

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 55

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

May 2015



Edward King, RA, spent many years as a patient at St James Hospital, producing a staggering number of paintings of the Asylum farm, the local shoreline and after 1941, 'The Blitz' His works can be viewed at the City Museum. The painting above is reproduced with permission of Bill Meaghan

See page 7 for memories of this shoreline from Eddie Wallace

NEXT FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 7.00 pm

At Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road
Impact on Milton of the Americas Cup in July
How does the National Homes & Communities Agency Work?
Forum Annual General Meeting
Milton Neighbourhood Plan

FORUM MINUTES – 23 Feb.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SINCE LAST PUBLIC FORUM MEETING

Chair, updated residents on recent activity since the last public meeting. This included the Green Balloon day to encourage response to the Council's consultation on development in Milton, the traffic survey undertaken by residents to assess traffic flows at local major junctions, and the increasing influence of facebook site for "Keep Milton Green". She then asked residents to approve three residents becoming committee members, **Rod Bailey, Pam Matthews and Reg Puntis**.

CORBEN LODGE

Justin Wallace Cook, Assistant Head of Adult Care Services with Portsmouth City Council, spoke about the future plans for Corben Lodge (Moorings Way). He explained that the current capacity of the Lodge is for six long-stay residents, plus seven short-stay (respite) places, and in the near future the six long-stay residents will transfer to Maritime House, Northern Parade, as a move towards "extra care" living. Corben Lodge will then be used for respite or short-stay accommodation, such as discharges from hospital prior to care packages being set up for them in their own homes. On the question of other future plans, Justin confirmed that there were no plans to alter the building or develop other uses.

An issue of people visiting the Lodge and parking on the grass verges was raised. This will be investigated by Justin.

COMMUNITY HARMONY WITH DOGS AND DOG WARDENS

Carol Plumbly, Lead Kennel Assistant/Dog Warden with Portsmouth stray dog service, spoke about her role and stated that there are approaching 5000 cases of stray/unruly dogs per annum in the city. Residents have expressed concerns at the number of dogs with "professional" dog walkers regularly using Milton Common and Milton Village green. Carol explained that such activities are unregulated and, therefore, difficult to control, with part of the problem being that "professional" walkers simply walk dogs and do not encourage any interactive play activities for the dogs. There is also no limit on the number of dogs being walked by one person.

She also stated that all dogs must wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address on it, and she would like to see the "professional" walkers being educated in the care of dogs, registered with the local authority and licensed to bring greater control over the "industry".

Carol stated that she would welcome hearing concerns of residents and will come to a future meeting. Her telephone number is 023 9268 8181, or she can be contacted online at carol.plumbly@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS

Peter Hayward, appointed by the city council to assess and analyse the traffic surveys undertaken by NHS and by local Milton residents, spoke about results of the modelling work he had carried out on the figures.

FORUM MINUTES – 23 Feb.

He explained that the figures were robust as they compared well with Council data. If a new development could overload a junction by more than 5% this would be a material impact (in Planning terms) Where a network is getting close to capacity, 2% extra will count. He explained that Locksway Road junctions are not overloaded but Eastern Road/ Moorings Way junction: and Locksway Road/Milton Road are all above capacity. He has assessed traffic movements at each of these junctions would be in excess of the 5% figure. Locksway/Milton Road and Moorings Way/Eastern Road are bad enough to say that the scale of development proposed should not proceed. Moorings Way junction would need physical improvements other than signalling changes before development were to be permitted.

In response to questions from the floor, Peter confirmed he had taken account of Tesco development and St Mary's housing as they are committed and of the improvements to traffic signals planned by developers of these sites. He also allowed for the potential flow from an employment site at St James Hospital, to a residential site there. Residents pointed out that there is traffic chaos on Saturdays and Sundays now when St James is not operating but future residential use for the site would generate weekend traffic. He cannot include weekend figures as these do not relate to planning matters. He stated that there is a sound case in traffic terms, to resist the scale of development

LATEST SITUATION REGARDING ST. JAMES' HOSPITAL SITE

Claire Upton-Brown gave a brief update on the current situation, indicating that the recent application by the Hospital for the installation of a fence around selected green space has been refused on the grounds that such works will be inappropriate in the current setting.

The application for 30 accommodation units on the Light/Gleave villa site is currently under consideration, with special regard to wildlife, traffic and infrastructure issues. No committee date is set for this application as further work is needed on the impact of shoreline birds.

She also explained the role of the Homes & Community Agency, a national Government body responsible for delivering homes which has taken over the role of SEEDA. The Agency works with the Council and stakeholders including local residents to plan developments together as happened at Tipner and they could become involved at St James if the Council is not able to purchase the land for Harbour School development, and new elderly care unit (currently planned for Drayton). The involvement of the Agency would slow development as a masterplan would be involved including the University field.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN(S)

Claire briefly spoke about a meeting held 12th Feb. with Rod Bailey and a small group of Milton residents looking at a Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum. She confirmed at that meeting that the NHS wishes to dispose of the hospital land by 31st March 2015, and that the local authority has a duty to oversee tree removal and preservation.

FORUM MINUTES – 23 Feb.

Rod Bailey then spoke about the progress of the small group of residents looking into the feasibility of establishing a Neighbourhood Planning Forum and confirmed that it was essential to preserve the green spaces by being proactive and creative, rather than reactive. This would require a “master plan”, with input from the Homes and Community Agency and other interested local organisations/people, to design and submit a Neighbourhood Planning Forum application.

He mentioned that the local authority could buy the St. James’ Hospital land, and Cllr Stubbs confirmed that a little progress had been made in this regard, but that there was still a long way to go before a final decision is made. There is a need to focus upon sustainability and residents who are interested in assisting the Planning Forum should contact Rod particularly to take the Treasurer role.

Martin Lock then spoke about the progress of the facebook campaign “Keep Milton Green”, stating that 936 people have signed up and, as already mentioned, the traffic survey was undertaken with the support of local residents. There is now a twitter site.

SOUTHERN WATER DISCHARGES INTO LANGSTONE HARBOUR

Representatives from Southern Water gave a presentation on the work carried out since 2012 to improve the sewer and surface water systems across the city. £50 million has been spent over the last five years to improve the situation, with all works being completed by 2015. There are 40,000 kilometres of sewers across the city, each with a diameter of 6 feet, All sewage and

surface waters are carried along the same network and then 5.7m out to sea at Eastney after refining at Budds Farm, Havant.

Problems can arise when additional pressure is placed on the network resulting in discharges of raw sewage as happened 80 times in 2014.

The national average across the country for dealing with ‘exceptional events (ie when sewage systems cannot cope with combined sewage and exceptional surface water) is to plan for a one-in-30-years event. Southern Water’s latest improvement should reduce this down to a one-in-76-year event with new ‘early warning’ systems’ in place to warn of such problems with new electric rather than diesel pumps to cope with high flows.

Residents asked why more information could not be given to the public such as live data on road signs so they would know a discharge was imminent. Southern Water does tell Langstone Harbour Board if there is a chance of a discharge of sewage which is untreated and this appears on the LHB website.

Southern Water explained they are not a statutory consultee in new housing developments and asked for liaison with them to ensure current infrastructure capacity is not exceeded. They agreed to return to the Forum in 2016 to report on their success in reducing discharges.

Mention was made from the floor that residents should be grateful for the improvements being undertaken by Southern Water, which will benefit all residents across the city.



Saturday 20 June 2015
2PM TO 5PM
ST.JAMES FIELD, LOCKSWAY
ROAD, MILTON

'PICNIC ON THE GREEN'
Opening by Brian Kidd

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MEMORIES OF MILTON FORESHORE

Reading the February edition of Milton Matters made me think of a “prequel “ to the article sent by Sheila Mackie concerning her walk around Milton Lake in the 1950’s

In the 1930’s I resided in Salterns Avenue, Milton which boarded on Milton Lake (now Milton Common) . The Lake itself opened onto Velder Creek (now filled in and built upon by the 2nd phase of the Moorings Way Housing Estate). The green sward which covered the area from the Eastern Road to the Lake was known as “The Points” by virtue of pieces of land which protruded into the tidal Lake. As a young teenager my pals and I often erected tents on this land and went swimming in the Lake when the tide was in. The foreshore on both sides of the Lake housed ex-torpedo boats from the First World War which made excellent houseboats.

In 1936 a contingent of Hitler Youth formed a fairly large camp site opposite Stride Avenue and we lads from the area mixed with them and formed a football team playing against them, not realising of course that in three years’ time we would be at war with each other ! At that time Velder Creek housed a large wharf owned by Parksway and when the tide permitted, tug boats pulling barges loaded with sand or shingle would chug into the Creek and unload. Empty barges would often tie up in “The Leek “ as the channel leading to the Creek was named, and we would use these as diving platforms. Prior to the Creek being infilled by the city’s rubbish, there was an old sailing vessel moored there, the “ Zabrina “. This ship was England’s “ Marie Celeste “. In 1917 she was discovered sailing in the English Channel with all sails set, no crew aboard and a table set for the crew’s meal. The thought at the time was that she had been boarded by a German U-boat, the crew taken aboard and before the ship could be sunk the U-Boat was surprised by a British Naval vessel and sunk with all hands! The Zabrina ended her working days sailing out of Falmouth, then was scrapped and left in Velder Creek. Often we lads climbed on to this ship only to be chased off by the caretaker. When the Creek was filled in the Zabrina was towed around into Eastney Lake and anchored off The Thatched House P.H. where she became derelict and eventually burned. Regards *Eddie Wallace*

MY BEST FRIEND



Jura came into our lives almost 2 years ago and what a difference he has made!

Jura is a Tibetan Terrier. The breed is a medium size dog with a long double coat. The undercoat is soft and woolly, the topcoat is not so soft - if left uncut it becomes very shaggy. The tail fur is long with the tail curling over the back.

At 47cm high to shoulder the back legs are longer than the front. If you can see through his heavy fur, you will look into our Tibetan Terrier's large dark-brown eyes and long eyelashes, needed to keep out the snow.

The breed has a gentle temperament but they are lively energetic dogs with a sense of fun. Like any dog you meet in Milton, he loves to run and needs daily walks. These dogs can be kept in flats and small houses as long as they get that daily exercise. Dogs like Jura live for 12 to 15 years and are fun to own. We can recommend the Tibetan Terrier as a very happy, playful breed.

Originally kept by Tibetan Monks 2000 years ago, they were considered good-luck charms. The monks refused to sell them but only gave them away as gifts. They were brought to England by Dr A R Greig who was given two in 1927. She decided to breed these dogs and you can choose from a wide variety of colours in the Tibetan Terrier. Our Jura is very loving and fun to own.

It has been noticed that raisins have been left out in Milton park and we have been warned that they are poisonous to dogs(as are onions and grapes), so please do not put these out in public spaces. Discarded fish hooks on the beach have got into dogs' skin and muzzles. Please remember dogs use the beach at times.

MILTON UNITED REFORM CHURCH



We are a Christian church and all who enter will receive a very warm welcome. Services are held at 10.30 am every Sunday followed by a chat over coffee, with a Sunday lunch once a month. Holy Communion is part of our worship on the first Sunday of the month.

Christ Church United Reformed Church, was originally Milton Congregational Church at what is now Milton Village Hall. In 1972 Congregationalists and Presbyterians came together to form the United Reformed Church in England & Wales. Following this amalgamation, the church in Milton continued as Milton URC until 2007 when they were joined by the congregation from the Southsea church. It was agreed to adopt the current name of the church, the buildings were updated and that work continues as we seek to serve the local community.

We support the work of Christian Aid, the Food Bank and Soup Kitchen at our Buckland Church, Portsmouth Food Bank and we have our own charity of the year. Last year it was Canine Partners and at our Nativity Service with the Brownies, we presented them with a cheque for £500. Our bi-annual Art and Flower Festival held in conjunction with Bransbury Park Art Group featuring paintings by Year 6 children at Milton Park Primary School raised £200 of this. In addition £200 was raised for Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance – the charity choice of the Art Group. This will be our charity for 2015.



07532049513.

We held two free family-fun days in 2014 – one with a Japanese theme which was instigated, organised and hosted by Christ Church in support of two scouts who are planning to visit Japan this year. Located in Milton Road, we hold a table-top sale on the third Saturday of every month.

The Spinnaker Pre-school use the halls and sometimes the church for special events. We also have Brownies and Guides meeting here but are currently looking to provide other activities and would like suggestions from our friends and neighbours in Milton. The large hall is available for hire at evenings at weekends and the church itself is multi-purpose and can be used during the week for various activities. If you would like to contact us for any reason, please phone

Marjorie Davies

LETS GET UP TO DATE

Crayfern Homes have applied to build 30 homes on the site of the former Light Villa at St James. The development was advertised back in January and 68 people have taken the time and trouble to write in and object to the scheme for a variety of reasons. The developer was asked to provide more robust protection for internationally significant birdlife which lives adjacent to the site and presumably has done this because the planning application is now due to go to committee 3 June. At time of going to print, we do not know what the City Planning Officer's recommendation is, but the Forum has asked to speak and make a deputation which will bring into play the recent Traffic Consultant's report on the ability of local roads to carry increased traffic and the inevitable air pollution. We will report at the Forum.

At the next Forum we have the **Annual General Meeting** with reports on work done over the past year and election of Officers and Committee. We have benefitted by new members joining our committee this year and been very pleased with the support of Keep Milton Green and the team who have taken on the arduous task of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Milton. If, as a Milton resident, you would like to nominate anyone for the Neighbourhood Forum committee please write with your name and address to Louise Wilders at Portsmouth Council by 17 June 2015. Louise.wilders@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Just prior to the General Election, Rt.Hon.Penny Mordaunt MP for Portsmouth North, who has retained her seat, wrote to residents to inform them that she understood that the NHS had agreed to transfer part of St James to the Homes & Communities Agency. So we have invited a representative of the HCA, to tell us how it works and its principles in dealing with a site like St. James.

We have invited Portsmouth Council to come to explain to us what the arrangements are for the **Americas Cup**. This takes place over 4 days 23-26 July off Southsea Sea-front. It is an international event, the first official race of the Cup. We expect huge volumes of visitors and need to know how to get around our area living on the Eastern Road and Milton Road which is blocked by traffic just on normal weekends.

LETS GET UP TO DATE cont..



Back in 2013 we discussed how to spend funds which were due to Milton through contributions from developers as Milton schemes get 15% of these. The Forum decided to back a suggestion from Ben Dowling and young people in the area to improve the Milton Park Skatepark which was built 10 years earlier from funding the Forum obtained from Barratts. A

scheme was prepared and we hoped to proceed with it last year, but local elections intervened and our hopes of raising extra funds to make it a really exciting skatepark area, did hit difficulties with only £1500 from Radion Housing to add to the CIL funding.

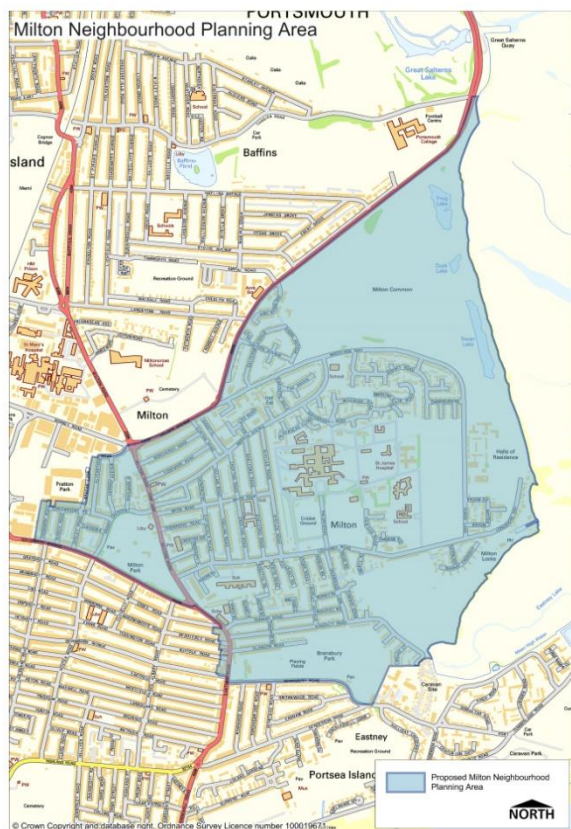
Hearing of our shortfall, Gary Scott who runs the skateboard supply shop 'Bored of Southsea' in Albert Road, offered to donate £2,500 towards the scheme. He engaged with users of the park to come up with a new design, which is shortly due to go out to tender. Subject to relevant approvals the Council will release further CIL funding including from the Tesco Development to meet the costs of the scheme and will be supervising the works on site. Have you seen the 2 new tepes for children to play in at St James field play area? They are so cute and were provided by Portsmouth Council's Play Team.



Back to Milton Park where the Friends of the Park would like people to join them in planting the flower beds this year. They meet every 3rd Wednesday at Pure Ground Café at 1pm. Tools are provided. You can just turn up or e-mail Paul.miles@portsmouthcc.gov.uk who organises the scheme. The Friends are planning to plant some areas with wild flowers this year and aim for the Green Flag award again.

Chair

PLAN



Since the last "Open Forum" at Mary Rose School in February 2015 the newly formed Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum has submitted its application to create a Neighbourhood Plan to Portsmouth City Council. The details can be viewed on line by searching

[Portsmouth City Council/ Milton Neighbourhood Plan.](#)

(The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is shown in blue on the map) The Council may consider this at their June 3rd Committee for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development.

The purpose behind the Milton Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) is to safeguard the Community against unsustainable development. In particular it has been created to promote balanced and integrated land-uses across the Neighbourhood and conserve and enhance the green spaces. Langstone Harbour is already a "Special Protection Area" and a "Special Area of Conservation" covered by European

Conservation regulations and it is also designated a site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Plan will aim to protect and improve the Harbour, its wildlife and its shoreline. Fundamentally, sustainability means that new development should not threaten the wildlife or the natural environment, and above all it

should not be a burden on future generations which means the infrastructure (schools, health and elderly care, roads, drains and public amenities) needs to be permanently in place before any new housing development takes place. The Plan will take a minimum of 2 years to go through all the stages. To create it we will need to hear the views of residents and businesses to ensure we get a consensus on the kinds of development we all want and the policies we will need to make them happen. We have an enthusiastic and energetic Planning Forum Committee of a dozen or so members, including "Keep Milton Green" campaigners, but we are not the "voice of Milton". It is not only the type of development but to some extent, elements such as solar panels on new properties, measures for wildlife, etc

We can only really get any plan accepted by an Independent Examiner and the Council if we have a proper dialogue with the Community. The next stage of this will be a consultation questionnaire. This will be delivered to your door in the next few weeks. Please complete and return that form to have your say in the future. If you have any ideas for the questions to go on that form, please email them to miltonplan@btinternet.com.

Members of the Planning Forum have to live or work in Milton. If you would like to join, please email your name and address or place of work to the same email address.

At the end of the process, the Council must hold a Community Referendum on the completed Plan. It is only in the event that a majority of those who do vote on the Milton Plan are in favour of it can it be adopted. If and when it is, it will become a Statutory Planning document with a 15 year life-span.

Another feature of having a Neighbourhood Plan for an area is that the Community Infrastructure Levy claimed by Portsmouth Council from developers in any ward of the city is passed on to the community for approved projects at the rate of 25% of the local 'pot' instead of 15% without a neighbourhood plan.

I as the Planning Forum Chair, and David Jordan the Secretary, will be at the "Picnic on the Green Event" and it will be great if any of you have some questions or issues you want to talk to us about. *Rod Bailey*

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KEEP MILTON GREEN!

I wanted to take the time to give you all a brief update regarding the campaign group I set up which I'm sure many of you are familiar with - Keep Milton Green! All in all we are doing extremely well! Many of you received posters in the last issue of Milton matters and I am delighted to see them in windows and cars around Milton on my travels and some more widespread outside of Milton! It just shows that this is a big issue for residents in both Milton and further afield!

You may have seen that the NHS put in a planning application to have a large fence put up in the grounds of St James hospital that would have split the site and made some parts inaccessible! I am pleased to say that due to a large amount of responses from residents, businesses in the area and councillors - this application was refused! A small victory for us all so thank you for taking the time to send in your objections. The application was refused as it would be inappropriate to the setting of the listed buildings (Chapel) on site.

We have had Ministers come to Portsmouth to visit St James so the campaign has now started stretching out to a Parliamentary level! The neighbourhood plan is making good process and is going extremely well which will help us in the future! I have also made contacts with the campaign group in Wellbourne in Fareham as they have a similar predicament as us but on a much larger scale and hopefully we can do something jointly with them in the future!

I am also happy to let you know that we now have over 1000 members on our facebook group and will soon be over 100 Twitter followers! The campaign is growing daily and I am so proud to be involved in something so community based! We have lots planned for the coming months and now the election has finished we look forward to working with the two Portsmouth MP's - Penny Mordant and Flick Drummond who was elected as the Portsmouth South MP and of course our Ward Councillors including Gerald Vernon-Jackson who kept his seat in Milton - congratulations to them both! Come and see us at the Picnic on the Green where we will have a stand and please contact me at either of the following email address with any queries or questions!!

Well done Milton - you are doing a fantastic job and what strong community spirit you all have!

Kimberly Barrett

Keep Milton Green

Kimberlyemmabarrett@hotmail.co.uk

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Curling		50+ Keep Fit	Quiz Time	Tai Chi		Light House Church
Zumba	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym	Pilates	Creation Station		
Modern Dance	BSL Sign Language	Lighthouse Church	Private Dance	Beginners Line Dance		
Tap Dancing	Yoga	Keep Fit	Line Dancing	Yoga		

Summer 2015 Programme

We currently have seats available on the following events & day trips:

([c] Event at Milton Village Hall. All trips include coach & admission/ticket unless otherwise stated)

Sunday Jazz & Afternoon Tea	Sun 31 May [c] 3.30-5.30pm	£7 per ticket	Fab saxophonist & afternoon tea!
Midsomer Murders & River Cruise	Tue 2 June or Fri 26 June	£49 Members £54 Non-Mems	Morning coffee, lunch, guide & river cruise
Blenheim Palace Proms	Sat 11 July	£41 Members £44 Non-Mems	Picnics, singing, flags & fireworks!
London	Thu 13 Aug	£10 Members £18 Non-Mems	Full day to do as you please! Bargain
Royal Albert Hall Bargain!	Fri 9 Oct	£20 Members £30 Non-Mems	Music of James Bond.
Aladdin Panto	Wed 16 Dec (evening)	£34 Members £38 Non-Mems	Starring Joe Pasquale & Duncan James



Like us on Facebook for the latest news & info

**St James Church Summer Fete
Saturday 20 JUNE
10.30 am
Raffle Tombola
Refreshments**

**This is one of the principal fund raising events for the Church
so come along and support us**

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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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