

From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman

April 2010

Proposed Retirement Village on Ely Road

As I mentioned in the last issue of this magazine, the parish has a one-time option either to lease playing fields (with a purpose-built sports pavilion and car park) at the proposed retirement village or to receive a cash sum (of £200,000) which would be used to provide recreation space elsewhere in the village. We have received letters from residents giving their views on this issue. Some have asked for more information. The size of the area to be leased would be just under four acres, or the size of two junior football pitches. I would like to stress that, although it is specified in the lease that the fields shall be prepared to Football Association (FA) standards, the playing fields would be for general recreation use and not limited to football. If the parish decides not to lease the fields, they will be incorporated into the rest of the Humphry Repton landscape which the developer is restoring at the former EDF site.

The Parish Council has consulted with clubs affiliated with the Milton Community Centre and one of their main concerns is that the parcel of land offered for lease is not large enough to accommodate their needs. This brings up the issue of alternative sites. For over a decade (since the parish sold some recreation land to make way for the sheltered housing scheme, Barnabas Court), the Parish Council has been actively trying to acquire land within the village for recreation use. One site adjacent to Landbeach Road would potentially offer more land, but there is a concern for the safety of children crossing the A10. The parish council is currently looking into another site adjacent to Ely Road across from the College of West Anglia. Although there is obvious benefit for the parish to own rather than lease recreation space, you are no doubt well aware that land does not come cheaply, and there are associated costs as well, such as preparing the ground for recreation use, construction of a pavilion with changing rooms, car park, etc.

I believe it is vital that the parish makes the right choice on this issue. The topic will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday April 19th, and I encourage all residents who have views on the issue to attend that meeting. As negotiations continue, I hope the parish council will be in a position to shed more light on possible alternative sites at that time.

New PCSO

I would like to welcome PCSO John Mason, the new Police Community Support Officer for Milton. John replaces PCSO Claire Whiteman. On behalf of the village, I have thanked Claire for her hard work and commitment to Milton and wished her every success in her new placement.

Youth

Milton Action for Youth was set up some time ago to help oversee the youth work in the village and activities which are held in the Milton Youth Centre adjacent to The Sycamores Recreation ground. They have received a grant from Awards for All (the Lottery grants scheme), which has been applied to providing First Aid training, a Babysitting Course, and a Youth Work Course for the Girls Club. A girls group now meets weekly in addition to the junior and senior clubs. You can find out more about Milton Action for Youth by attending the Annual Parish Meeting on April 19th.

Double yellow lines on Industrial Estate

Representatives from Milton Country Park and local business owners have requested the Parish Council's assistance in installing double yellow along the Cambridge Road Industrial Estate. The Parish Council has been facilitating negotiations with the County Council and a plan is being developed to install double yellow lines along much of the industrial estate due to parking and traffic safety concerns.

Community Care

Our Community Care scheme received a grant from the County Council and continues to provide vital services for Milton residents. Our clerk, Jim Daniels, is very proud of this scheme and believes it is one of the largest in South Cambridgeshire. Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon and her assistant Linda Harding are doing excellent work and I commend them on their service and dedication.

Rob Chapman

Chairman Milton Parish Council