

# Impact

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Summer 2003

The newsletter for Petersfield Area Community Trust



**PACT**  
Petersfield Area  
Community Trust  
www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact  
e: PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com tel 01223 570157



## SUMMER EVENT

**PACT's 5th summer event is on Saturday, 28th June, St Matthew's Piece, 1- 4pm.**

**FREE tea and coffee.** Bring a picnic and join in the fun!

Demonstrations, crafts and unusual gifts.

Car boot? No! Wheel-barrow SALE - Book a pitch for £2, call Glenys on 570157.

## FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

If the weather is bad we'll move to the Large Hall of Red Studio

All proceeds to support PACT activities on behalf of Petersfield residents

**Do you want to book a Craft stall?** Or would you like to help organise future PACT events? We'd love to hear from you! Call Glenys on 570157.

## Want to know more about how we work?

Make a note in your diary now to come along to the AGM on Wed 5th November at St Matthew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. We even supply wine, coffee and a guest speaker!

## Community Party

Wed 3th December at St Matthew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Enjoy more wine, refreshments and find out more about where you live!

## PACT - What's it All About?



Cutting the Golden Jubilee cakes at last year's Summer Event -it was a huge success with maypole dancing and many people booking pitches.

For the last 5 years, PACT has been campaigning actively on behalf of local residents on issues that PACT members raise. We welcome any newcomers to the area, and hope this 5th annual issue of ImPACT will be of interest to all local residents.

Spectacular successes since the last issue of ImPACT include:

- Unveiling of proposals for a new Community Centre for Petersfield. This is part of the plans for the Eastern Gate development on Newmarket Rd/Harvest Way. As ImPACT goes to press, these plans are due to be discussed at the April City Council Planning Committee.
- Arranging a July 2002 public meeting on 'Making Petersfield a Safer Place?', with the Community Safety Partnership, and supporting a follow-up public meeting in March 2003.
- Establishing a thriving weekly Over 50s Club at the Cherry Trees (see p. 5).
- PACT's best ever Summer Event on St Matthew's Piece, with around 250 adults and children enjoying the newly grassed area behind the

Howard Mallett Centre.

- Opening the Millennium Gardens on Norfolk Street, by the Mayor (see p. 2)

PACT also works hard for progress on:

- writing a Business Plan for the planned new community centre (see p. 6);
- supporting the new Petersfield Community Forum (see p. 3)
- chasing up the agencies that should be delivering youth services in Petersfield (see p. 5);
- pursuing PACT's formal complaint to the County Council and Parkside Governors regarding the management of the Howard Mallett Centre (see page 2);
- supporting Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Advisory Group (COPAG) on matters of importance to older people (see p. 3);
- making sure that \$106 money from big building projects in Petersfield is spent on what local people want and need - like improvements to St Matthew's Piece (see p. 6);

- commenting on the new County Structure Plan and new decision-making structures at the City Council, as well as proposed changes in local provision for the homeless;
- helping local residents on local planning applications, including protecting the mature trees in front of APU on East Road (see p. 6);
- trying to have our streets be better and safer - places where people live, rather than short cuts for cars (see p.2);
- campaigning for Stagecoach to reduce prices (some tickets have gone up by 60% in just 3 years) and improve reliability, frequency and local routes;
- producing this 5th annual issue of ImPACT, with 3,000 free copies distributed to Petersfield homes, groups and businesses;
- maintaining a new community noticeboard on Norfolk St, with up-to-date local news (see p. 2);
- keeping PACT's website <http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact> up to date;
- holding regular committee meetings to maintain progress on all this and more!

PACT is especially grateful for the recent important and active contributions of new members. Fresh faces are always welcome in PACT, on its working parties and on its management committee. There are many ways in which you can become involved (see p.5). 2003 is shaping up to be another year of vigorous and constructive local community action - and you are welcome to help guide this!"

## PACT Website

The PACT website is regularly updated with information about the activities of PACT and news of events. Its address is:

<http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact/>

If there's something you think should be added to the site please contact us. Our easy-to-remember email address can redirect mail to the most appropriate Management Committee member:  
[PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com](mailto:PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com)

If you haven't got access to the Internet at home, remember that you can get online at free public access points around the City. Those near Petersfield are:

- Citizen's Advice Bureau, 72/74 Newmarket Road, tel. 361418.
- Romsey Mill, Hemingford Road, tel. 213162.
- Centre 33, 33 Clarendon Street, tel. 316488. (For young people to age 25 only)
- Indian Cultural and Community Association Bharat Bhavan, 117 Mill Road, tel. 319431 or 564477. (Member groups only - also offers In-Touch Multilingual Project)

## Have you noticed?

With so much going on in Petersfield, and the busy lives we lead, it's easy to overlook what's been done in the streets around where we live. So keep your eyes open, and look out for the...

1. *Millennium Garden.* You saw it in the newspapers, come and enjoy the real thing. Replanting of perished plants should have happened by the time you read this, and we're hoping that this year there won't be any more plant thefts... While you're there, have a look at the community mosaic on the wall. It represents Petersfield Open Spaces, and was created by people from Ditchburn Day Centre. A second mosaic is in the making too: this time by young adults from the Papworth Trust together with a couple of people from Cherry Trees Day Centre. Contact Anna on C.566772 for further information.

2. *Community noticeboard* On a pillar by the new Millennium Garden on the corner of St. Matthew's / Norfolk Street. Find information about Petersfield, and up-and-coming events. Do you have anything you want to display?

Priority will be given to local community groups.

3. *Benches/seats* You've seen them come, you've seen them go... Watch out for the new ones planned for St. Matthew's Piece. And what about the Millennium Garden -- do we want some there? Have your say - contact PACT, or better still, John Roebuck at Cambridge City Council, Hobson House, 44 St Andrews Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AS. Tel: 01223 457000

4. *Traffic calming.* Irritating during construction, and provoking decidedly mixed feelings in us now, Norfolk Street gives new meaning to "bumpy ride"... Comments (whether positive or negative) should be addressed to any of our Petersfield Ward Councillors.

5. *Building works.* You can't have missed all the cranes! Or the noise, dust, and activity on numerous sites around Petersfield. Hopefully the results will be worth it. (See also the Planning article on pp.6-7)

Are there other issues you would like PACT to highlight? What else would you like to see? Tell one of these people!

## But What About?

1. *Specking of trees*-- did you know that Cambridgeshire has the fewest trees of any county in the whole of Britain?! It's worth hanging on to the trees we've got! When APU wanted to chop down the existing healthy plane trees, and replace them with small ornamental trees, PACT and the community objected, and plans were refused.

2. *What's in a name?* Have you ever wondered who chooses the names of streets and buildings, and why? Some choices seem to make real sense (eg, Ainsworth Court leading off Ainsworth Street). Others make less sense (Cambridge even has a street named after elastic bands! Yes, that's where "Velos Walk" got its name...) Local developers are free to name all their projects under construction. Subsequently however, local Councillors are consulted, and final responsibility rests with the City Council. But you

can make a difference. You can give the Council your opinion about names for new developments through PACT, your residents' association, councillor or directly to the Planning Department. With this in mind, "Scholars Court" on York Street seemed out of place, and (after various tongue-in-cheek suggestions such as Costa Lot or Silverwood Views) has now been formally renamed St Matthew's Gardens.

3. *BUT there are some things we can't influence* No-one is able or permitted to affect the design of the monstrosity which is to be our new Crown Court on New Street. This is because Crown property falls outside the jurisdiction of local planning. The powers of the Planning Committee are limited to 'not approving'. They cannot 'refuse'. If they 'do not approve' then the plans are called in by the Secretary of State who sets up a public inquiry.

## What about the old Howard Mallett Centre?

PACT's made a formal complaint in December 2001 to the County Council and Parkside School Governors. This was about problems the local community has had with the way the former Howard Mallett Centre is being managed. The Council deferred to Parkside Governors, who rejected PACT's complaint. At an appeal hearing, in July 2002, PACT asked for:

- those responsible for managing the premises to fulfill their responsibilities;
- better community access to recreational and leisure activities in the building and

on the land around it;

- delivery of youthwork in Petersfield using money formally intended for that purpose.

Regrettably, PACT has not even yet received a complete and accurate set of Minutes from the appeal hearing!

The PACT management committee is still seeking the best course of action to attain the important community objectives listed above. Anyone who would like to get involved in helping to progress this can contact PACT via [PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com](mailto:PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com) or 01223 364479.

## Who's who?

Tel 560591, email [PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com](mailto:PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com) or via our website [www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact/](http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact/)

Chair: Nicky Glegg

Secretary/Web: Daniel Gordon

Planning: Glenys Malyon

Treasurer: Helen Wright

Fundraising: Richard Allen

BGOP: Dorothy Runnides

Millennium Project: Anna Lindsay

Streets for People/Youth: John Collins

Committee member: Valerie Neal

City Council Noise Disturbance: 457457

Live at Home Scheme: 566081

Priory Residents Association: 571162

St Matthew's Residents Asso.: 560114

Cllr. Ben Bradnack: 570813

Cllr. Kevin Blencowe: 464066

Cllr. Bachan Bhalla: 01954 780505

## Neighbourhood Links

Streetscene is keen to improve your environment by enlisting volunteers from community organisations ("Neighbourhood Links") to report problems to the Council. As a "Neighbourhood Link", you will be invited to take part in two walkabouts a year with a Team Leader to agree maintenance problems and you will have a direct link to the Council services who have responsibility for street cleanliness. Streetscene will obviously continue to inspect local areas, but cannot be everywhere at once and this is where you can help us. The ultimate aim is to have one "Neighbourhood Link" in the city's 53 neighbourhoods. Contact Richard on 458282.

## Coming Next

Following the public consultation held by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City Council in May 2002, St. Matthew's Piece has been promised some major improvements. The priorities identified by residents at the consultation meeting last May were a) additional play equipment, b) close-set railings on the York St side of the park and c) re-surfacing of the footpaths. We're still awaiting these!

But in the meantime, more seats are due to appear in the near future. We're also hoping that the raised manhole covers behind the Red Studio will be made safer for people making recreational use of the York Street side of the old Howard Mallett Centre.

# Better Government For Older People

Cambridgeshire has a network group of Councillors, Officers and Older people Advisors (of whom I am one), called COPAG. That stands for Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Advisory Group, which has its own webpage at <http://copag.members.beeb.net/>. COPAG considers issues of concern to older people.

Transport is currently high on the agenda because it has such an important impact on our quality of life, whether you live in town or in a rural area. COPAG has been speaking to the Transport Officers of both the City and the County about the shortcomings in our local services. We have also been

singing the praises of the free City shuttle bus that many of us use to get around the City centre.

By the way, older people are those over 50 for the purposes of Better Government For Older People! With so many redundancies in the 50s age group, people are beginning to

recognise what ageism is all about!

Do you have special concerns that you would like me to raise at COPAG? Would you like more

information? Please let me (Dorothy Runnicles, 01223 462318) hear from you if you are interested.

*'With so many redundancies in the 50s age group, people are beginning to recognise what ageism is all about!'*

*digital ink*

## Community Forum

There is no such thing as a free lunch. Or so they say! However, once every 2 months, Cambridge City Council invites local residents of the Petersfield/St.Matthew's area to get together at local venues and talk about issues of local interest. Community Development Officer Paula Bishop, along with others from the council who are involved in the area, are there. It's the chance to put faces to names and to raise topics which are important to you or your area. Things which we've discussed at meetings so far include youth service provision, the need for seating for elderly residents and shoppers, and strategies for addressing issues raised by the level of homelessness in our area. Come along - lunch at the "Mingle Munches" really is free and your opinion really does matter! If you would like details of the next Forum or Mingle Munch, contact Paula Bishop on 457872 or Miranda Bailey on 457871.



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## Over 50s Club

at Cherry Trees Day Centre on Fridays 10.30am - 12

We were so saddened to see The Cherry Trees Centre for Older People in St Matthews Street which seemed unused by local people. PACT raised the issue at the Petersfield Forum and got help from Caroline Biggs, from the City's Community Development team and a small start-up grant from the City Council. This helped us to move the Coffee morning, previously held at the Red Studio, to this more suitable setting.

We pay rent to Age Concern for the use of the Centre and we are now self supporting. By open discussion and suggestions we have achieved a varied programme to suit all tastes and the numbers of those attending have grown weekly.

We welcome local older people who want to get out and enjoy a break with others. Members participate in the running of the

club and we have a rota of coffee makers, a Music Master, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, a Bingo caller and a planning group.

There is room for more input from older people, wanting to get out, participate and speak up for our age!

We have also participated in some collective action when we learnt that the trees were at risk in East Road. We signed the PACT petition and helped to save them!

As well as the expertise of our members we have the help of the Advice worker. Do look at our programme when you next pass the Centre or PACT's Notice Board by the Millennium in Norfolk St.

We have some help available for the less mobile who want to try coming.

Dorothy Runnicles 462318

## Young People in Petersfield

Ever since the Howard Mallet Centre (now called Red Studio) was closed down (a process which started in 1996) PACT has been asking for replacement youth activities to be provided. There have been some encouraging signs recently. Firstly, the City Council produced a newsletter: 'Petersfield Children and Youth - December 2002 to March 2003', advertising activities for children and young people (the contact for future editions is Miranda Bailey tel 457871). Secondly, Parkside Community Education organised a half-term event for 13 to 17-year-olds at Red Studio. Thirdly, but not least, Neil Wishart (currently Petersfield's Reccy Ranger from the City Council Children's Team) continues to run sessions on St. Matthew's Piece, York Street or in Red Studio Community Room, overlooking the park, on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15 to 5.00pm. All children and young people are welcome to turn up. Activities include table tennis, football, games, arts and crafts. Neil will shortly be joining Parkside Community Education as a Youth and Community Worker, but plans to continue some of the work he's started (in partnership with the Children's Team) as well as developing new work for young people in Petersfield.

On the down side, Parkside Community Education have stopped running the Junior Youth Club which used to meet at St. Matthew's Church Hall. Also, every year £20,000 is paid to Parkside Community College by the lessee of the former Howard Mallet Centre. It is a planning obligation that this money has to be spent on a youth worker. PACT continues to campaign for this money to be spent as stipulated.

## Membership Form

I would like to join PACT (annual sub): Adult £1 ☐ Under-18 50p ☐ Group £2 ☐

I would like to make a donation of £.....

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Petersfield Area Community Trust

If you would like information on joining a working party or the Management Committee meeting please tick here ☐

PACT welcomes feedback about this newsletter and its work, please write to us at the address below.

### My details

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Tel .....

email.....

Please post your form to PACT, c/o 3 Rexbury Ct, Sturton St, Cambridge CB1 2RU. Or call 354079 or email [PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com](mailto:PACTCambridge@bigfoot.com)

I agree to be bound by the PACT rules and constitution available at [www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact](http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/forum/pact) or by contacting PACT (see above). I understand that my membership is subject to approval. If you object to PACT holding your details please tick here ☐ (note that PACT doesn't sell or give members' details to other parties).

Signed:.....

Date: .....

Office use:

Subscription paid.....

Date..... Amount.....

## Are you running a community-minded, local business?

You can get involved with your community association, Petersfield Area Community Trust, in several ways. Place an advert or leaflet in Impact - from just £12 you can reach over 3,000 homes and groups right on your doorstep! You can join PACT as a group for just £2 per year. You can also make a donation that goes directly back into improving the area where you work. Just complete the form above, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

# Planning News

There has been some let-up in the furious pace of planning applications and subsequent campaigning to secure amendments to over-the-top proposals from developers.

Fewer of those white, windowed, envelopes are dropping through our letter boxes. We used to dread opening yet another one! But we shouldn't knock the system. There is no statutory requirement on the planning authority to advise nearby neighbours individually, in writing, of planning applications but it is very helpful and we have come to rely on it. So much so that, when mistakes occur, as they inevitably occasionally do, the consequences for residents can be disastrous.

In the case of the Labgear site in York Street/Abbey Walk, owners of most of the terraced houses in Sturton Street and York Street, which share a boundary with the development site, were not notified of the earliest application. As a consequence, few objections were raised and the first set of plans - for 20 houses - went through virtually unopposed. PACT feels that, in this case, the omission was inexcusable. Residents also found that, at the

eventual appeal hearing into a later application for 24 houses on an enlarged site, a very weak case was presented on behalf of the City Council - one which did not reflect the grounds for refusal by the Planning Sub-committee. Those of us who were present at the Appeal Hearing also felt that the fact that earlier approval had been given for 20 houses influenced the decision of the planning inspector.

PACT will not, in future, make any assumptions about notification and will try to check that residents are aware of applications in their neighbourhood. Other means of finding out, such as site notices, or public notices in the press, are easily missed.

## Other news

**Philips site, in York St:** Parts of this development are now complete - and even occupied. There seems to have been some slow-down in the pace of building work on the Silverwood Close boundary and the New Street side has yet to be started. This is what a density of 81 dwellings per hectare looks like. (Originally, it was to have

been 89 dwellings per hectare!)

**Foister & Jagg, York St and Abbey Walk:** 11 houses and 1 flat now completed and occupied.

**Ivy Villa, Stone St:** Construction of 7 houses, including a replacement for Ivy Villa itself, well underway.

**ex-CRC Building in Young St:** Plans just in for 18 town houses plus conversion of old Victorian school building to 1 dwelling.

**Simpers site in New St/Abbey St:** Construction work, on houses, has yet to begin.

**Newmarket Rd/Harvest Way:** An outline planning application for mixed-use development, to include offices, houses/flats and a community centre, is expected to go to Planning Sub-committee in April. PACT has been working on a Business Plan for the Community Centre.

**Powertron site, Ainsworth St:** We have no recent news but presume construction is going ahead. Residents were concerned about access to this site.

**CRC building on the Brunswick site, Newmarket Rd:** We have been told that part of this site is to be sold for housing. This is not strictly in Petersfield Ward but is near enough to have an impact.

**APU canopy, East Rd:** Plans were submitted for a large entrance canopy and consequent loss of well-established plane trees (to be replaced by more compact and 'fashionable' trees!). A PACT representative, speaking at the Committee, described this as the ultimate in our throw-away society and the plans were refused. APU may come back with an appeal or a new application. Our thanks to all those who signed our petition and we feel sure that many more of you would have supported it had we been able to reach you in time.

**Station Area revamp:** Proposals are only at the early stages. PACT has asked about the foot/cycle path from Devonshire Road, under the Carter bridge and through the car park, where changes are expected. PACT has been assured, in writing, that the path will be retained - and improved.

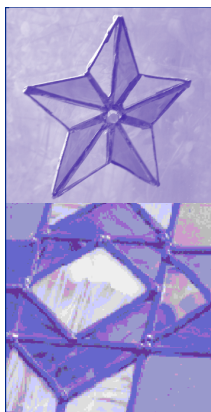
**Skate-boarding facilities:** PACT was pleased that these plans finally gained approval - but wonder when it's all going to happen.

**Doctors' Surgery and Pharmacy in York St:** Construction of this new premises for the surgery currently at 125 Newmarket Road is going on apace.

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## Planning News

### Health Centre for the Homeless, 125 Newmarket Rd:

The soon-to-be-redundant doctors surgery in Newmarket Road has been suggested as a dedicated health centre for the homeless. PACT feels that this is a positive move but nearby residents may well have genuine concerns. A public consultation meeting was held on 6th March - but at extremely short notice.

**Court Buildings:** The Crown Court is currently being built on the corner of East Road/St Matthew's Street. Plans for the County Court on East Road, opposite Zion Baptist Church, were 'not approved' by Committee and there will now be a public inquiry. The Magistrates Court, presently above the Lion Yard car park, is due to be re-located in Trumpington. But a more central site is actively being sought by planners. This would be much more convenient for regular users of this facility!

**St Matthew's Piece:** Last May residents prioritised close-set railings, re-surfacing of paths and additional

play equipment as ways of spending money from developers - but these haven't yet happened. John Roebuck, Parks & Recreation Manager, is waiting for additional financial contributions to come in.

**Former Howard Mallett Centre, Sturton St:** PACT has been engaged in talks with the City Council's Enforcement Officers about obligations and conditions and in correspondence with the County Council about terms of the lease of the former Howard Mallett Centre. Remember that the land to the east of the building should be "open and freely accessible to members of the public at all times" despite the notices on the building! Use this land as open space. All the land on which the Howard Mallett Centre was built belongs to us. It is all part of St Matthew's Piece - right up to New Street. Many of our older residents recall playing on 'the rec', as it once was, and PACT is hoping that these memories can be recorded.

*For advice on planning matters or further information contact Glenys on 570157 or consult our Ward Councillors.*



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