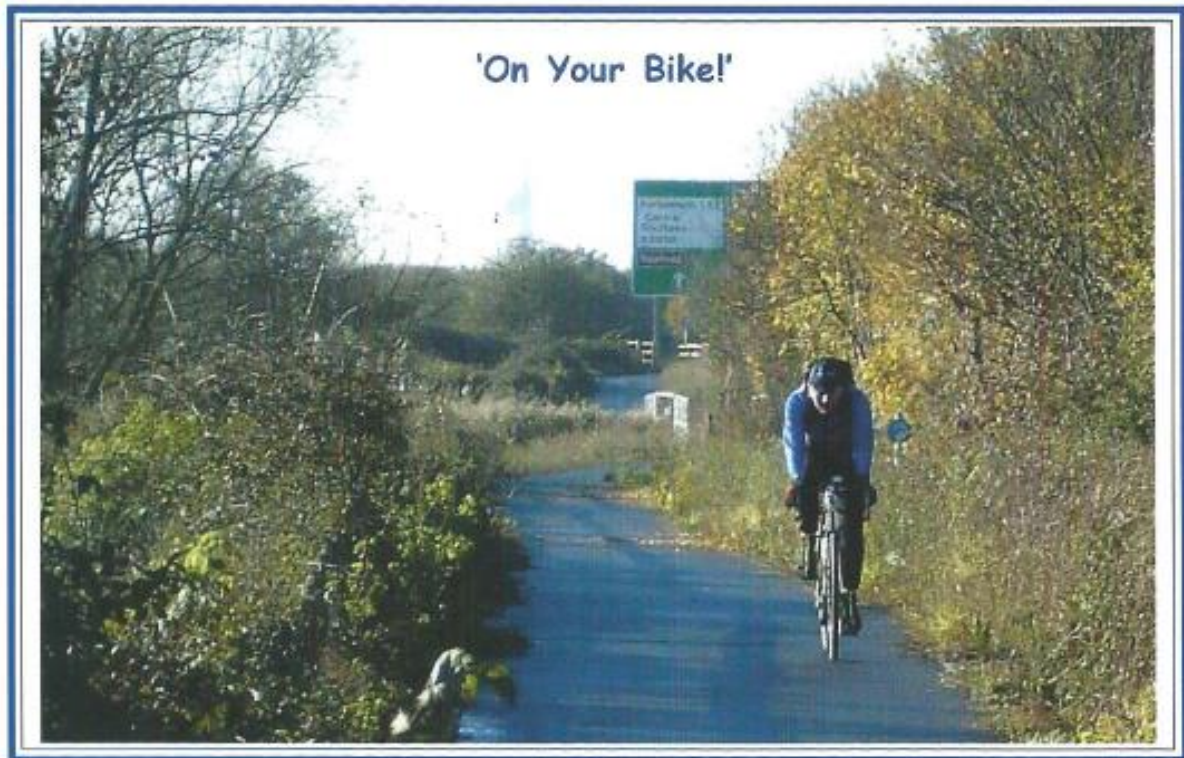


# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 28

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

February 2006



In this Issue - Bus and parking survey updates  
Stay safe and get fit with 'Cycling Tips for 2006'  
Plus - Local news, articles, reports, information and services

## NEXT OPEN FORUM – MAKE A NOTE OF THE NEW VENUE

Wednesday, 15 February 2006 at 7.00 pm  
Meon Junior School, Meon Road, Milton

### AGENDA

Dealing with MRSA in our local Hospitals – Mary Pilgrim  
The Milton Road/Velder Avenue junction  
and traffic pollution  
Update on other local issues

# Milton Village Community Association

Milton Village Hall, 182 Milton Road, PO4 8PR

All Enquiries: Tel 023 9287 3788

Or e-mail: [info@mvca-milton.co.uk](mailto:info@mvca-milton.co.uk)

Office hours: 9.30a.m - 12 noon, Monday to Friday  
(ansaphone outside these hours)

The hall is available for hire to groups and for meetings, also for weekend private hire, children's parties, coffee mornings, guest speakers, table-top sales.

Children's parties from £25 (3-hour meeting)

Activities available to join - Thai Boxing, Tap Dancing, Messy Tots, Line Dancing, Yoga, Craft Club, Co-op Women's Guild and Weight Watchers.

New with Highbury College - Computers, Tai Chi and Pilates  
(contact Highbury College on 023 9231 3381)

New groups are welcome - main hall hire from £10 per hour,  
small hall from £6 per hour.

Optional membership offers priority booking and reduced prices for social events, trips, holidays and regular newsletters - adult membership just £9 per year - concessions available. Don't miss out on the next newsletter due at the end of February - join now to receive members' benefits.

## **Trips update**

There are a few places left on the 'Leuven Weekend' - 24-26 March. £129pp inc champagne breakfasts, tour of Stella Artois brewery, visit to chocolate factory and Ypres battlefields. Executive coach and Eurotunnel.

Also, 'Dublin Weekend' - 28 April to 1 May (Bank Holiday) by air from Southampton.



## Route 13/14 Bus Service Changes

**T**hank you all for responding in the last *Milton Matters* to our survey of the problems that the changes in the 13/14 bus route caused you. We had 50 replies and the main difficulties included not being able to access the Baffins' shops, the Sixth Form College, Lake Road Health Centre, the Goldsmith Avenue surgery, the St. Cuthbert's Surgery and the Asda store in Fratton Road. You did not feel that the inclusion of the Sunnyside Health Centre was worth the loss of access to these parts of eastern Portsmouth. Also, the higher costs to use more than one bus for journeys previously covered by the old routes, longer journey times, crowded buses for the College and poor Saturday and evening services were all highlighted by the survey.

At the Open Forum meeting, Mike Smith of First Provincial explained that the changes were due to low passenger numbers in the past. He had been hearing the concerns of local people and was able to offer some mitigation by promising to create a 13a service in November 2005 to bring back Goldsmith Avenue into the No. 13 routes. Service 7 every 30 minutes is designed to connect Milton and Baffins via the Sixth Form College, Baffins Pond, Furze Lane, the White House pub, Winter Road, South Parade Pier, Palmerston Road, the University and the Gunwharf with the 7a also visiting the City Centre and Old Portsmouth.

Route 13 covers the city centre, Fratton Station, Pompey Centre, Good Companions, Furze Lane, Locksway Road, Fratton Station, City Centre

New Route 13a covers the above in the reverse direction plus the White House pub.

In addition, Mike confirmed that the 17 and 18 services will have four more vehicles operating over the routes. The company has also been concentrating on providing low-level access buses for disabled users and prams.

If you have any queries about the buses:  
telephone 0870 6082608 or 0870 0106022

or write to:  
First Hampshire & Dorset Ltd,  
226 Portswood Road,  
SOUTHAMPTON SO17 2BE

The bus company office telephone number is 023 80584321  
Keep this number handy because the entry in the BT phone book is out of date.

## MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM OPEN FORUM MEETING - 21 September 2005

### 1. UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

The Chair updated the meeting on issues the committee had been discussing since the last Forum - fishing on Swan Lake, Milton Village Hall, vandalism and St. James Green.

### 2. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the balance of funds held by the Forum as at 1 April 2005, including part of a grant from Community Chest for the 'Picnic on the Green', was £1,542.

### 3. OPEN FORUM PRESENTATIONS

#### *Copnor Bridge - update*

Javier Munoz from Portsmouth City Council confirmed that the bridge would close 17 October, be demolished 5 November and re-opened on 6 April 2006. He re-assured those at the meeting that an emergency plan is in place to deal with traffic in the event of a major incident; the council is working with local businesses and schools to overcome problems due to the closure; and schools will assist in the design of a mural on the new bridge. A 20mph speed limit will be introduced in St. Mary's Rd and New Rd and a free mini-bus service will operate during the closure period.

Those present at the meeting said it was more important to build a pedestrian bridge, especially for school children to help access during the closure period. Javier agreed to take this to the Council. (After our meeting, it was agreed to build this bridge!).

#### *Local Bus Routes*

Mike Smith updated the Forum on changes to routes to cover the closure of the bridge and listened to residents' concerns at the changes to the 13 and 14 services and announced a new 13a route.

#### *Residents' Parking*

Cllr. Alex Bentley told the meeting that residents' parking schemes can be introduced if residents want them. If 30% of residents surveyed in an area elect to have the scheme, it will proceed.

The first vehicle permit for a particular address would be free, the second £25 per annum, but permits would not be issued for vehicles owned by firms such as BT, British Gas, not owned by the resident. Parts of Milton have been surveyed and are being considered for a scheme. (See the separate update in this issue.)



### *Trading Standards warn about doorstep selling*

Dave Taylor from Portsmouth City Council explained that residents approached by doorstep callers have, by law, a 'cooling-off' period in which to decide not to proceed with any contract agreed as a result of 'cold-calling'. The best advice is never to sign up for services at the front door without having a written contract and a 'cooling-off' clause.

Tradesmen who are too persistent should be reported to Trading Standards or in serious situations the Police. He offered the following help lines -

02392 688183 - Portsmouth Trading Standards (office hours)

08454 040506 - Consumer Direct, Maidstone (outside office hrs)

(Reports to Maidstone are referred to Portsmouth for follow-up action.)

### **Conclusion**

The Forum was delighted that so many people came along to Meon School for the last meeting - 85 residents was a good turnout - so we hope we have got the venue right! Thank you all for your interest and contributions to the meeting and please do come along to the next Open Forum Meeting on Wednesday, 15 February 2006 at 7p.m.

*Chairwoman*

## **PAYTEC ONLINE**

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## 'Top tips' for safer cycling in Portsmouth

**A** few notes that may be helpful for new or returning cyclists to supplement the cycle map. Please note that this advice is offered in good faith by a middle-aged returned cyclist who had to learn some lessons the hard way! It is not official guidance and may not strictly adhere to the letter of the law or local by-laws although it does reflect discussions with council officers and police officers of what may be considered responsible good practice. Like everything worth doing cycling has some risks but there are simple things you can do to help reduce these.

1. Make sure your cycle is safe to ride - reliable brakes and steering are essential in Portsmouth, numerous gears aren't! Local cycle shops are very helpful in inspecting cycles and quoting for repairs.
2. Wear something bright - high visibility (yellow) jackets are ideal, but a colourful jacket or short coat can be nearly as good in daylight (but not at night). A helmet can reduce head injuries.
3. Don't wear a long coat or anything that could get caught in the chain.
4. Tyres inflated to the right pressure reduce effort.
5. Don't carry bags on the handlebars - a pair of cheap panniers and/or a rack will safely carry more.
6. Lights are essential at night. Legally, a non-flashing white light to the front and non-flashing red to the rear are required. A flashing red light is more visible and should enable most car drivers to identify you as a cyclist rather than a motorbike or scooter.
7. Keep a generous distance from the kerb and when passing parked cars - drivers and passengers opening doors without looking and rubbish at the edge of the road that can puncture tyres or affect steering are hazards you can minimise. Also, a generous clearance will make you more obvious to an approaching driver (who should then think more carefully about passing you - or not) and you have a 'safety zone' to move into should something unforeseen occur.
8. Be especially careful around large lorries - assume that the driver can't see you and behave accordingly. Remember that a large lorry will often start to turn right before immediately swinging left.
9. If you are uncomfortable in heavy traffic there are usually alternative routes using back roads. Most people can cycle three or four times as fast as they can walk with no more effort, so a little extra distance isn't usually a problem for a safer or more pleasant route.



10. Signal and manoeuvre in good time when approaching junctions. If you have eye contact with drivers you are reassured that they have seen you. At busy junctions there is no shame in getting off and pushing, using any zebra or pelican crossing provided.
11. On shared cycle/footpaths be considerate to pedestrians and expect them to do the unexpected - particularly young children.
12. Whilst there are by-laws that prohibit cycling in city parks, considerate cyclists recognising the rights of other park users generally do not experience problems.
13. Don't cycle with headphones or earphones. Although an increasing number of cyclists do, they are both distracting and prevent you from hearing what is going on around you; the more information you have, the safer you can ride.
14. Unfortunately cycle theft can't be ignored. Use a good quality lock to secure your cycle to a cycle stand or other fixed item.

Written down it almost seems that cycling is a recipe for disaster. But in reality, most of it is common sense and the evidence is that the health benefits alone of cycling outweigh the risks by many times. Studies have shown that regular cyclists have the fitness levels of people ten years their junior. Cycling can contribute to the 30 minutes of exercise three times a week that is recommended for adults and which helps to reduce the risks of many serious illnesses.

On top of that, each mile cycled instead of using the car saves around 20p in fuel, tyres, servicing, etc. so two miles to the city centre and home again each day for 100 days saves £80, even more if you have to pay for parking. Cycle all year round and the same daily commuting journey could save you £175 or more!

### *North Milton to the city centre*

This route should be particularly useful to those living in the Moorings Way area. Cross Eastern Road at the Kirpal Road (former Eastern Road Depot site) 'toucan' crossing. At the far end of Kirpal Road follow the new path across Tamworth Field to Tamworth Road, then turn left into Lichfield Road and right into Langstone Road. Cross St Mary's Road roundabout (walk if appropriate) into St Mary's Road and use the new foot/cyclebridge over the railway. Go into Kingston Recreation Ground, out into Walmer Road, across Fratton Road at the toucan crossing turning left then right into Sydenham Terrace. At the end of Sydenham Terrace turn right for ASDA/WalMart, straight on for the city centre and left followed by right for the Civic Offices and Guildhall Square (via Greetham Street).

*Happy - and safe - cycling in 2006!*



## St. James Pre-School goes 'green'!

The Chair of the St. James Community Pre-school, Donna Bish, invited parents and members of the Milton community to their Fairtrade Coffee morning and Open Day on 30 November in the St. James Church Hall. The event celebrated the efforts of the children - who join the pre-school from 2 years, 9 months - at working to explore issues of healthy living, composting, fair trade, recycling and organic growing. The pre-school has received an 'Awards for All' grant for our 'Happy Planet' project, which paid the salary of an artist - Michele Millidge, bought a digital camera, display boards and paid for trips to raise the children's awareness of the environment.

The children performed a charming 'music and movement' linking hands and feet to one another to show how we are all dependent on each other's actions on the planet. Fair trade refreshments were on offer and the open day was supported by Friends of the Earth, the local Co-operative, Southsea Health Shop in Albert Road, the Greener Living shop in Copnor Road and of course, the efforts of the children and parents.

Certificates were presented to the 'Recycling Rascals' by Councillor Caroline Scott for their artwork, collections of stamps, foil tops, beach-cleaning efforts, and their knowledge of organic vegetables and fruit.

Registered with the Pre-School Alliance, the St. James school is open during term-times. Visit their website at [www.stjamespreschool.co.uk](http://www.stjamespreschool.co.uk) or send an e-mail to [mail@stjamespreschool.co.uk](mailto:mail@stjamespreschool.co.uk) for details of places and prices. Ofsted registered, the Government funds places of up to five sessions per week (38 per year from April 06) for children after their third birthday.





## Year of the Volunteer - 2005

**D**emetris Papanicolaou received his Volunteering Award from the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth. Demetris has been active in Neighbourhood Watch in the Fratton area for many years. As Chair of the Portsmouth Anglo-Hellenic Society he has promoted Greek culture, language and friendship in the City.



In addition, Demetris has been a member of the Milton Neighbourhood Forum Committee for many years. His suggestion of setting up a community newsletter for the Forum, led to *Milton Matters*. His contribution to all these activities was recognised at the award ceremony in the Guildhall in December. 'Congratulations, Demetris'.

### KODOKAN JUDO CLUB

The Kodokan Judo Club meets on the following days:

#### **Tuesday**

At: St Cuthbert's Church, Hayling Avenue.

From: 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Ages: Junior 6 to 12 years old

#### **Friday**

Buckland Community Centre, Malins Road

From: 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Ages: Teens to adults.

#### **Sunday**

Havelock Community Centre, Fawcett Road, Southsea

From: 10 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

Ages: Teens to adults.

Self defence courses given free

Ring George on 023 9273 3683 - All clubs cost £1.50 per session.



## Residents' parking update

The results of the residents parking survey for central Southsea, including the roads in Milton that were listed on Page 11 of *Milton Matters* (issue 27, September 2005) have now been collated.

There is insufficient space to include a road-by-road analysis in this magazine, however the survey appears to indicate a substantial level of support.

Our analysis of the Milton roads indicates that there were 2,027 replies to the residents' survey of which 1322 were in favour of a scheme and 672 were against (33 replies were undecided).

Across Central Southsea as a whole, 12,137 forms were distributed and 4,990 replies were received.

The replies show the following analysis:

Residents wishing to be included in the scheme	3,210 (64%)
Residents not wishing to be included in the scheme	1,677 (34%)
Residents preferring a scheme for 7 days a week	2,494 (50%)
Residents preferring Monday to Friday only	216 (4%)
Residents preferring a weekend only scheme	146 (3%)
Residents preferring a 24 hours a day scheme	72%

In reply to our enquiries, Portsmouth City Council states that 'the results of this survey do indicate that the majority of the residents who responded show support for a scheme to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week'. However, no decision has yet been made as to whether a parking scheme or schemes will be proposed for the area. And because the area is large any scheme proposed might need to be broken down into smaller sections to assist enforcement.

The Council explained that if a scheme is proposed for the area or parts of it, this will require advertisement in *The News* and in the local area (on lampposts), which will allow residents to express their views as to whether they are for or against a scheme being proposed. Once the statutory time period for advertising has finished, all responses are included in a report to the Executive Member for Traffic and Transportation for approval.

If a scheme is approved, a Traffic Regulation Order has then to be made where an operational date can then be established and road linage and signs can be put in place and permit application packs will then also be sent to all residents within the area.

At present, there is no timescale set out regarding this matter, but the Forum will keep residents advised of developments.



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Mr Graham Cooke specialises in Matrimonial, General Litigation and Care for the Elderly, including Enduring Power of Attorney. He is the chairman of the local branch of Alzheimer's Society, and visits Carers Groups on request.



Mr Robert Stone and Miss Iris Durham specialise in advising the elderly and their relatives as to Enduring Powers of Attorney, Rest Homes and safeguarding their assets. Mr Stone also deals with Wills, Tax, Trusts and Estates administration.

Miss Alison Hulmes and Mr David Woodward specialise in the buying and selling of houses and remortgages.

Margaret Stroud deals with conveyancing matters.



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# GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

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# MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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Mrs J Burkinshaw  
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Milton, PO4 8YN

## **VICE CHAIRMAN**

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31 Broom Square  
Milton, PO4 8LP

## **TREASURER**

**&**

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## **LINK OFFICER**

Mr L Nicholas  
Link Officer  
Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
PORTSMOUTH

## **MILTON FORUM REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs P Priest  
10 Broom Square  
Milton, PO4 8LP

Mr P Mills  
28 Morgan Road  
Milton, PO4 8JS

Mrs L Mills  
28 Morgan Road  
Milton, PO4 8JS

Mr D Papanicolaou  
11 Apsley Road  
Milton, PO4 8RH

Ms L Parsons  
23 Glasgow Road  
Milton, PO4 8HR

## **Co-opted members**

Lyn Timms  
Liz Head-Rapson  
Milton Cross Parents'  
Association

## **WARD COUNCILLORS MILTON**

Councillor A Bentley  
35 Stanley Avenue  
Copnor, PO3 6PL  
(023 9261 0285)

Councillor C Scott  
15 Locksway Road  
Milton, PO4 8JN  
(023 9229 1118)

Cllr. G Vernon-Jackson  
39 Lindley Avenue  
Portsmouth, PO4 9NT  
(023 9283 4551)

## **BAFFINS**

Councillor N Bentley  
35 Stanley Avenue  
Copnor, PO3 6PL  
(023 9261 0285)

Councillor G Goble  
34 Gladys Avenue  
North End  
Portsmouth, PO2 9BG  
(023 9251 4744)

Councillor M Andrews  
53 Mafeking Road  
Portsmouth  
PO4 9BG  
(023 9286 1055)

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/](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/)  
Your council/Neighbourhood Forums  
or e-mail:  
[neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

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