

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 57

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

FEB 2016



*Sue Manning receives the Love Your Street Plaque from Brian Bayford on behalf of Milton Traders for staging the 'Marvellous Milton Market' event. Also new Keep Milton Green poster in centre pages*

**Wednesday 24 Feb 7.00 pm**

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

## **NEXT FORUM AGENDA**

**The Role of the Homes & Communities Agency**

**Changes at Corben Lodge**

**Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

**Claire Upton-Brown explains Milton's CIL Fund**

**Police Update and Speedwatch**

## **FORUM MINUTES 14 Oct 2015**

**New Committee Member-** Ian Clark was appointed to the Committee. Ian is the Project Manager of the Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

### **COASTAL DEFENCE SCHEME**

Marc Bryan (Capital Projects Leader), Chris Koster and Richard Ward (Coastal Engineers) attended for this topic and they told residents of progress regarding work to update and improve sea defences. It was explained that the overall cost of the scheme was £54 million and was designed to provide a 1 in 500 year flood protection programme for the city, and that funding had been made available from April 2015. The removal of the quay on the Eastern Road was fundamental to the scheme as it is in a very poor state of repair and there will be two sets of steps provided for residents to access the beach area.

Residents generally welcomed the implementation of the scheme, and Marc confirmed that negotiations were under way with the rail authorities to deal with the railway line flooding problems under Hilsea Lines. Some concerns were expressed at the removal of the Great Salterns Quay used for fishing and jumping into the sea. Also that access to the beach for nesting swans would be required and must be raised at the Planning Application stage.

### **SCHOOL PLACES IN MILTON**

Mike Stoneman from Portsmouth City Council gave a presentation setting out the overview of school places in the Milton area, including a schedule of forecast pupil numbers.

The Primary Schools serving Milton are Langstone Infant and Junior Schools, Meon Infant and Junior Schools, Milton Park Primary School and Moorings Way Infant School. The Council aims to provide Primary school places 2 miles from home and Secondary 3 miles.

The City has been used to a 6% surplus of places in the past, now it is 2% so areas of schools such as IT suites and Libraries are being converted back to classrooms to accommodate pupils. He stated that there are not enough Special Schools, pupils may have to be directed into mainstream schools in future.

The basic message of Mike's presentation was that he believes that there will be sufficient places available for all children WITHIN EXISTING SCHOOLS. A feasibility study to expand and change the status of Moorings Way Infant School to a primary school is being completed to inform future plans, and the Girls' Academy in St. Mary's Road is scheduled to become a co-ed school within two years as it is currently not fully occupied. Concerns were expressed from the floor that populations numbers could rise to the extent that new schools would be needed to fulfill sustainability criteria for the future development of the area.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM**

Rod Bailey reported progress in forming a Planning Forum for Milton. He asked residents to complete the questionnaire issued within the recent Milton Matters. He emphasized that the plan, which cannot be completed before 2017, should aim to promote **sustainable**

## **FORUM MINUTES 14 Oct..*cont***

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - cont**  
**development as some further development cannot be prevented.** Mike Stoneman had stated in his earlier presentation that there will be a lack of sufficient school places within the Milton ward for infant/primary children plus a forthcoming shortage of year 7 places after 2018 across the city. It is likely that the city council will be unable to meet its statutory obligations in 2018 without an expansion of secondary school places. This will have to be achieved by expansion of existing premises, as the city council will not build new schools.

Factors to be included in the planning process include environmental issues, air quality and traffic impact, and the Good Companion/Moorings Way junction and the Locksway/Milton Road junction are both up to capacity at peak times. More pollution monitoring is vital and Cllr Hastings is pursuing this aspect. Cllr Sanders feels that Portsmouth is a special case, especially with the implications of a “super authority” being created.

Rod was thanked by the Chair for all the work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning group.

### **THE BUDGET**

The leader of the Council, Cllr Donna Jones, and Chris Ward from Portsmouth City Council gave a presentation setting out the difficulties of determining budget cuts needed because of reductions in central government grants to local authorities

£31 million must be cut over the next three financial years and decisions about which services should bear the brunt of such cuts are sensitive. The driving force is that **key areas** of service must be provided (housing revenue, capital expenditure and certain ring-fenced items such as project monies) and cannot be cut, so any cuts necessary must come from the remaining services. The city council has to live within its means and £11 million must be saved during next financial year.

Cllr. Jones highlighted the need for income to be created and outlay reduced. This is why special events such as the Americas Cup and associated functions on Southsea Common are welcomed because they bring in additional revenue. Also, the concept of a Hampshire and Isle of Wight combined authority should create more opportunities for saving money and is under consideration. For example, although business rates are to be directed back to councils in the future, it would happen sooner under a combined authority. She also confirmed a 2% Council Tax rise is planned for 2016/17.

Residents were encouraged to submit ideas to the council on how the city could make savings.

### **“MARVELLOUS MILTON MARKET”**

This event is taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and residents are invited to give the event support.

### **SPEEDWATCH**

The Chair asked for residents to contact the Forum if they were interested in becoming a speedwatch volunteer. Some residents were concerned at vehicle speeds in Locksway Road.

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## ARTIST EDWARD KING 1862-1951



*St James Hospital by Edward King,  
reproduced by permission of Portsmouth City Council's Museum Service*

Edward King immortalised so many aspects of St James Hospital, our shoreline and the blitz on Portsmouth. The City Council owns 80 of his works which are normally kept in store. However, a new exhibition of his paintings is to be staged in the City Museum from Friday 25 March featuring pictures of the effects of World War II on Portsmouth, the shoreline of Milton Locks and the landscapes he painted whilst at St James. The display will probably run for a year and will be accompanied by a number of events and talks connected with this famous local artist.

As we all know, the buildings in St James are becoming redundant. What a gift it would be to the City if one of the villas could be converted to an Edward King Gallery! See his works at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/edward-king>



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Toddler Boogie	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym (pm)	Baby Sensory	Creation Station		
Zumba	BSL Sign Language	Lighthouse Church	Pilates	Beginners LineDance		
Tap Dancing	Yoga	Keep Fit	MNPF (m)	Yoga		
Learn toSalsa			Choices Advocacy(F			
			Line Dancing			

## Trips & Holidays

Last few seats for **Bend It Like Beckham** (musical comedy with a bit of Bollywood. Now booking for **Northumberland** and **Denmark & Germany Christmas Markets** cruise! New programme for Summer 2016 out in March!

<b>BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM</b>	17 Feb matinee London Show	<b>Special Offer</b> £49 now £40!	Front Dress Circle seats & coach inc.
<b>NEWCASTLE &amp; NORTHUMBERLAND</b>	8 – 12 Apr 5 days / 4 nights	<b>£379 Members</b> <b>£399 Nonmembers</b>	4* Marriott Hotel – lots included!
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## WORKS TO MILTON COMMON

Since the talk at the last Forum, plans have been submitted by the East Solent Partnership (ESP) to the City Planners for the flood protection works. These have made it clearer what will happen to The People's Memorial at the north of Milton Common located on the foreshore.

The original design for the new coastal defences meant that the new rock revetment would undermine the Memorial. Fresh designs have been proposed to protect the memorial cairn and the rock revetment so that the Memorial will remain on the shore and the flood protection will curve behind it. Also there will now be a wider, 3m wide cycle path along the shore when the works are complete.

The East Solent Partnership are now considering leaving 3m of the Great Salterns Quay in situ rather than removing the whole structure as was originally planned. This will not only act as a temporary re-instatement for the sea wall behind, continuing to provide sea defence but will also provide a small platform for fishermen to continue using the quay. However, this option relies on the stability of the remainder of the quay when work has been carried out.

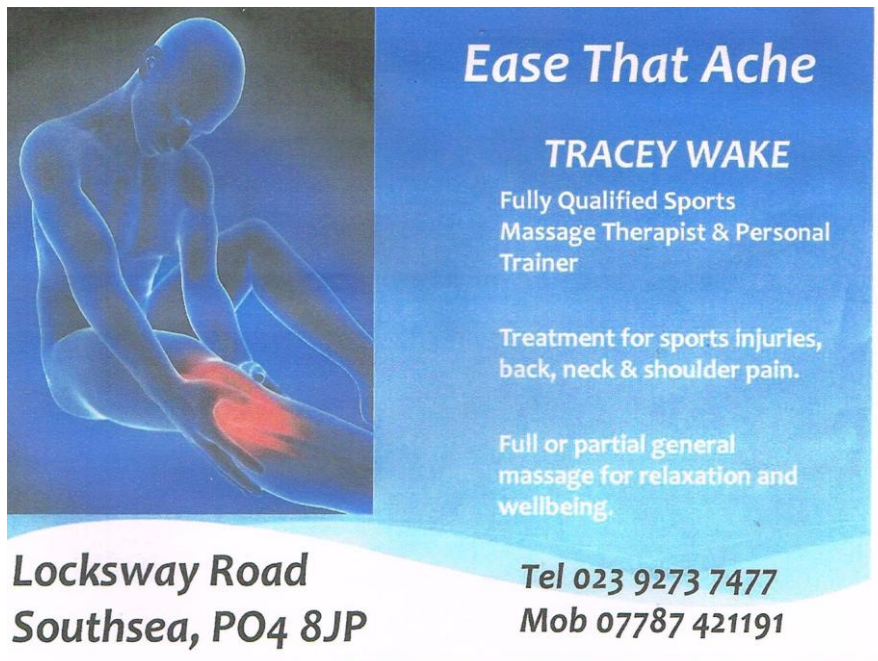
Works will start on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 until 30<sup>th</sup> October. Signage will be displayed at several points around the works area. The whole of the shoreline from Great Salterns' Quay to the start of Longshore Way will be closed to the public throughout the works period.

The main compound will be set out at the southern end of the Common, and will accommodate site offices. Access to the site will be via the current maintenance access gate, at the high barrier at the end of Moorings Way. This will have a temporary junction to accommodate the site, and will be reinstated once the work is complete. Site deliveries of rock are most likely to be via this Moorings Way access point, as there is very little other access to the coastline.



Approximately 6000m<sup>3</sup> of rock will be delivered, which should average 10 lorry loads per day. This will increase and decrease as the demand on site changes. ESP are hoping to reuse the fill material from the removal of Great Salterns quay, and this will be hauled along the coastal path and foreshore between the quay and the common. If the material proves to be unusable, imported material will come in through Moorings Way.

The contractor will prepare a traffic management plan to be approved by the Council's planning department. This will be heavily managed by the Site Team to ensure that the works cause minimal disruption. The traffic management plan will ensure that the delivery vehicles respect the speed limits of the road and are aware of the schools and crossing points. There may also be a restriction on delivery times although this has not been confirmed. Lastly, there will be a road cleaner operating twice a week to ensure Moorings Way is clear during the works. This will be increased further if required. ESP states 'The site team are well experienced and have recently delivered a very large project that required deliveries to be made through the residential area of Anchorage Park. We will be managing the works very closely to ensure minimal disruption' Chair



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## MARVELLOUS MILTON MARKET

On 31 October 2015 a great new event was held in Eastney Road involving the local traders, Beddow Library, Eastney Community Centre and the Fort Cumberland Arms. It was an opportunity to show us how easy it is to walk to our own Milton Market and enjoy all the facilities it has to offer. It was not practical nor affordable to close off the main road, but instead families walked along the trail from the Library where they enjoyed spooky stories and games, down to the shops offering a treasure hunt, craft activities, decorating pumpkins, making witches hat bird feeders, taking in face painting then on to the Community Centre for stalls, entertainment and a bouncy castle in the pub garden.



*shop team offers witches hats*



*Izzy Wizzy Witch entertains 150 fans*

*Pet*

*Original Pumpkin art at the Veg shop*

*Polite Mechanicals in action*





*All dressed up for Halloween*

This event would not have been possible without the hard work of everyone involved. The shops were beautifully decorated and extra activities put on. Phix-Pix designed great posters and put the event onto the internet. A grant of £500 from Love Your Street provided money for St Johns Ambulance, poster printing, balloons for street decoration and Izzy Wizzy Witch fee. The benefits to our area included 1140 people attending the Library that day, instead of 200 who normally go in on Saturdays. The local shops did great trade and provided a huge hamper worth over £100 in gifts and vouchers as the treasure hunt prize. The verdict at the end of the day, was 'when can we do it again?' so watch the Boards.

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## PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



**It** is almost a year since a Neighbourhood Plan for Milton was conceived and it is worth reflecting on why we started it, what we've done and what we need to do. What we want to happen in the future is going to be about our Forum's resources, your support and an acknowledgement that Planning should be less about political short-termism and more about long-term sustainable goals.

### **Why A Neighbourhood Plan?**

For Milton to be a "Sustainable" Community in its own right it has to be recognised we're part of a densely populated Island City characterised generally by a deficit of green and open-spaces, where educational standards are less than perfect, where obesity and ill-health are higher than in neighbouring South Coast communities, where social-care is found wanting and where affordable housing is becoming a fantasy.

Town Planning should be less about financial gains to housebuilders and landowners and more about benefits to the community. The balance is wrong if the Community suffers more than it gains from any new development. "Sustainability" should be more than a tick-box process - it should be about conserving resources and the environment, about avoiding waste and promoting long-term thinking. What's the point for example of wasting a landscaped parkland within St James's for the short-term financial gain to a house-builder when the costs of enabling it fall on the citizens of Portsmouth for years afterwards? What's the point of 110 new houses on Furze Lane when we don't have sufficient school-places locally? What's the point of building more houses when the recreational disturbance alongside the Langstone Harbour Foreshore is already excessive? What's the point of 100's of new homes if the infrastructure's not here and it would lead to greater levels of air toxicity?

### **What We've Done:-**

Agreed a "vision" to create this sustainable community preserving green spaces.

Portsmouth City Council has endorsed us as a body with the legal right to prepare a Spatial Plan to deliver a Sustainable Community.

We've got a Constitution, a Budget and a website:- [Miltonplan.org.uk](http://Miltonplan.org.uk) .

We've got Working Groups to collect, collate and evaluate the necessary "evidence" to underpin our Policies.

We've got Keep Milton Green alongside to support us in any planning "abuse" before the Milton Neighbourhood Plan gets endorsed

### **Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

The June "Picnic on the Green" event attracted many responses to our initial Survey and an improved Survey was launched in September. The "on-line" surveys are live until 31 January 2016. We have nearly 550 respondents so far (almost 13% of households).



**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Cont...**The Council's Principal Planning Policy Officer has given us good support. The background evidence has been provided promptly. The PCC Education officers have provided school-place numbers and explained the City's approach to meeting demand. The initial dialogue with NHS Property Services fizzled out but they have now advised us Phase 1 St James's Hospital was transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in late November 2015.

The Portsmouth North MP has told us the HCA want to "Master-Plan" the Hospital **and** the University sites.

The Council want us to join them in meeting both University and the HCA early 2016. Natural England will want to see draft policies before engaging fully but considering our aim has always been to take sustainability seriously, we are not expecting any conflict.

Historic England have praised our "Character Assessment" Questionnaire. They met with us in November at the Council's offices and have provided some useful insights particularly on how we could raise the conservation profile of St James's Hospital.

### **Emerging Themes**

The public responses confirm there are many fears over the lack of school-places both locally and City-wide, the shortage of GP surgeries, excessive traffic, congestion and poor air-quality and loss of green spaces. Overwhelmingly though there remains a strong opposition locally towards housing expansion especially large-scale as originally proposed although there is some acceptance that smaller residential developments could be accommodated on either or perhaps both. On the positive side many would like to see the hospital re-used for elderly and social-care if medical uses can't be retained. There is much support for recreation/sportsfields and a new school at Furze Lane.

Portsmouth City Council now recognise their initial Site "Allocation" for 480 new homes (reduced from 545) in Milton was excessive. They accept the need to continue to monitor the Velder Avenue/Rodney Rd/Milton Rd junction and recognise that traffic congestion and management is a key constraint to major new development requiring access via the Eastern Rd and Moorings Way junction. The Council acknowledge there's a shortfall locally in terms of Primary School-places and City-wide with secondary ones and claim there is an absence of suitable sites to build a new secondary school.

Natural England remain anxious about potential damage to Langstone Harbour and the wildlife from an increase of recreational uses from significant housing expansion. Historic England recognise the importance of the Hospital and will be supportive of any policies promoting its conservation. They've also acknowledged the significance of the landscaped "parkland".

Our findings suggest there's an absence of enhanced social-care housing City-wide coupled with an apparent inability to address it.

### **What We Need To Do**

We will need to Complete the Character Assessment:- the basis of what's here and what's important is fundamental to what we want to create, preserve and enhance .

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Cont** so there's an urgent need to concentrate on progressing it. A historically significant historical hospital and surrounding parkland is the key for protection initially. We'll need to draft Policies around the public responses to questionnaires, factual evidence and stakeholder engagement. This is about housing needs (especially affordable and elderly/social-care) demographics and population predictions; incomes and employment; schools and GP/patient ratios; road and infrastructure capacity; retail capacity; and air quality.

We should meet with the HCA and Portsmouth University and present some initial and credible ideas on what we've found and what we want to see developed.

We should present our Initial findings and Draft Policies at an Open Access Public Meeting. **This will be at Milton Village Hall in on 5th April 2016 3pm to 7.30 pm.**

**What We Want**

Locally accessible good quality schools for our children and grand-children; locally accessible health-care for all; a reduction in car-dependency, affordable homes for everyone and social-care for those who need it. We want to come up with forms of development that can meet our needs, doesn't impair the green environment and minimises air pollution.

What we need is a proper understanding from the powers that be that we can make a valuable contribution to planning in Milton for now and in the future.

**"Localism" should not be another political deception!**

All the work described so far has been carried out by local residents motivated to try to protect our area. It has been a demanding but satisfying process so far. If anyone wishes to join the Planning Forum please come along to the Milton Open Forum on **24th February 2016** and make us aware of how you would like to help.

**ROD BAILEY, Neighbourhood Planning Chair**

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## FORUM ISSUES

**D**isappointing news after the efforts to put Milton Market on the map, **Lloyds Bank** is closing in April 2016. The advice from the Bank is 'use Palmerston Road branch instead' which is hardly helpful to local traders needing cash and paying in facilities. Also there are 2 Atm's at the bank which will be missed. The Forum, MP Flick Drummond and local councillors have been raising the issue but with little reaction or success. If a town like Arundel which is also losing its only bank - Lloyds again - this year, what hope for any public service ethos in banking today. It makes us want to change bank on principle!

Upcoming Forum on Wed. 24 February at Mary Rose School will host the **Homes and Communities Agency** who have purchased half the St James site and who will answer questions about the organisation. We are also hoping that the Police can attend and update us on Speedwatch schemes and plans for traffic speed control in Locksway Road.

The Tesco development yielded a high level of **Community Infrastructure Levy** to be spent in our area. Claire Upton-Brown will attend the next Forum to tell us how much has been received and suggestions for projects are welcome.

Changes to the role of **Corben Lodge** in Moorings Way are planned so come along and hear more at the Forum.

We told you about the plans to erect a statue of **Jimmy Dickinson** on the corner of Rodney Road/Milton Road. Unfortunately the required level of initial donations for launching the project did not materialise so this has had to be deferred.

Dates for your diary in 2016

- **Next Open Forum, Wed. 24 February 7pm Mary Rose School**
- **Neighbourhood Planning Open Session Tuesday 5 April, Milton Village Hall from 3pm - 7.30 pm - all welcome to view policies**
- **PICNIC ON THE GREEN - SAT. 11 JUNE, St James Field**
- **MacMillan Fund Raising Event in Milton Park, Sunday 3 July**
- **MILTON MARKET next event in Eastney Road - Watch the Community Boards for announcement of date for more local fun**

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