

From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman

December 2009

Your parish council has been very active during the past few months dealing with a whole range of issues which affect our village. We are in the final stage of concluding an agreement with the developers of the proposed retirement village on the former EDF site, who are obliged to provide much-needed recreation space for the parish. We have negotiated terms for the onsite construction and long-term lease of playing fields, as well as a sports pavilion and car park.

More information for the proposed rowing lake has also been received and we are looking into a host of issues, including drainage and flood risk, which could have a significant impact on the village. We are keen to facilitate dialogue between the various agencies involved, making them aware of our concerns while also providing them with local knowledge of the area.

Parish councillors joined with your district councillors to attend the appeal for the proposed construction of a hotel on the field between the A14 and Tesco. We lobbied for the Planning Inspector to uphold the refusal decision on the grounds that this area of Green Belt land was the last natural boundary separating Milton from the city of Cambridge. The appeal decision is due to be announced later this month.

The widening of the A14 is another issue we are monitoring. Our concern here is for the impact of increased noise on areas of the village, including the Country Park. We have set up an Ad Hoc Group of councillors, residents and representatives from the Country Park and the Cam Conservators to lobby both the Highways Agency and our Local MP James Paice to provide sound barriers along the Milton stretch of the A14.

We are also keeping an eye on any developments with the Milton to Impington Cycleway. A large number of residents attended our September parish council meeting to voice their concern over this issue. Although there are obvious benefits for having such a cycle route, there are two main concerns. The first is that the current proposal is not adequate as it fails to address key safety issues such as the state of the footbridge across the A10. The second is that a likely knock-on effect would be the removal of the free bus service to Impington Village College. This service is used by a large number of Milton young people.

Managers at Milton Country Park as well as local business owners are very concerned about parking problems along the entrance road to the Country Park. The parish council voted to support the installation of double yellow lines along the road (which will be funded by both the Country Park and local businesses).

Unfortunately, crime has been on the increase in the village during the past few months with incidents of vandalism and graffiti spraying. As a result, Milton has become a high priority area for police and increased patrols have succeeded in diffusing the situation. Also, members of the Parish Plan have launched a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and I

encourage all residents interested in joining to contact the scheme leader Ian Jones (Tel. 0780 162 5458; email: ian.jd1@tesco.net).

In addition to dealing with these issues, a number of councillors have also taken part in training, which was organised by our parish clerk Jim Daniels, to learn more about the functions and powers of parish councils. I believe it is important to keep abreast of the latest government guidelines and information in order to ensure that we are serving the parish as best we can.

Rob Chapman

Chairman Milton Parish Council