

MEON VALLEY GREENS

GREEN NEWS

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

Malcolm Wallace
WORKING HARD FOR YOU
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DROXFORD, HAMBLEDON, SOBERTON, SWANMORE, WALTHAM CHASE

IT'S MIXED NEWS ON THE ROADS – WITH ONE CERTAINTY YET MORE TRAFFIC FOR THE MEON VALLEY

For years residents have been raising concerns about excessive vehicle noise and speeding.

GOOD – The Police & Crime Commissioner has committed to install average speed cameras and traffic light cameras on the A32 & A272.

MIDDLING – For the third time in 10 years, the County Council are looking at reducing speed limits in residential areas to 20mph.

The Green Party is pushing for more progress to be made this time (20 is plenty)!

BAD – Hampshire County Council have come clean with news that the planned changes at M27 Junction 10 (changing the Wickham junction to be all-way) will “lead to increased traffic on our roads, including the A32, and pressure on our infrastructure, such as schools and doctors' surgeries.”



Local campaigner Malcolm Wallace says, “The council appears to have forgotten that the Meon Valley is a beautiful part of the world that needs protecting. Over-development threatens to change the valley forever. It's time we stopped this madness!”

THE MEON VALLEY FOOD BANK

was set up in 2015 to help families who are at crisis point and in need of support through the provision of food. The food bank has helped over 3,000 adults and children from across the Meon Valley.

Donations can be made online or at drop-off points across the Valley – see website for details: www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE AT CRISIS POINT

SUPPORTING OUR FOOD BANK

According to the latest Government figures **1,792 children in the Meon Valley currently live in absolute poverty**, with the number anticipated to increase this year driven by factors including the withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, the increase in National Insurance Contributions in April as well as rising inflation.

Malcolm says, “It's shocking that Food Banks are still necessary in 2022, but it's more important than ever for us to support the most vulnerable in our community. The use of Food Banks across the UK has grown massively from around 62,000 food parcels distributed in 2010 to over 2.5 million food parcels in 2020.”

MEON GREENS - WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

IF IT BREAKS - DON'T JUST THROW IT AWAY

MEON VALLEY REPAIR CAFÉ NOW OPEN

A repair café has opened in Waltham Chase. People are invited to bring along portable domestic items that are broken. The team of volunteers will then try to repair the damage. Since it opened in September, items that have already been repaired and returned to their owners include a wooden chair, an exercise bike, and a vacuum cleaner!

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help, or to go along for a coffee and chat with the team. The aim – to reduce waste, cut carbon and help with Climate Change. Malcolm says, **“What a great idea!”**

Note: Another repair café is scheduled to open in Hambledon in March!



The Waltham Chase Repair Café is scheduled to be open from 10am-12 noon on the first Saturday morning of the month at Waltham Chase Methodist Church – why not pay them a visit?

SWANMORE COLLEGE POWERS UP!

As part of becoming a more eco-friendly, sustainable school, Swanmore College has installed 142 Solar Panels on the roof of one of their buildings. It's estimated that the array will produce 57,000 kWh of electricity per year!



Malcolm welcoming the new solar panels at Swanmore College

WORLD-FIRST INITIATIVE HARNESSSES THE POWER OF ZOO POO!

Marwell Zoo is using biomass technology to generate renewable energy from animal waste. Zoo poo from endangered species will be used to heat some of the largest buildings at the zoo. The world-first Energy for Life initiative saves 220 tonnes of CO2 equivalent each year.

Previously 600 tonnes of animal waste was taken off-site to be composted. This came with a significant carbon transport cost. The zoo came up with the idea of biomass heat generation to reduce their carbon footprint and turned a previous waste stream into a valuable resource – achieving cost savings in the process.



Since 2008, Marwell Zoo have reduced their carbon output by 77%. They are aiming to become carbon neutral in 2022!

HOW TO CONTACT US

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We are always happy to help and to hear what matters to you, so please do get in touch.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Please complete our quick **60 Second Survey** about local issues by scanning the QR code



OR at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3YRYQ98>

MALCOLM WALLACE: WORKING WITH YOU TO MAKE BETTER POSSIBLE