teams at ages from Under 7 through to Under 16. We train on Saturday mornings, using both Eastney Barracks and the University sports ground at Furze Lane. We play competitive league football in the South Hants Glass League and the Hampshire FA youth cup on Sundays.

We have a current drive within the club to move to a higher level of County football so that we can keep our young players involved with the club beyond age 16. As such, we have now entered the Hampshire League and will play competitively for season 2010-11 in the Under 18 league.

You can follow the weekends results from our various teams in the sports section of the News every Monday evening where results are printed at the back of the main paper), on the South Hants Glass website (<http://www.pyfl.co.uk>) or through our own club website (http://www.meonmiltonfc.btik.com/p_Home.ikml).

It is our stated aim to promote grassroots football within our own community and to offer a chance to all children (boys and girls) in the local area to play football. We are a club that prides itself on its community focus and its availability to local children.

The Club is proud that over 80% of our players are local, coming from the PO4 post code. Three years ago we successfully applied for our FA Charter Standard, as a consequence of which, we ensure that there is at least one FA-qualified coach for each age group. Our commitment to providing qualified coaches is integral to Child Protection and the overall safety of the players. All coaching qualifications are funded by the club.

Whilst Meon Milton strives to be competitive and encourages it's teams to compete at the highest levels possible, the club has a very important ethos – we do not win at all costs. At this Club we strive to get the balance right between being fair and loyal to our players, and winning. That is not to say that if a player turns up having never kicked a football, we will put him into the "A" team - although if he or she turns up with 10 friends, we will endeavour to form a new team! The challenge is to encourage players who are prepared to commit to the Club to improve themselves under the guidance of our qualified coaches.

Milton Forum is grateful for the support of Meon Milton Youth Football Club at our Picnic on theGreen each year, helping make it a fun event. It is also good news that Portsmouth Council has bought the Eastney Barracks sports pitches which the club uses and will ensure they remain sports fields into the future

NEWS FROM STACEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WALSALL ROAD, COPNOR PORTSMOUTH, PO3 6DN

MONDAY Lisa's Playgroup (9.30-11) Melodians Singers (10-11) Over 50 Table Tennis (1-3) Beavers (6-7) Cubs (6.-7.30) Scouts (&.30-9.30)

TUESDAY Little Steps Gym (9.45-11.15) Portsmouth College (10-4) NHS Smoking Cessation Group (12-2) Tai Chi (1.30-2), Kims Tap (6-7) Kims Modern Dance (7-8), Karate (7.15-8.30) Adult tap (7.30-8.30)

WEDNESDAY Little Gym toddlers (9.30-10.15) 3-5 year olds (10.15-11) Mums (512), College., Healthy Walking (10.30-11.30) Circuit training (6-7) Copnor Boxing Club (7-9)

THURSDAY Music Mad (10-11), College (10-1), Over 50's Short Mat Bowls (1-3), Church of Christ (5-8), Karate (7.15-8.30)

FRIDAY Stacey Friday Club (6.9) for over 16s with physical and learning disabilities a very popular evening with an average of 80 attendees per week with games, arts and craft, music and dancing, skittles, darts, etc. Monthly disco, Social Club Bar (7.30-11)

SATURDAY Karate (9.30-10.30) for 5-8 year olds. (10.30-11.30 for 8-14) (11.30-11 for 15+ adults) Dads' morning (10-11.30, Church of Christ Meeting (4-9)

SUNDAY Gods Mercy Revival Ministries (10-12.30) A Family Church Anchorage Park Dog Training Group (6pm-9pm)

For more details phone the Centre 02392 617890

staceycentre@ntlbusiness.com www. staceycentre.org.uk

With a venue for children's parties, wedding receptions and a skittle alley and outside floodlit football pitch, the centre, staffed by volunteers offers all you need to meet friends old and new

This concludes our feature on all the community centres in our area. They offer a great range of activities so do give them your support.

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Can you identify this creature? Answer in next MM!



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

What's your 'default meal'? You know the one I mean; the meal you have when time is short, the cupboard's bare and the stomach empty. Mine's a heart-warming, mouth-watering bowl of steaming spaghetti, topped-off with a tomato sauce and shavings of Parmesan cheese - no 'Spag Bol' for me; I'm strictly veggie! This meal is so easy to make that it can be ready and on your plate in less time than it takes to walk to your local takeaway and back. So where to start?

First, let's get that sauce going. A good slug of olive oil (extra-virgin preferably) in a frying pan. While that's heating up, chop up a couple of cloves of garlic and an onion, pop them in the oil, and brown this over a slow heat. While you're stirring occasionally, open a tin of chopped tomatoes, and once the garlic and onion have browned add the tomatoes and simmer (the food, not you!) until the sauce thickens up. If you like and if you have time you can always toss in some chopped vegetables - e.g. mushrooms, peppers, carrot, courgette or aubergine - before the tomatoes. And tomato puree will help thicken the sauce if you don't want to wait too long.

Secondly, this is an inexpensive meal anyway, so don't scrimp on your pasta; a good brand is essential and my personal favourite is 'De Cecco'. Set a pan of water boiling and put in the required amount of pasta. Cook it for the allotted time - never even a minute more. There's nothing worse than soggy pasta (well there is, but that's another story); the pasta needs to be 'al dente'; that is, it must have a bite to it.

Once the spaghetti is ready, drain it and serve into bowls, top with sauce, and grate your Parmesan or strong Cheddar cheese on top. Did I remind you to open a bottle of red before you started? I knew I'd forget something - Chianti is best.

Finally, you really don't need to use a knife to eat spaghetti, a fork with a twirling action will do it so you save on the washing up as well as cost! While you're eating maybe you like a little music in the background. My preference is the great Lucio Battisti. Although he is sadly no longer with us you can of course still find him on YouTube; why not listen to 'Il mio canto libero' - one of Italy's most popular songs - or 'Emozioni'. *Rita* 18

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