

Truly Scrumptious

SINCE July 5th readers may have seen a small caravan eatery situated in the layby beyond Manor Garage.

Licensed by Taunton Deane, Jenny Dutton has been running 'Truly Scrumptious', her mini restaurant and snackery daily, meeting the needs of passing trade and a number of locals.

Originally from North Curry she has recently moved to Crowcombe Heathfield from where she travels daily towing the caravan.

Trade during the summer months was really busy, made up of passing tourists, lorries and vans, some locals and a number of drivers stopping after deliveries to Grampian Foods.

Some regulars now phone their orders in advance to ensure food is ready on their arrival, but such are the difficulties over reception that when she turned the van to face away from the rain, reception was lost! So far Friday has proved to be the busiest day, Monday the quietest.

Her licence allows her to open from 7.30am to 3.30pm but her summer hours were 8.00am- 3.00pm and winter hours are 8.30am-2.00pm.

The menu consists of all the normal hot and cold drinks, burgers, sausage and bacon, baguettes, salad, char-grilled chicken etc. Customers asking for fish and chips are directed to Wiveliscombe.

She finds lorry drivers, who may be away from home for up to 5 days at a stretch, are increasingly looking for a meal with two courses so she is aiming to widen her scope to meet this demand.

Altogether a nice, clean and friendly place to stop and with Wivey's parking difficulties, no threat to the businesses in the town.

Wiveliscombe Area Partnership (WAP) – Statement of Intent

FORMED in January 2002 this organisation is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

Its members are defined within its articles as follows:

Chairs of the Parish Council, Civic Society, Business Group & WI, Two District Councillors, any number of co-optees (currently three).

The individuals serving at November 1st 2005 are: Anne Angus, Peter Berman, John Bone, Brian Collingridge, Lesley Garner, John Harris, Pauline Homeshaw, Dixon Luxton and Mary Whitmarsh.

WAP was set up to try to deliver a vision for the area which has become known as 'The 10 Parishes'.

Several funded initiatives have arisen along the way, not least of which was the Market and Coastal Towns which resulted in a Community Plan.

WAP has been instrumental in enabling delivery of many of the projects listed in that document both by direct intervention as well as by participation in the driver groups.

The company has just carried out a strategic review of itself which was facilitated by a professional consultant and we have reached some conclusions which we would like to share.

Our Vision remains as it was: "The Social, Economic and Cultural Prosperity of the Community and all who live in it".

Our Strategic Aims are as follows:

- Encourage and support the provision of a wide range of community facilities for the area.

- Be an exemplar of environmental best practice.

- Seek area recognition at Regional, County and District level for the 10 Parishes.

- Champion the provision of quality housing for all sectors of the population.

- Promote equal access to high quality health and welfare provision for the whole community.

- Encourage and support the economic and cultural well-being of the area and its residents.

- Seek to create an environment in which young people can become confident and participative members of the community.

These aims will be supported by objectives and method statements where relevant and these will be posted to the web site in due course.

Whilst responsibility for the delivery of the Community Plan rests with the community, WAP will continue its strategic overview and, through its members, will continue to be involved on individual project groups.

By so doing it will be well placed to make available to the community the considerable resources of WAP and its related bodies.

Our principal aim in writing this document is to make clear the role of WAP within the community and where, by virtue of our strategic activity we represent the community, we will ensure that this is communicated to relevant groups.

WAP will therefore, for the most part, be an enabling body for the community acting strategically whilst continuing to provide those specific services delivered out of the Community Office for which we receive funding from many of the local councils.

The members are proud of the contribution that WAP has been able to make to the community and they will continue this work into the future.

A Children's Centre at last

AT last the 10 Parishes area is to get a Children's Centre providing integrated childcare and early learning, family support and family health services.

This was announced on October 12th by Vicki Taylor, the Manager of Integrated Services, Early Years Play and Childcare at Somerset County Council.

Children's Centres are a key part of delivering the government's "Every Child Matters" policy and promoting a preventative approach to health problems.

This follows a lot of local hard work from parents, councillors, schools and playgroups campaigning over the last six years for a family centre.

For too long this has been a gap in our area's provision which has affected the lives of many local families.

Every community consultation over the last ten years has raised the need for adequate child care and family support. Now we have a timescale.

Consultations with local people were held on October 12th including existing Providers (Childminders, playgroups, etc), Stakeholders (schools, health services and social services) and local Representatives (Parish and District Councillors, Wiveliscombe Area Partnership) to outline what is proposed.

So what are we getting?

Children's Centres are to be set up across the county. All Children's Centres will be 'one stop shops' offering the following core services:

a) Early Education integrated with day care for babies and children until they reach school age.

- Day Care suitable for working parents, 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day.

- Support for Childminders, who may also offer wrap around care.

- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families.

b) Family Support and outreach to parents.

- Visits to all children in the catchment area within two months of birth.

- Parenting support and information as well as specific support for families in need and 'hard to reach' families.

- Information and advice on parenting skills

c) Child and Family Health services.

- Ante-natal advice and support for parents.

- Speech and Language specialist support and smoking cessation sessions

d) Links with schools and Children's Information Services (CIS).

- Links to extended schools, play schemes, before and after school play and learning.

- Links with Jobcentre Plus.
- Encouragement and support for parents who wish to consider training and employment.

When will it happen?
The 10 Parishes Children's Centre must open by March 2008 at the latest to meet the deadlines set by the Department for Education and Science.

At the meetings on October 12th we were told that Wiveliscombe's will be a new building of a reasonable size to meet the needs of our communities.

By December the site has to be identified (possibly the pony paddock on Croft Way as it is already owned by the County Council) and by May 2006, Design and Planning needs to be completed.

What next?
A local steering group is being established to include partners from the public authorities (health, early years, social services, etc) and local community representatives including members of the former Community Facility working group (schools, playgroups, parish and district councils, WAP, childminders, parents and other representatives).

"This is a fantastic opportunity for local families," said Steering Group chair Jenny Carey-Wood. "We also have funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Regional Development Agency to do a Feasibility Study on developing some complementary activities on the same site."

"We will work with experienced consultants to identify what particular needs of our area can be met alongside the Children's Centre, whether for young people, business people, our creative industries or public agencies."

If anyone wants further information, please contact Paul Cottingham on 01984 624777.

Cancer Research Collection

MANY thanks to all those kind people who went around knocking on doors and rattling their tins for this very worthwhile cause.

The grand total raised in Wiveliscombe, Milverton and surrounding villages and hamlets was in excess of £2,000. Every year the amount that is raised increases! This is a fantastic sum.

However, there are still a few villages that are not yet covered. Are there any people out there who would be willing to help in 2006?

The CRC is held during the second and third weeks in September. The areas not yet covered are Ash Priors, Bathelton, Brompton Ralph, Cotford St Luke, Hill Common, Pitsford Hill, Raleigh's Cross and Whitefield.

If you can help please contact Bridget Turnbull on 01984 623330 or email to simonturnbull@aol.com

YOGA

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Local grower wins national award



AN organic grower from Milverton has won a prestigious national award.

Mandy Goddard, of Spring Grove Market Garden, was presented with the Loraine Award at this year's Soil Association AGM. The award is given annually to a holding demonstrating the best practical combination of nature conservation with good organic husbandry.

Spring Grove Market Garden grows wholesome organic vegetables for the local community. Mandy started the business from scratch four years ago and

now grows enough produce to supply 60 customers in Milverton, Wiveliscombe and Wellington through a box scheme.

Two other women have recently become involved as business partners and next year they plan to expand the growing area and to grow flowers as well as vegetables.

They plan to have enough produce to increase the number of weekly boxes and to run a market stall. Look out for them at Taunton Farmer's Market next summer.

For further information contact 07956 439531.