

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 31

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

February
2007



Update on Residents' Parking at next Forum

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 28 February 2007 at 7.00 pm
Meon Road School, Meon Road

AGENDA

Council Proposals for Residents' Parking Scheme
Policing Traffic
Update on local issues

RESIDENTS' PARKING FOR MILTON

Last year, the Council conducted surveys of large areas of Milton and Eastney to gauge support for residents' parking schemes. They have analysed the replies and found that a majority of residents who responded, were in support of such schemes.

The next stage is to work out a plan for grouping streets together and introducing each scheme. To hear how the Council has drawn up the plan for the Milton Area, come along to the next Forum on **Wednesday 28 February at 7 pm at Meon Road School.**

Ken Ellcombe the City's Parking Manager, will be attending the meeting to explain what happens next, the time parking will be permitted, etc. You need to know!



Do you get frustrated when people stop over boxed junctions? Do you fume when they go through a red light? Do you want to know why taxis can come towards you on the wrong side of the road? We have also invited a representative of Hampshire Constabulary's **Traffic Police** to this coming Forum on **28 February 7pm** to answer these questions and more, on managing traffic, contraventions and problems in our area.

BIG CHANGES ON THE WAY FOR AVOCET HOUSE, FORD LODGE AND THE OLD SAMUEL LODGE BUILDINGS

The Council has a strategy for looking after frail elderly people in the City, trying to help them remain independent as long as possible. This means allowing them to stay in their own home but with 'extra-care', which includes special accommodation with independent living, social activities, hairdressing and chiropody services and their own shop. The Council is seeking planning permission for just such a scheme and is calling it, the Milton Village Retirement Scheme. This will require the demolition of Ford Lodge, Moorings Way and The Lodge in Warren Avenue.

Local residents attended a meeting on 31 October to hear details of the Retirement Village. A new 60-bed nursing home with 16 extra-care flats for sufferers of dementia is planned for the Ford Lodge site, and new flats some for rent others shared ownership through Housing 21 for people requiring some level of care to be built on The Lodge site.

On the corner of Avocet House green there would be 14 extra-care flats for people with limited mobility, needing 4+hours care per week. Sadly this means the loss of the lovely willow tree, but the scheme includes its replacement just a few feet away. Only the corner of the Avocet House gardens will be affected and the rest of the green area set out as a secluded garden with seating. The current footpath would be diverted along the North-east boundary wall of the Avocet House front garden.

Government money is available for this scheme so long as there is early agreement. Local residents raised concerns about the quality of the land in Avocet House garden due to the former creek and sandy sub-soil and asked for surveys of their properties prior to work starting, in case piling were necessary. They also raised loss of parking to residents south of Ford Lodge, the inconvenience of contractors building the retirement village over a 3 year period, sewage pipe capacity and insufficient space for visitors to the new accommodation

Social Care staff and their consultant re-assured local people that they would look into all these concerns. Their contractors belong to the Considerate Contractors scheme, working 9-4 daily, to reduce disturbance and re-cycling materials throughout construction. Contractor traffic will not go via Mallard Road, but use Warren Avenue. Although the design has not been finalised yet, the buildings have been designed to be sustainable with re-use of 'grey' water for toilets and a grass roof to insulate the buildings and soak up rainwater. The buildings will be 2.5 storey using yellow brick and wood to complement existing homes.

Everyone hoped that the end result would be a new scheme Milton could be proud of and which would greatly benefit the whole community.

New Housing on East lodge school site

A Planning application is under way for area where East Lodge School stands now. The planning brief for the site was developed in consultation with residents at the Forum some time ago. We had expected a doctor's surgery and a shop as part of the plans, but these appear to have been dropped from the proposals and simply ----is being suggested.

Apsley Road, 10 more flats

Charles Clark Housing Association has to update its sheltered accommodation on the corner of Apsley Road/Goldsmith Avenue and is proposing to build 10 new flats in the garden area at the back, of the property. These will be one-bedroom flats for residents of the block to move into while there bed-sit flats are altered and updated. There will be 5 trees lost from the garden and only 2 replaced. The scheme has been designed to prevent overlooking the back of houses in Frogmore Road and to retain access to the garages there.

Portsmouth City Council, Community Involvement, Empowerment and Development, CIED Team (Neighbourhood Forums) contributes towards the cost of printing and delivering Milton Matters. The Editorial Content is designed and produced by your Neighbourhood Forum Committee. The City Council will assist in producing this document in large print and Braille. For further details contact 02392 834059. For Bengali translation: 02392 841651. Cantonese: 02392 841652

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM PUBLIC MEETING- 25 October 2006

CITY CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT - **Julia Holt**, from the Portsmouth City Council City Centre Improvement Team, explained the concept design for the new-look Portsmouth City Centre. As Portsmouth ranks only no 75 against top retail areas nationally, she stated that new investment was essential to create a distinctive and attractive City Centre as Portsmouth is aspiring to achieve a place in the top 15 in future.

This will be achieved by:-

£650k investment in up rating Southsea's Shopping area;
continued investment in Gunwharf quays; and
£350k investment in the City Centre.

To give Portsmouth the city centre it deserves;

Revitalize the city centre as part of a three-centre retail strategy;

Create a viable city centre that is safe and accessible to all;

Support economic growth and jobs.

The new development will include a highway scheme, designed to facilitate access to the development and the City generally. There will be a mix of uses including **retail** outlets, **leisure** facilities, **residential**, **car parking**, **150 bed hotel**, **public toilets**, **shopmobility** and management offices. The improvements will create better pedestrian access and a new look and feel for Commercial Road, with new paving, lighting and design features.

The market will be relocated to a purpose-built space in Commercial Road South/Edinburgh Road, and there will be transport interchanges at the north and south sections. Work should commence in 2008.

Points from the floor indicated a preference for pedestrianised and covered malls which could be used in all weather conditions and kept clean by operators (as at Southampton's West Quay). Such developments offer a meeting place and focal point.

But Julia stated the Council is advised that retail is moving away from covered malls towards re-invigorated open streets.

More information from citycentre@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

_ Forum Minutes – Continued

MILTONCROSS SCHOOL Niel McCleod, Head teacher at Miltoncross School, spoke about the school vision of “achieving our potential” and said the School was well on the way to achieving this, with every child monitored three times a year, so that problems can be identified early and solved. He is gratified that several letters of praise have been received in support of pupil behaviour and attitude and good liaison with neighbourhood police has been established.

He explained that staff turnover has dramatically reduced (from 16 last year to 2) and there has been a culture change in the school, focussed on praise rather than condemnation, and emphasising awards not sanctions. Miltoncross is a specialist language school, but English, Mathematics and Science are also important. In the recent GCSE examinations, the School results were just below the national average, but Niel was confident of future improvements

Educational trips, social and musical elements are important, with the School winning the Portsmouth Rock Challenge, giving a fantastic boost to the pupils’ profile and confidence. In addition, the Community Youth Theatre group is under way, the Student Council is thriving and there are positive links to primary schools in the area. Good communication with the School, parents and pupils are they key to its bright future. **One current issue is the need for an extension to the premises, and it is hoped that funding will soon be resolved.**

ST JAMES HOSPITAL Chris Hill from the Estates & Facilities Dept. gave an update on the situation at the Hospital, Sadly the League of Friends has closed due to lack of volunteers. However, **Police Community Support Officers** have worked well at the hospital and a walk-in room could be made available for community police use. **Hospital catering staff** - have been shortlisted for a national award. Various points were discussed, including parking issues at the hospital when residents’ parking is introduced, dogs being exercised on the Milton Green and the need for some signs regarding dog bins, plus the need for another gate to access the Green. A sign was needed which confirmed the name of the green and the Chair agreed to write to Councillor Vernon-Jackson on this matter



Farewell to Forum Committee Members

Richard Curtis has been a strong supporter of the Neighbourhood Forum for many years and joined our committee 5 years ago. Not only has he carried the role of Secretary, but developed our Milton Matters Magazine into a professionally produced and entertaining free publication for you to enjoy. His skills in computing and artwork will be greatly missed, and we shall struggle to attain the high standard he has set. Richard also put a huge personal effort with his wife Rita, into the Picnic on the Green, held for the past 4 years. Many of the ideas for the event have been his and the only problem has been running them all! Thank you Richard, from everyone in the community who have enjoyed these happy, free summer days.

Linda Parsons who is moving from the area has been with us for 3 years and supported the Forum Committee, particularly with our links with the local community centres. Best wishes for the future Linda and Richard.

To be a member of the Forum Committee, you must live in the area. Meetings are held 3rd Wednesday in the month usually at Milton Village Hall from 7pm - 9pm unless there is an Open Forum.. We are often joined by Police, Youth Workers and Planners giving us advice. New members will be very welcome. Please phone the Chair, **Janice Burkinshaw, 92736153** if you would like to discuss joining us. The Forum's aim is to keep people informed about what is happening in the area and to take issues back to the organisations involved, to air views at the public meetings and help communication and consultation.

Pompey F C Backs Youth Action

There has been pressure from local families, young people, the Police, Councillors and Forum, asking for activities for young people in our area. We were able to raise money for skateboarding in Milton and Bransbury Park but this was only a drop in the ocean when we consider what is needed - real support through youth workers, and planned activities to keep youngsters occupied and allow them to develop new interests and friendships. No one wants to be 'bored'.

The great news is that a £600,000 scheme backed by the Football Foundation and organised through Portsmouth Football Club together with a range of local professional youth workers, has been agreed. It will be based at Bransbury Park offering a new all-weather pitch, improvements to the skateboard facility, new netball surface, tennis court and floodlighting. Work starts in March and should end in June 2007 to allow a whole range of activities to take place through the summer.

This is to be supported by an Area Improvement Fund to improve Eastney Community Centre, converting the squash court to a two-storey extension of meeting rooms, office and young people's advice centre. A new focal point for youth action in Bransbury Park.

Support staff from the Primary Care Trust will offer a health agenda to support local young people's health needs since many are not seeking advice at present.

This is not a city-wide initiative. It is only for Milton Area. There is a map of the streets where youngsters aged 10-19 must live to qualify to take part. Parents will be asked to give their consent for their children to join the scheme. Everyone should hear about events through school.

Further money at £75,000 p.a. for 3 years will run the Up Front programme to promote a range of activities with schools, offering sports, drama and adventure action events. Participation will be linked to school attendance and behaviour. The professionals working in the Milton area will also support the youngsters working to the Positive Futures programme.

KIKX is a 1-year programme organised through the Football Foundation and the Police to promote activities at Furze Lane for local youngsters.

These programmes are geared to getting people involved, even to the extent of taking on youth leadership schemes and training. Young people's futures are so important and this money, which will be given to our area for the next 3 years, will help to establish good relationships and training for them.

Julian Wadsworth is the project leader working at Milton Village Hall. Do drop in to see him or phone -----
-- e-mail -----to get details of what is happening when.

MARY ROSE SCHOOL, LOCKSWAY ROAD, MILTON



The new £9.85m special school for 2-19 year olds with severe and complex learning difficulties will open in Locksway Road on February 26. The Headteacher Alison Beane says that all the pupils and staff are looking forward with excitement to moving into this wonderful new building. The school has a hydrotherapy pool, nursery, outdoor activity areas, sensory theatre and specialist teaching spaces for science music, art

and design, food studies and design and technology.

The Artillery Pub in Hester Road is adopting the school as its chosen charity.



An Open Day will be held at the School on

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What a shame the new design could not include space to enclose the heating and ventilation ductwork so that the clean clear outline of the architect's design could be free of this steelwork. It may look bright and shiny now but in a few months, will gather leaves and dirt and not enhance the appearance of the new building



Mary Rose School

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Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair
John Couch – Treasurer
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Larry Nicholas, Link Officer
Civic Offices, Guildhall Square,
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Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Alex Bentley
35 Stanley Ave., Copnor
(02392 610285)

Cllr Caroline Scott
15 Locksway Rd, Milton
(02392 291118)

Cllr G. Vernon-Jackson
39 Lindley Ave., Southsea
(02392 834551)

Ward Counsellors – Baffins

Cllr. Michael Andrewes
53 Mafeking Road, Eastney
(02392 861055)

Cllr. G. Goble
34 Gladys Ave., North End
(02392 514744)

Cllr. Darron Phillips
79 Folkestone Road, Copnor
(02392 647337)

Please contact any Forum Representative or Ward Councillor for more information or assistance

If you would like to be a Neighbourhood Forum Representative please write in to the Neighbourhood Forums Freepost address:- FREEPOST (SCE4514) PORTSMOUTH PO1 2YZ or e-mail Neighbourhood_forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk