

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 36

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

October
2008



*Respect Project Cheerleaders perform at Picnic on the Green
Photo Lauren Marshall - Social Inclusion Worker*

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 15 October 2008 7.00 pm

NOTE NEW VENUE FOR THIS MEETING

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

AGENDA

- Tour of the new Mary Rose School
- Why is the Linnington's Site still vacant?
- What can Pensioners Expect?
- Display of Picnic on Green Photos

FORUM MINUTES

21 May 2008

Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Public Meeting 5th March

(The minutes were agreed.)

a)Southern Water proposals to upgrade Eastney Pumping Station: the Chair stated that the Milton Forum Committee was pleased that Southern Water will be proceeding with upgrading works at Eastney Pumping Station. The completed works will benefit all residents of Portsmouth in times of heavy and prolonged rainfall and an exhibition was taking place today to explain Southern Water proposals. Work is due to commence in June 2008 and will last for two years.

East Shore School: work is well under way with works at the former East Shore School site, despite the fact that the Forum Committee was assured that a report on contamination (commissioned by Bryant Homes) was due to be published before any works on the site were commenced. This report is not finalized, yet substantial works at the site have been undertaken and this causes grave concern to the Forum Committee.

The draft report findings (passed to the Committee by Nicola Franklin from Portsmouth City Council) confirm that there are **elevated arsenic, copper, lead, zinc, TPH and PAH concentrations, which will present a risk to human health through direct contact or by dusting.**

Remedial action will be required to protect end users within private gardens; landfill gas could create a pollution linkage with the site; workers on the site will be at risk from contamination and will need protective clothing; and soil gasses migrating from the Milton Common Landfill site will be isolated from the development site using venting trenches.

Linningtons Site: demolition at this site appears to have stopped – this could be because of similar contamination issues or simply a reflection of the economic situation on the construction industry.

COLAS OPERATIONS IN MILTON

Mr Graham Mook, Business Manager from COLAS, explained their role in bringing the City's highways up to an acceptable condition via a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). He stated that there are 540 local employees and COLAS concentrated on upgrading the worst roads first, using skid resistance measurement s of surfaces. Pavements are repaired or upgraded, sometimes using a "street print" process, where tarmac is used which looks like slabs. This system reduces slips by pedestrians and has a better life-expectancy.

A report on schemes completed in Milton was handed out. Speed bumps needing repair, was raised. Gulley cleansing is being undertaken regularly across the City. Residents were advised to report any instances of disrepair or dangerous pavements to the City Council via the Help Desk (telephone 023 9283 4092)

FORUM MINUTES 21 May

COLAS IN MILTON *Cont.*

A particular issue affecting residents is the length of time between the installation of new lamp posts by COLAS staff and the arrival of SEB staff to connect power. Very often this results in large holes being left in pavements, with little protection (flimsy plastic barriers which are often subject to interference). Graham confirmed that discussions between all agencies have been taking place to alleviate such problems and he stated that COLAS keeps SEB fully informed of works to ensure that no delays occur.

POLICING IN MILTON

PCSOs Lauren Beasley, Sophie Isles and John Warnford provided an update on policing the Milton area.

There are 37 PCSOs in the City who seem to be achieving good results in dealing with issues with young people. In Milton, former levels of 150 calls per month about youth problems have reduced to the current level of 30 per month, achieved by removing the youth ringleaders. There are only two local ASBO cases.

PCSOs patrol the area and also have projects, such as the one at St Mary's House in 2007. This year they will be undertaking a project at Broom Square, which will include a scheme to provide flowers to create a better environment. **Dispersal order** not being applied for this year as the situation has improved.

Bransbury Park: a police office is established (part-time) which is helping to reduce problems there;

Scooter riders: still being a nuisance in the area and monitored by PCSOs;

Vehicles parked on pavements: "Operation Zig-zag" took place last week and resulted in 10 fixed-penalty notices being issued at Meon Road School. Problems still occur in Rodney Road and Eastney Road outside car dealerships and PCSOs are aware of this.

Call Milton PCSOs 023 9289 2146

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

"Tell us two things": a scheme to encourage residents to identify two things (one to identify something the City Council does well, and one to identify something that could be improved) is being launched. Residents are encouraged to contribute via www.portsmouth.gov.uk.

Sensory Impairment & Deaf **Services Team's** document on service at the Horizon Resource centre in Sundridge Close, Cosham, has been produced. Call 023 9237 3362.

Traffic refuge in Bransbury Road for which the Forum Committee has been lobbying, will start soon.

CCTV at St James Hospital: Chris Hill from the Hospital wanted residents to be aware of plans to introduce CCTV within the grounds.. No expressions of concern were raised.

NEW PAVING FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS



When the Council announced the PFI contract with COLAS had been signed, we had great expectations that Portsmouth's roads would be greatly improved, with potholes disappearing, new surfacing and road markings being maintained in the future. We also believed that the pavements would be well cared for and repaired and resurfaced as one of the aims for the innovative new, long-term contract with

COLAS was that the partnership would bring an end to the many claims brought to the Council through trips and falls on uneven pavements and that this would be a saving to Council Tax Payers.

However, despite Graham Mook's assurances on quality standards from COLAS, it does seem to the person in the street that there is a greater use of sub-contract labour now that the contract has been running for a couple of years. It is also clear that following some excellent work in replacing pavements in roads like Mayles Road, with good quality flagstones and brick infill to make an attractive pavement surface which enhances the appearance of individual homes, other streets are not so fortunate. Above, we can see an example of the replacement paving outside a local school. Not only is the finished tarmac unattractive but it is not even level! The depressions which cause puddles in the summer and icy patches in the winter, have not been levelled off.

The picture below was taken at a key crossing point over to the school and even worse puddles can be seen. This new pavement is of an unacceptably low quality which can be seen throughout our area. Just look in front of St. James Church in Milton Road. We have brought these concerns to the local ward Councillor and Leader of the Council and hope that remedial action can be taken to make these surfaces even and improve the appearance of our pavements.



"CALLING PLANET EARTH"

Did you know that it is the 'International Year of Planet Earth'? I didn't. But what surprises me is that we all seem to be so worried about the state of the planet that perhaps 'we can't see the wood for the trees'. We're all worried about global warming and its effect on the planet and what we can do about it - buying more fuel-efficient cars; walking more; cycling more; recycling more; eating local food. Perhaps the problem is that we are trying so much to 'see the bigger picture' that we can no longer see the smaller picture - the 'Milton Village' sized picture. So I started to wonder: can we make life more pleasant for ourselves on a local basis?

- Don't drop your litter - take it home or bin it.
- Do say hello to people - SMILE.
- Don't scrawl graffiti - hey, here's an idea, why not write something for *Milton Matters* instead?
- Do check on your neighbour occasionally.
- Don't make too much noise; turn that car radio down a notch.
- Do help someone if you can.
- Don't drive too fast down our streets. Drive at 20 please.
- Don't smash bottles in the street or the park.
- Do pick up your dog poo - for example, the people who walk down the path to Locks Sailing Club will *really* appreciate you.

If this sounds like a whinge, my apologies; I don't mean it to. Let's be selfish about it and say we're doing it for ourselves.

Fifty years ago it was International Geophysical Year - I'm not sure that the state of the planet has improved a lot in the intervening period. So maybe we are going about it the wrong way, why not start by thinking small. Perhaps we could take a leaf out of Bill Bryson's book (not forgetting to put it in a bin when we've finished reading it of course!). He's just launched the 'Stop The Drop' campaign and you may have seen his recent *Panorama* programme highlighting this crusade. He says, 'the real worry with litter, is not those who drop it, but the millions who look at it and do nothing'. We don't just drop rubbish in our homes, so why do we do it out in the streets - after all, aren't they our home as well? The song says 'what a wonderful world this would be'. Forget the world; if we all looked after our own patch the world would be OK.

Miltonian.

THE BIGGEST YOUTH GROUP IN THE WORLD.

Are you aged between 6 and 10½ years old?

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Would you like to attend weekly meetings where you could learn life skills including map reading, compass reading, astronomy and knot work?

Would you like to take part in games, make and fly kites? Would you like to take part in camping expeditions and hikes?

Are you interested in taking part in challenges for health and on global issues?

All the above activities and more have been covered over the last year on Monday evenings, during term time, at St. James' Church Hall, when 5th Portsmouth Scout Group meet.

If you or anyone you know aged between 6 - 10½ is interested, active, enjoys learning new skills, making new friends and wants to belong to the biggest youth group in the world then come along to visit us on a Monday evening at the times below or alternatively call Akela on 023 9273 3392.



Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 pm Beavers aged 6 - 8 years

Mondays - 6.15 - 7.45 pm Cubs - age 8 - 10 ½.

THIS YEAR'S PICNIC ON THE GREEN

Our annual Picnic was held on Saturday 14 June and the weather was superb. It is planned as a low cost family and community day for residents of Milton to enjoy socialising together and the green at St. James' is the perfect venue for such a venture.



This year's event was felt to be the best ever by the Committee with the Lord Mayor agreeing to open the event, and Father Alby from St. James' Church offering a prayer (but it was not needed for the weather!) Young people from Respect Project helped us prepare.



Tombola, race games, lucky dip, tai quando and fencing displays, dog shows, adults and children's races, teas and home-made cakes, Scout Troop activities, bouncy castles and ice cream vans - who needs the continent when England can offer this and sunshine too?



Two councillors were present, young cheerleaders gave a show of their talents, a skilled artist offered portrait sketches and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves (even the odd person from Fareham who sneaked in looking like a local)

PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2008



Fortunately, the St John's Ambulance team's first aid skills were not needed and the day was a great success. The Committee could not run the event without all the support they receive from local friends and organisations and through fund-raising during the year. This



year's Picnic cost £1000 for insurance, first aid, the storyteller, bouncy castles and prizes.



Over the years we have bought gazeboes, boiler, and public address system to ensure future events can run successfully.

WERE YOU THERE?



However, the committee members always breathe a sigh of relief when the day is over and the marquees are taken down and stored for another year.

The aim of the day is to bring the St. James' Field to life, to encourage local residents to walk to the Field, enjoy the lovely parkland and to bring



people together socially and not just when local issues cause concern and need public debate.

Roll on 27 June next year!!



SOUTHSEA & MILTON BEAT SURGERY

Do you have issues you would like to bring to the local Police? Why not attend their weekly surgery every THURSDAY?

Look for their mobile van at

Liddl Car Par 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Albert Road (opposite KwikMart) 6.00 pm - 9.30 pm

DON'T SIT AND MOAN AT HOME - OFFLOAD YOUR CONCERNS

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



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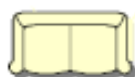
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GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

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NEXT FORUM - Wed 15 Oct - 7pm

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THE-ART DESIGN***

***WE HAVE INVITED THE POMPEY PENSIONERS GROUP TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS***

***HEAR WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SITE PURCHASED BY
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AND DISPLAY MORE OF THOSE PICTURES OF THE PICNIC

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

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