

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 27

Milton Neighbourhood Forum September 2005



Senior pupils of Miltoncross School meet the Lord Mayor at the Forum's third 'Picnic on the Green'

In this Issue - Miltoncross School looks to the future
The 'Picnic on the Green' - Were you there?
Plus - Local news, articles, reports, information and services

NEXT OPEN FORUM – MAKE A NOTE OF THE NEW VENUE

Wednesday, 21 September 2005 at 7.00 pm
Meon Middle School, Meon Road, Milton

AGENDA

Doorstep Selling – Trading Standards
The No 13/14 Bus Route Changes
Residents' Parking – Ken Ellcome
Copnor Bridge Update and Other Local Issues

Miltoncross Moves Forward

When the Miltoncross School opened, its first headmaster, Mr. Throp, spoke at the Forum and set out his aims for the school. Five years later when the first GCSE results were published, we shared local concerns that its potential had not been fully achieved.

In January 2005, Linda Fisher, Portsmouth Council's Strategic Director of Children, Families and Learning accepted an invitation to come to our committee. She reported that the local education authority was working very closely with the management and governors of the school to improve performance. The Forum is keen to support the school and help it to progress for the sake of local children. She asked the school to keep us in touch with progress.

"Staff and pupils at Miltoncross are working hard to improve standards at the Milton school," said Carol House, Deputy Headteacher of the school. Since last September, experts from the city council's education department have been working closely with senior managers at the school to move it forward.

There have been a number of changes at the school over recent months including the resignation of Headteacher, Barry Gransden, on health grounds. During the interim period, while a new headteacher was being recruited, Local Education Authority Advisor James Lappin supported Carol House and the rest of the senior management team with the day-to-day running of the school. Physical changes to the school building are also being made which it is hoped will have an impact on future results.

Portsmouth City Council's Head of School Standards and Effectiveness, Paddy Bradley, said:

"We have been working very closely with the school on an action plan to move forward and improve results. Fortnightly review meetings are held at the school and parents are being regularly updated via a mix of open meetings, newsletters and information that is posted on the school's website (www.miltoncross.portsmouth.sch.uk). Everyone at the school, pupils and staff alike, are very positive about the future."

One project that has recently been launched is mentoring for the Year 11 students. After Easter there was a meeting for parents to explain the mentoring process and to show them the web-based revision site.

"This scheme will hopefully add support to our students who are due to take their GCSEs this year," said Deputy Headteacher Carol House, "fortnightly meetings will be held between the students and staff who will monitor their progress and offer them coursework."

"We've also signed up to a three-year contract with an internet-based revision tool that the whole school will eventually have access to via our website." Some changes have also been made to the layout of the school to help with movement of the number of pupils throughout the day. Visitors to the school will now be met at a re-organised reception point that has been screened off from the rest of the school. The front entrance is also closed to pupils at the beginning and end of the day with access via a side door so those pupils who are late have to sign in." "Our attendance rate has also improved," added Mrs House, "we now have an education welfare officer based in the school and have reduced unauthorised absence by around 5%." It's not just the staff and pupils who have been getting involved either. Parents who make up the Friends Association of the school have continued to work hard. They recently held a 'promise' auction that raised the largest amount to date of £1,500. This has now been spent by different department areas to support teaching and learning. Mrs House added: "We really do appreciate all the continued support from all of our pupils, their parents and staff over what has been a challenging time at the school."



A new Headteacher, Mr Neil McLeod has now been appointed and he will lead Miltoncross School from September 2005.

The Forum will continue to speak with the Education Authority and receive updates on progress at the school.

The School ran a stall at the Picnic in the Park and raised money for a school prize which will be given for Community Work by pupils. Close working with our local community is now a school aim, so we are looking forward to the future.

The Forum is also delighted that a member of the parent's association and two pupils from Miltoncross have now joined our Forum Committee. Their views, as well as their help at events such as the Picnic on the Green, are much appreciated. In return we hope to listen to our young people. Their need is not only for a successful school to help them achieve their full potential, but also for somewhere to go outside of school - a Youth Club perhaps - so let's see if we can respond to these needs in our community and make something happen together.

- Janice Burkinshaw, Chair, Milton Neighbourhood Forum.

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM OPEN FORUM MEETING - 1 March 2005

1. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

John Couch gave the Treasurer's Report.

Larry Nicholas took the chair for the election of officers. There were no further candidates for election to the committee, which was therefore re-elected.

2. OPEN FORUM PRESENTATIONS

A. COPNOR BRIDGE

Andy Finch and Les Dalby from Portsmouth City Council reported on the plans to replace Copnor Bridge.

The bridge is almost 100 years old and since 1976 has only had £117,000 spent on it. A survey in 2000 recommended that the bridge should be replaced in five years. A traffic management survey in 2002 determined that traffic across the bridge should be one-way only. It was felt that there could be safety issues if two heavy vehicles were to pass across the bridge at the same time.

After considering the various options it was decided to remove and replace the bridge and to try to minimize the closure period.

This scheme is to cost £9.3 million and will be paid for by the Department of Transport, not Portsmouth City Council.

New, permanent, traffic signals are being installed at the Tangier Road/Eastern Road junction and the times of other traffic lights may be adjusted to take account of diverted traffic flows.

Copnor Bowling Association will move from their premises near the bridge to a new home in Tangier Road. The old premises will be sold for redevelopment after the bridge has been completed.

Key dates

- The work contract was signed in March 2005 and work started immediately with cables under the railway track being diverted.
- May 2005 - work started on the new bowling green - to be completed for May 2007.
- May 2005 - work started on bridge replacement, but with minimal further traffic disruption until October 2005, when the bridge will be closed.
- The bridge will be demolished over the weekend of 4 - 6 November 2005 - the railway line will be closed that weekend.
- The new bridge should be reopened by April 2006 at the latest.

Open Forum Meeting minutes - continued...

2. THE PORTSMOUTH - ARUNDEL CANAL

John Stedman from the City Museum gave an interesting illustrated talk on the canal.

He explained the economic advantages of canals and how investors were interested in the potentially high dividends paid by canal companies, which - in some cases - could mean that their original investment was repaid in the first four years. John explained how the Portsmouth canal formed part of a network using Langstone and Chichester Harbours, connecting with Chichester and London via the River Arun and other canals. The sea lock near The Thatched House pub is the most visible sign of the canal remaining, but the building housing the pumping station still exists opposite Furze Lane. There also remains evidence of the line of the canal in the names of 'Canal Walk' and Arundel Street. The basin at the end of the canal, where barges could unload and turn round was where the Alders (now Debenhams) Department store currently stands.

Come along for the latest update on Copnor Bridge at the Forum on Wednesday, 21 September 2005 at Meon Middle School at 7 p.m.

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I heard it through the grapevine? No really, I did...

Do trees talk to each other? And if so, what about? I am sure I overheard this conversation as I was walking past the Milton campus site the other day shortly after the decision by the council's Development Control Committee to remove two trees from the site....

'Hey larch, how's it hanging? Oh right, well it has been a bit dry recently... You know, it seems just like yesterday, but I remember when that purple leaf plum was just a sapling, now she's the apple - well, ok, not the apple - but the plum of my eye. And have you seen that willow, well the way she keeps brushing up against that elderly chestnut is no tree's business. Just 'cause the wind's blowing indeed! As soon as his conkers have dropped she'll be muscling in and taking his light, you mark my leaves.'

'Hey, do you remember the old college buildings going up between the wars. Ah, those were the days, there's nothing like a bit of traditional brickwork behind a tree to show off its leaves and branches to the best advantage that's what I say. Whoever said "red and green should never be seen"? Tell you what, it wasn't a tree that's for sure. S'far as I can see architects aren't the most fashionable types either; how on God's green earth are we supposed to break up the lines of these new things. What d'you mean "what new things?" Ain't you got leaves in the back of your trunk. WHAT!! You just thought the gardeners were making a bit more noise and dust than usual! Take a gander at that seven-storey block that's going up behind you for oak's sake. It wasn't a lot of grass pollen that caused your bad sneezing attacks this year I can tell you.'

'Anyway, heard the latest? Ah it's criminal I can tell you. Some of us is for the chop! Yeah, and do you know why? Cos we is ugly, that's why. Course it's true, I got it from that young birch; what a gossip. Anyway, apparently there's an old laurel and an old elder (elder, geddit? Oh well, suit yourself) by the wall on the other side of this site. Well if you'd looked *before* they'd built the flats, then you would have seen them, wouldn't you; it's a bit late now ain't it. So these flats, being as they is brand spanking new and good looking, cool, 'hey dude' types of flats, they don't wanna be seen hangin' round with some ugly old trees now do they? They needs to hang out with your young hippy chick, boho, all over tan type of tree. See, there's this British Standard 5387 what says there is A trees, B trees, C trees and D trees and believe me, while being a 'D' is pretty good in some areas, you really don't wanna be a 'D tree', cos if you is, you is ugly man, I mean tree. So me old matey, me old maple me lad, when you hears those chain saws firing up you'd better stand up straight, shake out those ol' dead an' dying leaves and put your best bark on; otherwise its brmmm, Brmmm, BRMMM, autumn in a really big way. Good job they don't treat ugly people the same way ain't it!' - *Old Miltonian*.

Milton area-wide traffic calming scheme

The Milton area-wide traffic calming scheme was completed in July 2003 and - bar a few minor alterations to the width restriction in Euston Road - has generally bedded in well. The scheme saw the implementation of both physical and psychological measures, along with a reduction in the speed limit from the traditional 30mph to 20mph and this was done throughout the residential area, creating a 20mph zone. In addition, a number of the north-south roads were used to create a one-way system in order to reduce conflict between on-coming vehicles, which was cited by residents as a major problem in the area.

Throughout the area in general, vehicle speeds have fallen and on all roads the average speeds are well below the posted 20mph. The spread of traffic has changed within the area and this is to be expected with the introduction of a one-way system and the installation of six-foot width restriction at the northern end of Euston Road. However, whilst in some roads there has been an increase in the volume of traffic, others have seen a decrease in the number of vehicles using them. Looking at the area as a whole though, traffic is much more evenly distributed between the roads. In particular, the width restriction on Euston Road has had a dramatic effect on the number of vehicles entering the area, with a reduction of 443 vehicles per day compared to figures before the work was implemented.

As part of the maintenance contract that Portsmouth City Council has with the company Colas; the roads across the city are gradually being resurfaced. In the Milton area, resurfacing work has recently taken place in Shelford Road. Although, whilst the work is being done, some of the traffic calming features may be removed, they will all be re-instated. In any event, monitoring of the area will continue and should circumstances change suitable alterations would be sought.



The naming of the Barratt flats

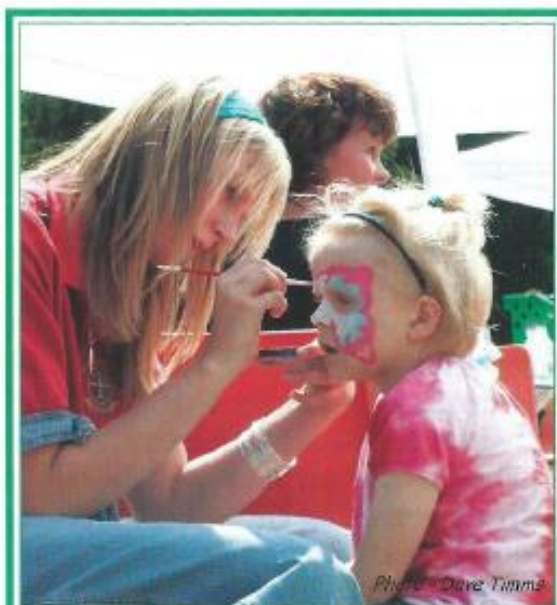
The winners of the competition to name the flats on the Milton campus development receive their cheques from Barratts, Portsmouth.

PICNIC ON THE GREEN - 9 JULY 2005

On Saturday, 9 July the Milton Forum held its third 'Picnic on the Green'. This Community Day was supported this year by a Community Chest grant, which enabled the Forum to pay for entertainment such as Mike O'Leary, the storyteller, as well as the bouncy castle and to buy tents and equipment for use in future years.

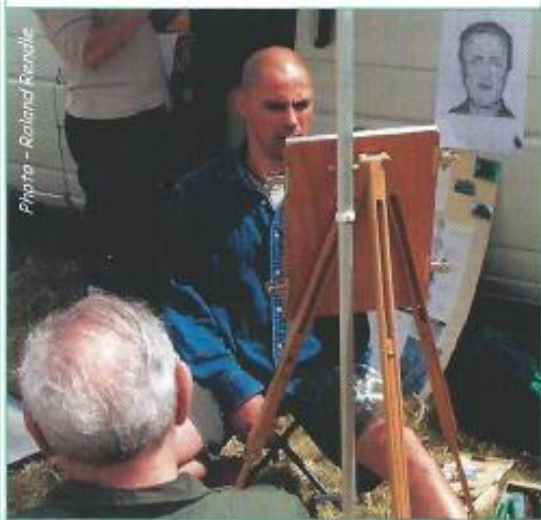
On the day, we were blessed with fine weather. Miltoncross School senior pupils came along from 11.30 to 5.30 to erect tents, move tables and put up the bouncy castle and to help with events. Their cheerful and willing support was much appreciated by the committee.

The Forum committee was delighted by the participation from so many local associations and friends who came along on the day to offer stalls and activities which made you all stay right to the end.



A 'Young Miltonian' enjoys some colour-coordinated face painting!

A local resident (apparently not a film star) has his portrait sketched.



The Lord Mayor visited the 'Picnic on the Green' in a vintage bus as he toured VE and VJ Day street parties throughout the city and brought us the benefits of a jazz band and a troop of 1945 characters. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress formally opened our Picnic and then proceeded, with local MP Mike Hancock, to judge the Dog Show.

The dogs had a great time too and took away prizes of dog food and treats!

A grand day out!

Thank you one and all whether you came along to work and help at this event or brought your friends and family to enjoy the lovely green area, the races, dog show and the competitions.

So what were we all celebrating? The green at St. James Hospital will not be built on through the efforts of people in Milton. It will soon become public open space and is accessible to all of us to use as if it were a village green.

So please come along there to collect conkers, walk the dog, have a picnic, kick a ball, play some games or view the tree-trail.



Photo - Roland Rendle

The 'runners up' in the gents' egg and spoon race practice their skills. Who knows, maybe next year....?



Photo - Roland Rendle

'... and the one that got away was this big!' Storyteller Mike O'Leary keeps his audience of young and old spellbound.

Dog owners

Thanks again for your support with the dog show. We have half a dozen 'puppy bags' left over from the event and if anyone would like one they will be available on a 'first come, first served' basis at the Open Forum Meeting on 21 September.

Very Many Thanks

Milton Neighbourhood Forum would like to offer their sincere thanks to the following local businesses and people who very kindly donated gifts, services and their valuable time in making the third 'Picnic on the Green' such a success this year.

Businesses who donated gifts and prizes:

Gilberts Sweets	Cut Price
Bransbury Park Butchers	Cards 'R' Us
Rowlands Pharmacy	Portsmouth Fruit & Flower
About Time	John & Julie Pictures

Pets at Home in Burrfields Road and Pratt & Nunn Vets at the Harbour Practice who both donated doggie prizes, food and treats.

Enterprise Vans in Rodney Road who loaned us a van.

Richard and Patsy of The Brewer's Arms in Milton who very kindly again loaned us their PA system.

Olive Green Motors of Liss Road who provided power for the event.

Many people from within and outside of the Milton area kindly gave up their time to help us, so thanks, in no particular order, to Wendy and Rob for their help with the dog show, Jason and his friends Mandy and Trish for running the penalty shoot-out contest and for supervising the bouncy castle, children's illustrator Fran Thatcher for face-painting, Dominic and Roland, the pupils of Milton Cross School and others for their help with putting up (and taking down) the tents and also to our friends at Baffins Pond Community Centre for their presence, help, and the loan of their equipment.

And a big thank you to all our committee members for their work leading up to and on the big day. Local Milton schools' efforts were also very much appreciated and were very entertaining.

Finally our grateful thanks to Hilary Collins and everyone else who helped to organise the races and other activities.

If you would like to help organise the next 'Picnic on the Green' or if have any-ideas on how we can make the next one even better please contact one of the Milton Neighbourhood Forum representatives.

'Timal Monster' Crossword

The answers to the crossword in *Milton Matters 26*

Across...	8. Matters	Down...	5. Nods
1. Free	11. Ship namer	1. Fete	6. Skating
3. Open	12. Dine	2. Education	9. Used
7. Trunk Road	13. Meon	4. Programme	10. Iron

Residents' parking schemes

Surveys of residents in the Central Southsea and Milton areas will start in the next few weeks on the subject of whether they would like residents' parking schemes. It appears that the main 'driver' for the schemes is concern at parking on football match days, although many in Milton may also be concerned at the impact of new housing developments in the area. Originally, Central Southsea alone was to be surveyed, but concern was raised at the impact that this would then have on neighbouring areas.

Mr Ken Ellcome of Portsmouth City Council has kindly agreed to attend the next Milton Neighbourhood Forum Open Meeting on 21 September to explain the pros and cons of the scheme. Anyone who is interested should attend the meeting and this should include non-car owners. The date of return of survey forms if they have been issued before then, will be extended until after the Forum meeting.

A list of the roads in Milton that are to be surveyed is below.

Alma Terrace
Alverstone Road
Apsley Road
Avocet Close
Billing Close
Blenheim Court
Bonchurch Road
Carisbrooke Road
Carpenter Close
Catisfield Road
Claydon Avenue
Clegg Road
Clovelly Road
Crofton Road
Cromarty Avenue
Dupree Drive
Eastfield Road

Edgeware Road
Essex Road
Euston Road
Evans Road
Frogmore Road
Goldsmith avenue
Hatfield Road
Hellyer Road
Hollam Road
Hunter Road
Landguard Road
Locksway Road (part)
Maxwell Road
Maylands Avenue
Mayles Road
Meon Road
Methuen Road

Middlesex Road
Milton Park Avenue
Milton Road (part)
Oliver Road
Pedam Close
Posbrooke Road
Prince Albert Road
Reginald Road
Ruskin Road
Shelford Road
Suffolk Road
Teddington Road
Vernon Avenue
Westfield Road
Weston Avenue
Wimborne Road
Woodmancote Road

Freecycle site

Graham Bish has set up a new website: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleportsmouth>. The purpose of this new website is to offer items that people no longer require, for free, to anybody who wants them. The area is based around a central Portsmouth postcode which means that all items offered are within easy reach for collecting/delivery and no postage cost will be required. Hopefully this will help to stop a lot of items going to the incinerator. Do support Graham's initiative and get logging on to offer up spare gear.

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Route 13/14 bus service changes

Many local people have expressed their anger and frustration at the changes to the 13/14 bus route. We have added this as a topic to the agenda for the next Open Forum meeting. You will notice that the venue for the Forum has changed to Meon School (Wednesday, 21 September at 7.00 p.m.) as we hope more people can walk there and attend.

If you have experienced problems with the new route, please complete the form below, giving your name (if you wish), address and telling us what the problem is; such as not being able to get shopping back from Asda, not getting to your doctor, not being able to get to school or work. Give us the details please, tear this form out of the magazine and bring it along to the Forum on 21 September or post it to the FREEPOST address on the back of this magazine by 20 Sept.

My problem with 13/14 Bus Route is:

My name is:

I live at:

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Co-opted members

Lyn Timms
Liz Head-Rapson
Milton Cross Parents'
Association

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If you would like to be a Neighbourhood Forum Representative please write in to:
Freepost Address, Neighbourhood Forums
Portsmouth City Council, FREEPOST (SCE 4514), PORTSMOUTH, PO1 2YZ

For more information on Neighbourhood Forums go to the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk/
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Please contact any Forum Representative or Ward Councillor for more information or assistance.