

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 56     **Milton Neighbourhood Forum**     Oct. 2015



***Edenbridge Estate, Milton – Monday 24 August 2015***

***How much more housing can this area accommodate?***

***How robust is our infrastructure?***

***Look at the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire enclosed with this magazine. Please fill it in and return it to one of the collection points or to the Neighbourhood Forums  
Freepost address on Page 20***

## **NEXT FORUM MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER- 7pm**

**At Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road**

**The Council Budget – Cllr. Donna Jones**

**Planning School Places – Mike Stoneham**

**East Solent Partnership -Milton Common Flood Protection**

**Neighbourhood Plan update**

## **FORUM MINUTES – 24 June**

### **COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SINCE LAST PUBLIC FORUM MEETING**

The Chair updated residents on recent activity since the last public meeting.

Firstly, she spoke about the **Event on the Green** which is organized annually by the Forum committee members and was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June. It was the 13<sup>th</sup> event and the Forum is grateful to all the people who have given prizes, time to help organize it, as well as run activities on the day. It was again successful and the weather was kind.

At a Council meeting on 23 June, the new **Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum** was approved. There is much work to do now which was explained later in the meeting.

Proposals for updating and enhancing the **skatepark equipment in Milton Park** have been agreed at a cost of £22,900 (which also covers a ten-year maintenance figure), and work will commence in July 2015 and will take about five days. Funding for the skatepark has come from several sources, including £18,900 from the CIL fund, £2,500 from BORED of Southsea and £1,500 from Radian Housing, secured by the Forum as a grant.

### **THE AMERICA'S CUP 2015**

**Jeremy Troughton** then spoke about the arrangements for the America's Cup event being held 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and explained that the event has been organized by Sir Keith Mills, who secured the Olympic Games deal for the 2012 London Games. He spoke in detail about the programme, which includes racing events and evening entertainments, and BBC television coverage has been secured. A similar event is scheduled for 2016.

Estimated spectator numbers will be in the region of 500,000 over the four days and the local economy will benefit from hosting such a prestigious event, which is a "warm up" for the America's Cup race to be held in Bermuda in 2017.

Large screen coverage will be provided on Southsea Common, the Guildhall Square and in Gosport.

**Pam Turton** from the City Council's Transportation Team spoke about the sustainable traffic management plan for the event. It is hoped that many attendees will either walk, cycle or use public transport/park-and-ride facilities, and an extra 25 buses (at peak periods) are scheduled to operate from the **Tipner** park-and-ride site (for the full four days) and **King George V** site (temporary site) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> only. A ban on all pre-scheduled road works across the city has been introduced leading up to and during the event. Minimal impact on shipping and ferry crossings is anticipated.

General questions from the floor included the provision for emergency vehicle access, and it was confirmed that there will be adequate first aid and ambulance provision on site. Although the City Council is directing traffic down the west of the city for those with reservations for the event, residents commented that 'ad hoc' visitors with no reservations would just use their usual routes into Southsea with traffic problems in all areas.

Cont....

## **FORUM MINUTES – 24 Jun**

### **ST. JAMES' HOSPITAL UPDATE**

The Chair introduced this topic and stated that Cllr Donna Jones had been invited to tonight's meeting to present an update on progress made since the 19th February 2015 meeting which Cllr. Jones convened at St. James' Church. At that meeting, she agreed that the current infrastructure in Milton was inadequate to sustain more housing development and she also agreed to investigate the purchase of the current Harbour School site and review the building of a new care home. Residents were disappointed Cllr Jones did not wish to attend tonight as she had nothing new to report.

Cllr Purvis stated that there had been an opportunity in February 2015 for the city council to submit a funding application to secure a grant from central government to enable the Harbour School to remain where it is and to look at moving a new care home from Cosham to St James. **However, the city council failed to submit one.**

He has met with Claire Upton-Brown (Planning Dept), who stated that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) had purchased the first phase of land at the Hospital, but this has subsequently been refuted. In addition, Penny Mordaunt MP wrote to local residents **prior to the election** stating that she understood that the HCA had acquired the St James' site. **Residents commented that they were expecting the momentum from the meetings at St James Church to be maintained and for them to be kept informed.**

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## **MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM**

**Rod Bailey** confirmed that the City Council has ratified our application to be designated a Forum and create a Plan (see on [www.miltonplan.org.uk](http://www.miltonplan.org.uk)). He also stated that 52 pilot questionnaires were completed by residents who attended the Event on the Green, which is an encouraging number, and the majority of those residents had no wish to see major housing development at the St. James' site.

Rod then stressed that it was essential to plan for the future and, for this to be achieved, views of all residents are needed to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute and shape Milton's future. A certain amount of development is needed, but this should be in line with national planning guidelines and policy, and needs to comply with the overall city plan.

The final Neighbourhood Plan must be overseen by an independent examiner and the City Council is undertaking a local plan review – future development needs to be sustainable – and the Plan must last for 15 years. School placements are a potential issue, with the perceived need for primary school placements rising by over 50% by the year 2019 and Miltoncross School being the only secondary school on the eastern side of the City. Simon Brownlie of the City Council engineering section has indicated that there is little scope to enhance traffic flow at the Velder Ave/Rodney Rd junction.

The City Council has previously estimated that the value of the Phase 1 land may be in the order of £8 million, although the tree protections may limit the overall housing numbers.

## **FORUM MINUTES – 24 June**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chair's report on the past year emphasized the huge effort that had been made by not only the members of the Forum but also the Keep Milton Green group and the Milton Neighbourhood Plan members all tackling the issue of future development in the area. In particular, she mentioned the valuable work done by local volunteers and councillors on the traffic survey which has provided concrete evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan.

**The Report of the Honorary Treasurer followed.** John Couch presented his report, confirming the grants received during the year (£3,250), advertising revenue in Milton Matters (£2,020) and income from the 2014 event on the green (£1,179). Expenditure was £1,840 on the event on the green, printing of Milton Matters (£2,207) and miscellaneous outgoings (£526).

**The final position for the year 2014/15 shows an excess of expenditure over income of £1,875** (although a sum of £1,500 is earmarked as a grant from Radian towards skatepark costs).

**Louise Wilders** from Portsmouth City Council then conducted the election process for nominations for committee members for the ensuing year. All of the current committee members were nominated and re-elected.

From the new committee members, the officers to serve on the committee were elected:-

Chair: Janice Burkinshaw.

Vice Chair; Dave Willcox.

Honorary Treasurer: John Couch. Honorary Minutes Secretary:

Margaret Nicholas.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair updated residents about a number of local events and asked them which topics would be of interest for discussion at future meetings. Residents agreed that an update on school places/catchment areas and the problems parents are finding now with primary school places, would be welcome.

Concerns were also expressed at the threat to local Protected Trees and the Forum asked to take action.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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*Since her introductory talk in February, residents have been waiting to hear more from Carol Carol Plumbly about dog behaviour. Sadly Carol has been away from her job at the Kennels through illness. We hope she will be back soon and we can arrange a visit.*

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*Edward King – The last issue of Milton Matters featured one of Edward King's paintings. We should have said it was re-produced by permission of Bill Meaghan's daughters, Bill having passed away 3 years ago. The picture generated interest in Edward King's work so we hope to include an article in the next issue.*

# Milton Village Community Association

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

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Dog training	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym	Pilates	Creation Station		House church
Zumba	BSL Sign Language	Lighthouse Church	MNPF (m)	Beginners Line Dance		
Tap Dancing	Yoga	Keep Fit	Line Dancing	Yoga		

## 2015 Trips and Events

Last few seats currently available on the following trips

Thursford Spectacular & Delia Smith	21-23 Nov 3 days/2 nights	£239 Members £259 Non-Mems	Xmas Spectacular & Delia's Restaurant!
Aladdin Pantomime at the Mayflower	Wed 16 Dec (e)	£34 Members £38 Non-Mems	Joe Pasquale & Duncan James!
Thriller Live at Portsmouth Guildhall	Mon 28 Dec (e)	£26 Members £28 Non-Mems	The London production is on tour!
New Year in Shropshire inc. Ironbridge	30 Dec – 2 Jan 4 days/3 nights	£279 Members £299 Non-Mems	Lots included in this great value trip!

## Looking Ahead

Here's a peek of what's coming in the new Winter Programme! (c) = Centre Event

Vegas Night! (c)	Longleat Christmas Lights
Mill Rythe Christmas Party Overnighter	Christmas Carols & Treats (c)



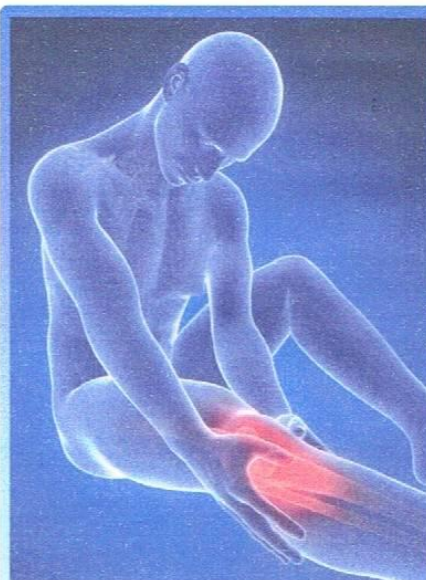
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## PLANS FOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

It was a welcome surprise to learn that the Council intends to give Milton Common the status of a Nature Reserve. But residents must not be misled - this will not be a Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust Reserve run under strict guidelines, but a Council run Reserve which depends upon the contribution of developers for its existence. Their report stated that Milton Common is considered to be at capacity NOW. If further housing is to be added to Milton – and we are still waiting for the Crayfern Homes development to come to Planning Committee – there would have to be measures put in place to absorb the recreational impact of up to 854 people in 388 (129 affordable/259 private) new homes on the eastern side of Portsmouth. The Council prepared its report as a way that developers could ‘buy in’ to solving this problem of finding recreational space. It has proposed a framework by which new housing in Milton, could make a financial contribution of £8,747 per new home towards managing the Milton Common Nature Reserve and at the same time ‘mitigating’ for the impact of demand for recreation on the area.

The number of homes is not ‘set in stone’ but was calculated through the number the NHS and University now believe could be built in our area.. (The St James numbers slightly lower than previously due to protected trees and the listed buildings). They have not been subjected to the scrutiny of a planning application which would take into account infrastructure, transport capacity, etc.

On reading the Council’s report I was encouraged by its thorough research and fine aspirations to benefit the city by providing a protected area within Milton and Baffins wards. The Neighbourhood



Forums for these 2 areas are active and concerned about the environment which is under tremendous pressure. But the early promise of the report, faded when it was clear few controls will be built into its final implementation. The report stated that Council Community Wardens regularly visit the Common but staff reductions seem to have removed this support.

Surveys of users of the common stressed the benefits it offers to dogs off-lead and that stopping this would reduce their use of the common, despite this causing disturbance to

shoreline birds.

What is suggested includes:-

- Clear some areas of bramble to develop the centre of the common
- Increase grass areas and mow more of these
- Try to divert recreation away from the coast where the important bird species feed as disturbance to birds, reduces their energy and affects their ability to migrate

## PLANS FOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

- Recruit and work with community volunteers to help manage the common
- Maintain paths to encourage higher use of the centre of the common away from the shore
- Allow grass to grow longer as a border to the area where Brent Geese feed near the College
- Provide better benches and bins for users

However, the report does not in any way contribute to improving biodiversity. There are no surveys of current levels of mammals, insects or bird species on the common and therefore, no aspirations to maintain or improve these. There will be no staff patrolling the Nature Reserve. The report worryingly states 'These proposals are one way in which developments could provide a package of mitigation measures which would remove the likelihood of a significant effect from recreation on the two Special Protection Areas, but the APPLICANTS ARE FREE TO PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO THE PROTECTION OF THE SPA's AND THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. So there is no guarantee that the Nature Reserve will happen, despite the insistence on future housing for the area. It is my understanding that if a developer or the Homes & Communities Agency who are about to purchase St James, persuade the Council that an alternative 'mitigation' would be better, cheaper or easier to install the nature reserve may never be implemented. Chair

Advert



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## PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2015

Once again we had a good day for our community event and hasten to thank everyone who supported us in making it such an enjoyable occasion as the pictures prove!



All being well, we shall hold next year's event on Sat. 11 June!

## PROGRESS OF THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - LOCALISM IN ACTION



The Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum (MNPF) was formally designated by Portsmouth City Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 which means we are now recognised as having the capacity to create a Plan for the area of Milton, coloured blue in our logo. Our Website is:- [miltonplan.org.uk](http://miltonplan.org.uk)  
You can also e-mail us at:- [miltonplan@btinternet.com](mailto:miltonplan@btinternet.com)

We explained in the June "Milton Matters" our vision to create a Plan for a "Sustainable Community" and the need for us to obtain consensus on what local people want and require. We had 70 responses following the "Picnic On The Green" trial Survey telling us how much we all valued the green open spaces in Milton and particularly the parkland landscape of St James's Hospital.

These responses reinforced the opposition to the Council's Site Allocations proposals by also telling us what is unacceptable in terms of the magnitude of housing. However, to create a viable Plan, we must discover what forms of new development will be acceptable to you. If we get it right we can still accommodate sustainable land-uses benefiting the whole Community whilst preserving as much of the existing green open spaces and character of Milton as possible.

We have therefore enclosed a modified Questionnaire which we urge you to complete. It shouldn't take very long but your answers will shape Milton for the next 15 years! We would like to know for example what people will support in terms of future uses for the main St James's Hospital once it closes at the end of 2016. What will be acceptable on the University site when it's vacated in the next 10 years -a secondary school, a "Free School"? Should we have more schools generally in Milton so our children can be educated locally? Should we have a GP Surgery on the St James's site? Should we have more elderly/social care use on S

James's:- perhaps a dementia unit? How much green space should be preserved? What numbers of new houses should be accommodated in Milton? How should these be fitted into the highly valued green spaces?

These issues and many more can be addressed in a locally backed Neighbourhood Plan whereas if we don't have one we are to a large extent reliant on the 2 major landowners, the NHS and Portsmouth University pressing for the maximum number of houses consistent with the several hundreds in the Site Allocations Plan and the National Planning Policy Guidelines.

In terms of the Site Allocations, Portsmouth City Council has in July intimated both sites can accommodate up to 390 new homes between them including 110 on the University site. This is an improvement on the 480 proposed in 2014 but we think it is still excessive and would prefer to see a new secondary school on the Furze Lane site. It is not what we think that really counts –it's what you think that counts.

Common sense suggests 390 new homes is unsustainable. Local people and families do need houses to live in but there's also a need for a proper transport network to get to them and for local schools for our children to attend. Local amenities obviate the need to rely on unsustainable modes of transport. Local people also need a Doctors surgery with the capacity to see them, together with local shops selling a range of products to satisfy their local needs. So we can fully understand these issues we are seeking data and statistics from the Council and other Departments to write coherent policies based on factual evidence.

There is a long way to go yet and we expect to get our hands on some funds soon from the Department for Communities and Local Government. Assuming we get sufficient numbers of responses to the questionnaires, plus as much factual data and information on schools, GP's and other health/social care professionals, on housing need and availability, on road capacity and infrastructure generally, there's no real reason why "Localism" can't deliver what locals want. If you can make it to the next Milton Neighbourhood Forum on 14th October, I will explain more but in the meantime:- **Please spend a few minutes to complete the questionnaire.** Rod Bailey Chairman Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum 11



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## LET'S GET UP TO DATE

**Milton Park Skatepark** is now completed and proving popular with Oakley and Keiron who were among the first to try it out.



We were all shocked to see the pictures of **flooding in Edenbridge Road** on 24 August and await the answers from the Council and Southern Water on the cause. Only in February this year, Southern Water said their early warning systems should prevent excess discharges and reduce them down to a 'one in 76 years event'! The Langstone Harbour Board website showed over 20 discharge warnings of overflow into Langstone Harbour on that one day. We have

a promise from Southern Water to come to the forum next year and will hold them to it. **Crayfern Homes' Planning Application No.14/01664/FUL for 30 homes off Lapwing Close will be decided on 14 October (5pm Planning Committee)** so there is still time to comment via [planning.reps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.reps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk).

The next stage of the shoreline flood protection is due to start soon and includes **Milton Common**. This affects our area so we have a speaker on this topic at **14 Oct Forum**.

Families are worried they may have to take primary school children out of the area in future and we understand playtimes are being staggered to accommodate all the children so we will hear from **Mike Stoneham** how school places are planned. He is also working on a report on secondary school places which will be ready later in the year. There is real concern whether Milton is the right place to live.



Our Council Leader, Cllr. Donna Jones has asked to address Milton Forum on the **Council Budget** so we have a very full agenda on 14 October. Do come along and also bring any questions you have about the **Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire**.

### MARVELLOUS MILTON MARKET – 31 OCTOBER 2015

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## THE UNFORGETTABLE JIMMY DICKINSON

Last month *The News* ran an article about the Jimmy Dickinson sporting statue proposal in Milton. To many of a certain vintage Jimmy Dickinson is emblematic of the golden age of Pompey



and everything that is good about the people's game. When he finally hung his boots up in 1964, he stood head and shoulders above any other professional footballer as an outstanding sportsman and was subsequently awarded an MBE by the Queen for his services to the City of Portsmouth, England and more broadly the game of football. Affectionately known as Gentleman Jim, his sportsmanship record was unrivalled in 1964, but sadly for the game today no other professional footballer has come close to emulating this feat of clean play in over 50 years. Jimmy Dickinson is by a huge margin Pompey's most decorated player and considered by the Football League to be one of their 100 Legends on their all-time roll of honour. He is also one of the last of the Football League's 100 Legends to have a lasting tribute in the form of a public sporting sculpture.

The proposed sculpture by Portsmouth artist Roger Holman is a fitting tribute fully approved by the Dickinson family and captures an iconic image of Jimmy Dickinson at Fratton Park during the club's and player's heyday. To a certain extent it is an image basking in reflected glory but that in a nutshell is what football is all about; winning the game fairly. These principles of playing well and winning with honour were formulated on the school fields of Cambridge prior to becoming the "Laws of the Game" of football. Whilst the Football Association can neither deny nor disprove it, it is highly likely that Jimmy Dickinson has the best record of fairplay in 150 years of the game. Now that really is something for our community football club to shout about.

Planning permission for a life-and-a-half size (approx 8-9 ft) bronze statuary artwork tribute to Jimmy Dickinson, MBE, in Milton was granted in 2012. The Portsmouth Society added their voice of support. This by all accounts was the easy part. The hardest part by a long chalk has been the artistic content and a sculptural true likeness of the man. The location for the statue is to be the triangle of land outside Churchill Homes (Alverstone Road). More information about the project, location, business supporters and the artist's excellent work can be found on the official Jimmy Dickinson Statue Facebook page. Work on clearing the site for the statue and constructing the plinth will begin in October. Public subscription will be sought for this project through the internet but Graham at Art & Framing in Milton Road can also deal with donations at the shop.

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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 or contact by letter,  
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or e-mail [MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)



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