

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 53

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

SEPT. 2014



*Look what you can win at the Picnic on the Green!
(Father Paul Armstead, St James Church)*

NEXT FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 17 September 7.00 pm

At Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

THE FUTURE OF ST JAMES HOSPITAL/UNIVERSITY SITES

TESCO APPROVAL – WHAT NEXT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

FORUM MINUTES – 7 June

Janice Burkinshaw, Chair, opened the meeting and introduced the speakers for the evening and welcomed the two new councillors – Ben Dowling for the Milton ward (replacing Caroline Scott) and Steven Hastings for the Baffins ward (replacing Darron Phillips). She also stated that Justyn Loveridge has resigned from the Forum committee, but will continue to support the forum at the event on the green in future.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SINCE LAST PUBLIC FORUM MEETING

Recent forum activity included the installation of bat boxes at the Green at St James' Hospital, and submitting a suggestion for spending CIL money on additional skate park facilities at Milton Park. She also mentioned that Tesco's application for the new Fratton Way development has still not passed through the Planning Committee and may be heard in early July. There remains concern at local level at the traffic this could generate and the restrictions the new roundabout will place on large vehicles serving other premises nearby.

SEA FRONT STRATEGY UPDATE

David Evans, Seafront Manager, updated the meeting on the current situation regarding the seafront, with particular regard to changes such as new restaurant outlets and the need for minimum opening hours for such premises because the seafront needs to be a year-round attraction. There is a 25 year waiting list for beach huts on the seafront, and an additional 25 are to be provided shortly. He stated that the city receives around 7million visitors per annum and that the Great South Run is

worth £3m to the local economy. He also mentioned the success of the recent D-Day70th anniversary commemorations at the seafront which were free to enter. There is no major regeneration scheme for the seafront as there is no funding but the new owners of the pier have fenced it off while structural surveys are undertaken to assess its safety. It is hoped Lottery funding may be available to undertake some of the repair/update works. The Pyramids Centre is scheduled to reopen in August after repairs have been carried out due to damage when the sea defences were breached during the 2014 winter storms. The sea defences are scheduled for renewal in 2016/7. Residents raised concerns at cycling on the promenade (which continues to be a problem), lack of cycle racks on the seafront to cater for special events which many families cycle to, and the lack of a visible Tourist Information Centre at the Hard and at the seafront.

PLANS FOR ST. JAMES' HOSPITAL

Jo Gooch, Chief Finance Officer from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group introduced herself and Andy Strange, Head of Planning and Development for NHS Property Services. Jo outlined the key elements in current NHS service provision, explaining that there is a **Clinical Commissioning Group** which has responsibility for ensuring that appropriate services for patients are bought-in from service providers, the **Solent NHS Trust**, which oversees mental health service provision, and **NHS England**.

FORUM MINUTES 7 Jun.cont

It was explained that the current plans in Portsmouth centre on disposal of land at St James' Hospital because only about 5 per cent of the hospital site is being used, and extending the use of facilities at St Mary's Hospital and elsewhere in the city, including Battenburg Avenue Clinic. Other plans have already been submitted to develop the site of the former Light and Cleave Villas.

Andy Strange spoke about the process for disposal of property and possible future plans for housing to be provided on further areas within the hospital campus. He explained that NHS Property Services is looking to sell land at the hospital in phases.. Phase 1 covers the sites of Fair Oak, Yew Tree House, The Beeches and Harbour School sites, leaving the St. James' Field on its own within a housing area. Phase 1 could have up to 175 homes built on it, but residents and local councillors expressed grave concerns that the current infrastructure is inadequate, particularly vehicular access via Locksway Road, school places for new families and other support services. The ward councilors were also concerned that no financial provision would come from the sale of the land towards the cost of re-providing Harbour School facilities, as the school has been told that its lease will end. The Chapel is listed, but its use is not protected.

Andy then stated that traffic surveys on local roads had been undertaken in the preceding week (9th to 15th June) to provide information for their application

It was evident that residents and ward councillors feel that additional housing at St. James' will create traffic and other infrastructure problems in the future, particularly in view of other housing developments at the St. Mary's hospital site, possibly 110 homes at the University campus, plus the proposed Tesco store at Fratton Way. It is hoped that the city council takes due regard to this when considering any future applications for housing development at the hospital campus.

The hospital is hosting "drop-in" sessions to enable residents to see what the future proposals are and to allow residents to comment on them, the first "drop-in" session being set for Tuesday 1st July 2014. 2300 leaflets have been circulated to local homes to inform them of this event.

POLICING UPDATE

PC Steve Hopes and PCSO Sue Smith attended to provide an update on recent policing matters within the area, as there have been recent traffic surveys in Locksway Road, concentrating on speed checks on motorists using the road. Cyclists riding on pavements have also been targeted locally. Residents voiced their concern that traffic speeding and riding on pavements are major problems and that they welcome proactive policing to improve the situation. Mention was made of some problems at the Goldsmith Avenue/Milton Road junction with traffic light timings, and Ollie Willcox at the City Council can be contacted direct if this appears to cause real concern. The police are also targeting cyclists who disregard traffic lights, and dangerous riding habits of young scooter riders. They will follow up on any vehicle registration numbers reported to them in such instances.



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HEDGEHOG RETREAT IN MILTON

I am really happy to be asked to write for Milton Matters again. I've been lucky to have been invited to speak to Brownies at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, I have found an AMAZING benefactor who is paying for veterinary care for hedgehogs, and I have been working hard fund raising. I have also set up a Facebook page for information and tips for hedgehog care <https://www.facebook.com/bertshedgehogretreat>



The summer has started off slowly and I had only a few hoglets in before today but all have fared well. Today was an exception 2 mothers with 8 babies between them and another 2 calls for hedgehogs that are wandering around in the day time. The people that have found these hedgehogs have done the absolute right thing in finding help.

I found out that in the 1950s it was estimated there were 36.5 million hedgehogs in Britain . A more recent estimate in 1995 of 1,550,000. You can see just how crucial it is to save each and every hedgehog to stop them becoming extinct. How sad it is to think in 10 years they could be lost to us forever. So with this in mind I wanted

to give some important information this time that may help you to help a hedgehog in need.

Gardens provide hedgehogs with a plentiful supply of food, both natural and supplementary, as well as many potential nest sites for breeding and nesting and hibernation . For this reason urban areas have become a stronghold for hedgehogs in recent years. It is important to remember that hedgehogs can roam up to 2k in a given night so need to have free access to your garden through/under fences, a hole of 5 inches square is needed.

Hedgehogs are basically insectivorous but feed on baby birds, mice, small mammals, snails, millipedes, earwigs, and even bees. However, they also consume berries and seeds. Hedgehogs are mildly intolerant to lactose so you shouldn't give them milk. **Because hedgehogs eat snails and slugs it is important to NOT use slug pellets which will poison the hedgehogs.**

My newest arrivals



For gardeners please be mindful of netting which they can get caught up in, keep netting raised above the ground. Also hedgehogs can drown in ponds. Whilst they can swim, if you have a pond please consider a method of escape – such as a small ramp or slope.

Hedgehogs should NEVER be out in the daytime. If they are something is not right and they need help. It may be that the hedgehog is hungry or dehydrated, particularly in dry hot weather. Please put out a bowl of water and if you can afford it hedgehog/cat biscuits and mealworms, and/or poultry cat/dog food. Water is a lifesaver. If the hedgehog appears to be

injured, wobbly or has flystrike please seek a vet's advice. Please don't walk by, the chances are the hedgehog will not survive without your intervention.

Foxes and dogs will attack and kill hedgehogs. I have found this recently – having found 2 legs without the hedgehogs attached. Foxes will lay in wait for a hedgehog to uncurl then pounce on an exposed leg. The outcome is not good for the hedgehog. Many hedgehogs have terrible facial injuries caused by puncture wounds caused by fox and dog bites. They usually get infected and often will not survive. Cats will not usually be interested in hedgehogs at all.

If you find a nest please do not disturb it. The mother will often run off and abandon the babies, or can even eat them. If you do uncover a nest please cover it back up and leave it alone. The mother may still abandon the nest and if she hasn't returned after a couple of hours the babies will need help, or they will not survive alone.

There are lots of websites available that give good basic care information including :
<http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/index.php>

I am always happy to answer questions and looking for suitable re-homers. So please get in touch if you want to help or I can help you at all, either at happixie@rocketmail.com, through Bert's Hedgehog Retreat or on 07776231904.

I will have a stall at PCAN in Victoria Park on Saturday 30th August = please come along and support us.
Love from Bert's Hedgehog Retreat...have a happy summer x

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CAN WE STILL KEEP MILTON GREEN?



There have been many developments since this photo was taken of the University and St James land in the 1970's. Yet with much effort and co-operation, Milton has retained its feel as a local village with thriving shops, café, community centres, library, bank and some wonderful open spaces within walking distance. We have benefitted by saving the St James Field as Public Open Space through a campaign that it should be considered a village green and it is now in safe Council ownership. We have seen all-weather pitches and floodlights built on the University playing field yet the Brent Geese have stayed loyal to this site feeding in large numbers on the reduced area which retains the quality of sports ground grass which they love. The old St James football fields are now the Edenbridge Road development of character homes. We have lost two distinctive public houses, White House and Travellers' Joy and seen these converted to houses and this is now planned for the Old Canal. We are losing the focal points of our neighbourhood and risk becoming a huge housing area Whilst newcomers have been welcomed into Milton, the latest proposals to put 110 homes on the University site when the student accommodation is transferred to the City Centre, to remove the protection of the University Field and build 370 homes in St James is a step too far and many local people have reacted. and many local residents have campaigned against

CAN WE STILL KEEP MILTON GREEN? Cont.

The number of homes represents a 10% increase in Milton housing. Local Councillors, the Forum and many local residents have campaigned against this level and the matter was discussed at Cabinet on Thurs. 14 August at which they made representation. The reasons that objectors raised included

- Road congestion on major routes - Velder Ave/Milton Road
- Air pollution levels, inadequate sewage treatment and smells
- Loss of green space for recreation and a 'green lung' for Portsmouth
- Lack of school places
- Local roads unsuitable for heavy re-directed traffic e.g. Locksway Rd
- Loss of protected space for the internationally recognised bird feeding areas
- Loss of mature protected trees, wildlife generally and historic St James parkland site

The outcome was that the Council is unable to reduce the number of homes and will be proposing that the St James Hospital Site and University campus at Furze Lane be included in the Council's Site Allocations Strategy which will guide developers on suitable building sites.

The next stage will be to consult with local people on the proposal. Consultation had already been done here at the May 2013 Forum meeting on lesser proposals for the land in question. We have never heard the outcome. We have invited representatives from the City Planning team to come to our next Forum Meeting on 17 September and give us those results and then to 'consult' us on the new proposals from the Cabinet meeting of 14 August. Do please come along and air your views.

CALLING ALL USERS OF ST JAMES GROUNDS

As you will be aware, the NHS Trust is selling part of the grounds of St James Hospital for residential development. Currently the public has access via the main entrance and the rear gate in Longfield Road. However, there is no Right of Way and the developer might want to close this.

We can apply for a public right of way through the hospital grounds, but we need to show the public has been using it for over 20 years. If you are a long-term user of the grounds no doubt you will want to keep it open.

If you can help out with any information to help keep this open, please contact Roger Inkpen on 023 9264 7542 or rogink@yahoo.co.uk

PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2014

Are weather forecasts a good idea? In the week leading up to this year's Picnic on the Green we were warned of rain at the weekend in the south. Then it included thunder storms in Hampshire on Saturday, which became an Amber Warning for torrential rain leading to floods in our area. We narrowed our search for a better forecast inputting PO4 postcodes to our smartphones, but it did not improve! Should we cancel the event? We had already paid £430 to hire tables and chairs. Should we cancel the bouncy castles? We had to pay for them if we cancelled less than 2 days before the event. Should Annette start cooking all her cakes? It normally takes her 3 days to complete this marathon. Were we sleeping at night for fear of a disaster? No way!

Saturday 7 June finally arrived and the clouds were heavy. As we entered the St James site at 9am heavier and heavier drops of rain fell onto our cars preventing us even getting out and the thunder and lightning crashed around us. A new Risk Assessment was needed involving lightning and tent poles! It was touch-and-go at 9.30 am but a quick conference of the Forum Committee agreed to chance it and hope that the weather would lift. We had some bark chippings on hand to lay at the entrance gate to absorb the huge puddle which had developed just where people would be coming in and the team loaded up the vans and brought the marquees and equipment onto the site as the skies cleared and the sun burst through. We were ready to open our 11th picnic on the Green. The 5th Portsmouth Scout's Coconut shy was a novel idea. **Annette's cake stall was as popular as ever. Look at those kids run!**





A new feature - 5th Scouts Coconut Shie



Our man on the Green - Pete Mills

Thanks are due to everyone who helped set up, donate prizes, make teas, run stalls, make the announcements, organise games and clear up too! **Keep 20 June free in your 2015 diary** when we hope to have your support again for more fun in the sun (fingers crossed)



The Pompey Pluckers entertained us splendidly



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a partnership where people come together to make their communities feel safer. It involves the Police in partnership with Portsmouth City Council, Trading Standards and Community Wardens, and, above all, individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.

History

The UK's first Neighbourhood Watch was set up in Mollington, Cheshire in 1982 following the success of a similar scheme in Chicago in the United States. Many more schemes followed throughout the UK, and it is now claimed that about 3.8 million households are covered by a scheme. It is sometimes called Home Watch. The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network is funded by the Home Office and was established in 2007.

How the Neighbourhood Watch scheme works

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run through a Street or Area Co-ordinator. Schemes can vary in size, and do not have to include everyone in a street. A Street Co-ordinator liaises with the Police Beat Co-ordinators and Area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. Although most routine communication is done through email, Co-ordinators usually try to arrange meetings with their Police Beat co-ordinators if there are any persistent concerns of local residents or, at least, annually. Individual concerns can be passed up to Beat Co-ordinators anonymously through their Street Co-ordinators. Members are also encouraged to report suspicious activity or anti-social behaviour that affects them to the Police non-emergency number 101. Reporting enables the Police to build up a picture of the situation and direct appropriate resources to it. This could mean re-assurance visits to the area or more direct action depending on the intelligence received.

Joining or running a Neighbourhood Watch does not mean that you are a "nosey neighbour". It shows that you are concerned for the area that you live in, and the people around you. For information on setting up or joining a scheme in see;: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/community-and-environment/community/neighbourhood-watch-association.aspx> and <http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/community-first/portsmouth-neighbourhood-watch-news/#.U90ET1e1HSg>

The official website for Neighbourhood Watch is: <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk>. This site includes news, resources and contact information for the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network and for regional Neighbourhood Watch representatives.

TESCO PLAN APPROVED

This has been a very busy summer for the Forum as the pressure grows on our area to become increasingly urbanised. The planning application for a new **Tesco Superstore** was finally heard at the Committee on 6 August, the latest date that the Council could leave the issue before incurring penalties. The Officers' report was lengthy and took 3 hours to read before the meeting. There were Deputations against the proposal from Alex Bentley speaking for the local traders, Janice Burkinshaw speaking for **1616** people who signed a petition against the traffic and air pollution this store would generate, Fitness First against the new 4th roundabout in Fratton Way, Mr Crow who believed that traffic will return to levels of 15 years ago before Rodney Road was opened up; Mr R Curtis who pointed out that those in support of the application do not live in the area, emphasised fears over air pollution in the Velder Avenue 'hot spot' and Mr Harmer a former town planner and PFC shareholder who believed the application contrary to the Council's own policy that it should not prejudice provision of a new stadium at Fratton Park as there are no drawings to support the future development and he asked that the application be deferred so the applicant can provide a scheme for PFC's future plans. The Committee heard strong comments from Cllr. Ken Ellcome who stated the new fourth roundabout will cause delays on Fratton Way and problems on match days. Pedestrians will walk across the new petrol station forecourt, there will be problems for access to and from the new Anson Road entrance for Tesco lorries. Cllr. Lynne Stagg asked for a full traffic impact study taking the effect of 200 homes in St Mary's, planned 545 at St James/University land and this store. Cllr. Darren Sanders queried why Tesco had not taken up the suggestion of giving a bus subsidy to bring more than a 2-hour service to the store. Cllr Vernon Jackson was concerned at these issues but particularly night use of the service yard and noise to residents of adjacent roads asking that night deliveries be banned.

Point Estates and Portsmouth Football club spoke briefly in support of the application. Tesco have offered a higher acoustic fence behind their delivery yard. The Committee raised a number of questions about whether the local petitions should carry weight in their considerations, if they could require Tesco to control crowds in the area on match days or specify times for deliveries, but in the final analysis, passed the application as it stood, with only 1 abstention.

As the application is classed as an 'out of town' development and therefore, contrary to the City Plan, it must now be referred to the Secretary of State who has 21 days to decide whether to 'call it in' for an Enquiry. Come to the next Open Forum on 17 September to hear from Claire Upton Brown, the City Development Manager, the outcome of this referral.

Milton Village Community Association

Milton Village Hall, 182 Milton Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 8PR

Tel. 023 9287 3788 Email: allisonmvca@hotmail.com

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TapDancing	Counselling Skills (F)	Keep Fit	Line Dancing			
Salsa Club						



Events at Milton Village Hall

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Fri 26 Sep

Beetle Drive – Tue 14 Oct

Christmas Craft & Gift Fair – Sat 6 Dec

Children's Christmas Disco – Sun 21 Dec



Forthcoming Trips

Last few seats available on the following trips:

Festive Mini Entertainment Break, Warwick – Sun 30 Nov to Mon 1 Dec

Christmas Lunch at Leeds Castle – Sun 7 Dec

Cinderella Pantomime at Mayflower – Tue 16 Dec

New Winter Programme Out Soon!



All enquiries: please contact the office or see our website

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TRUSTEES WANTED

The Portsmouth and District Friendly Societies Homes are looking for new trustees to join the team of people responsible for the smooth running of the flats on **Glasgow Road in Milton** which overlook **Bransbury Park**.

The Trustees work together to oversee these flats (left) which are for elderly people from the local area to move into - there is a real sense of community at the homes.

Interested?
 Contact **Ben Dowling** at btldowling@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07540947364.



Some Good News for a change!

Today I met 17-year old Molly. She was chosen from the Stubbington Ark 5 years ago. Her elderly owner was suffering from dementia and had to go into a home. Molly was described as a Terrier Cross but her new owner knew she was a Staffie and suspected it was her age that didn't appeal to people looking to rehome a dog but Mollie won her heart. After looking after Mollie for 2 years, the new owner received a phone call enquiring if she still had the dog. She did and was told the old lady had now died and her son wanted to visit to see Mollie. He came and gave the owner a cheque for £1,000 which his mother instructed the new owner was to receive for Mollie's care. It came in useful to cover vet bills and bought this pet carrier for when Mollie got tired. She is enjoying her twilight years and has a healthy appetite. She shares her new owner with Pickles who is also a rescue dog.

Milton Resident

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Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair
John Couch – Treasurer
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Please contact any Forum Representative or Ward Councillor for more information or assistance

***If you would like to be a Neighbourhood Forum Representative please write in to the
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