

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 58

**Milton Neighbourhood Forum**

JUNE 2016



*Simon Whitcomb painted this charming view at last year's Picnic on the Green. What more do you need to encourage you to come along this year on Saturday 11 June from 2-5 pm.*

**Wednesday 15 JUNE 7.00 pm**

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

## **NEXT FORUM AGENDA**

**Air Pollution Action-Louise Bevan from Public Health Portsmouth**

**Portsmouth's New Traffic System – Pam Turton, PCC**

**Update on Neighbourhood Plan and local issues**

**Forum Annual General Meeting**

## **FORUM MINUTES 24Feb 2016**

**New Committee Member- The Chair welcomed local resident John Gove who has joined the Committee..**

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

These had been published in the last Milton Matters. The Coastal Defence Scheme outlined at the previous meeting had now been passed by Planning Committee so would be commencing in April 2016 as planned.

The process to change Milton Common to a Local Nature Reserve is underway but not yet completed formally.

### **CHANGES AT CORBEN LODGE**

Justin Wallace-Cook, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care with Portsmouth City Council, informed residents of the changes taking place at Corben Lodge. The Lodge will close by 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and all residents relocated to independent living accommodation. It is planned to continue use of the current building, with minimal external changes but substantial internal alterations to create 'group living unit' for older adults who have learning difficulties.

Councillor Luke Stubbs stated that supported living schemes were financially better and more effective than the Lodge's previous use.

### **MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Rod Bailey, Chair of the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum, gave a synopsis of feedback from residents.

550 responses had been received, with 54% of residents agreeing that Milton is a good place to live, but traffic issues and overdevelopment have a detrimental effect on quality of life. It is evident that infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate anything other than

minor new development, and any new housing developments must be accompanied by basic infrastructure essentials such as GP surgeries. The Neighbourhood Plan will have to be approved by an inspector from Bristol before it can be adopted as a legal document, which will then be used when new developments are being considered by the council's Planning Department.

There is to be a public display of the survey results in Milton Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, and residents are encouraged to attend and comment.

### **HOMES & COMMUNITIES AGENCY**

Bruce Voss, Area Manager from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), stated that their role is to help create successful communities by making more homes and business premises available to the residents and businesses needing them. The Agency is the government's housing, land and regeneration agency, and is the regulator of social housing providers in England.

He gave an overview of the land at St. James' Hospital that the HCA have purchased under Phase 1 and which will be available in due course for housing development. He indicated that a future developer could not commence any work until the first phase of work has been approved by the Planning Authority (which will not be until 2017 at the earliest, as current users at the site have to be relocated). He did stress that the HCA does **not** build homes, but that land is offered to developers who will determine building schemes.

Bruce's presentation did not offer much comfort to residents, as he had no new information over and above what is already known.

## **FORUM MINUTES Feb..cont**

Bruce Voss stated that the sites that the HCA have purchased will be fenced in for the foreseeable future, subject to planning approval. **(Note: Since the last meeting the Planning Committee rejected the scheme to fence off land at St James as it would be detrimental to the setting of the listed buildings)**

### **MILTON'S CIL FUND**

Claire Upton-Brown, City Development Officer, had been invited to update residents on the the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money currently available from developers' contributions and to explain what has been purchased and how funds can be accessed. Ideas can be submitted via the Milton Neighbourhood Forum, and schemes are considered for approval in conjunction with Ward Councillors. Funds have already been spent on the improvement to the skatepark in Milton Park and on the improvements to the café and outdoor area at Eastney Community Centre with £142,000 in hand.

The Chair identified some recent submissions awaiting approval:-

*Christmas lights for Milton Market;  
Provision of toilet facilities for wheelchair users at Eastney Community Centre, Bransbury Park;  
Contribution to kitchen upgrade at Milton Village Hall;  
Play area at Broom Square;  
Vehicle-activated speed sign on Locksway Road*

### **POLICE UPDATE AND SPEEDWATCH**

PCSOs Sam Foster and Cassie Ferrett from the Community Policing Teams that cover the Baffins and Fratton areas spoke about the changes to community policing across the city. They attempted to deal with residents' concerns, which included cycling on pavements, Milton Common, traffic (jumping red lights) and speeding issues. Identified as problems are:-  
Scramblers and uncontrolled dogs on Milton Common;

Cyclists using pavements and speeding without adequate lighting in place

The PCSO's agreed to look into the

1. the former White House pedestrian crossing/traffic lights;

2 inconsiderate parking on zigzags at schools (Devonshire Infants and Goldsmith Avenue); and

3 one-way traffic violations in Mariners Walk.

Cllr Ben Dowling confirmed that he is working with Southsea police reps to develop a Speedwatch group to cover Moorings Way and Locksway Road.

### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

The development of HMP, Kingston, was considered and objections should be submitted to the planning team at PCC by 29.2.16

**OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS IN MILTON PARK  
– a new table will be installed shortly with  
special outdoor (heavier)  
balls on sale in the Village Hall**

### **FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Nominations for Office or Committee to the  
Forum Freepost address by Wed. 8 June  
2016. Addressed to Angela Shephard, Link  
Officer.**

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## SPEEDWATCH ON DUTY



*Councillor Ben Dowling and volunteers help to monitor traffic speeds*

**F**ollowing many complaints about speeding in Milton's residential roads (especially Locksway Road) a Speedwatch group funded by CIL has been formed and has begun to monitor traffic. Speedwatch is a community scheme that can only take place in 20mph,

30mph and some 40 mph limits or zones. The scheme is managed by the Police local Safer Neighbourhood teams but run by volunteers who use equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic and record the details, later adding them to a database. Vehicle checks will be undertaken by the Police and letters will then be sent to the registered keepers advising them of the speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern. Speedwatch is not enforcement, it is education. and It is important to know that it now forms part of Police response to speeding issues. It is the first tier in dealing with this problem. If it persists, it escalates to tier two, when enforcement can be undertaken by the Police Safer Neighbourhood teams. Aiming to reduce death and injury on the roads, reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit, increase public awareness of inappropriate speed, Speedwatch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. ***If you would like to volunteer to join the scheme, e.mail [btldowling@yahoo.com](mailto:btldowling@yahoo.com) or phone 0754 0947364.***



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# Milton Village Community Association

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

Tel. 023 9287 3788 Email: [miltonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:miltonvillagehall@gmail.com)

Office: 0930-1230 Mon-Fri Website: [www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk)



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Zumba	Advanced Cribbage	Little Steps Gym (pm)	Baby Sensory	Creation Station		Chapel House
Tap dancing	Yoga	Lighthouse Church	Pilates	Beginners LineDance		
		Keep Fit	Dog Trg.	Yoga		
			Linedance			

## Trips & Holidays

We currently have availability on the following activities (MVH=Milton Village Hall)

IT DROP-IN (MVH) 1.15-3PM	Tue 24 May Tue 7 June	FREE Drop in	Need help with Ipad or Laptop?
ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHTS (MVH)	Sat 4 Jun Sat 23 July	FREE – donations gratefully received	Bring your own drinks & nibbles!
New! BARN DANCES (MVH)	Sat. 11 Jun Sat 24 Sept Sat 10 Dec	Just £5pp! Booking advised !	Bring your own drinks & Nibbles!
HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW	Fri 8 Jul	£42 Members £45 Non-members	Early start to beat the crowds!
LONDON BARGAIN	Wed 27 Jul	Just £10 (£15 non members)	Spare coach seats on theatre trip
ROBIN HOOD PANTO At Mayflower	Tue 20 Dec. evening	£42 Members £45 non members	Starring Kat & Alfie from Eastenders!
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## FRIENDS OF ST JAMES GREEN

After a series of public meetings, residents and other users of St James' Green have come together to support community use of the Green. The newly formed Friends of St James' Green group will be working to represent the interests of all users of the green space and children's play area. A range of different people use the area, including children, families and dog walkers, all of whom can have different needs and priorities and the Friends will aim to make sure everyone gets as much enjoyment from the space as possible.

(Residents who campaigned for the area to be a recognised Village Green will recall that the Green was originally part of the St James' Hospital site, but ownership was transferred to Portsmouth City Council in 2006 as part of a legal agreement made when parts of the hospital site were developed for housing. It was not possible to designate the land as a village green, but the council had designated it as Protected Open Space in the Local Plan).

At an open meeting in March supported by Chris Richards of Portsmouth Council, a Friends of St James Green Constitution was agreed and an Interim Committee created. The first committee meeting took place in April and one of its first actions was to set up a membership scheme - see details below.



The group will work closely with the Parks Department on any improvements and developments to the Green while maintaining the Green as a great space for everyone to use.

The Interim Committee plans to hold a General meeting later in the year at which members will be able to vote for and stand for election to the first full committee of the Friends.

Copies of the Friends' Constitution are available from Chris Richards: Tel 92834810; email

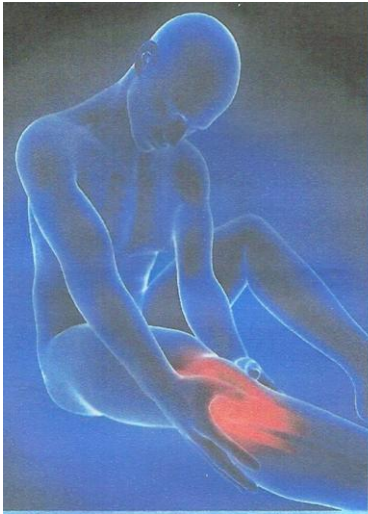
[Chris.richards@](mailto:Chris.richards@Portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

[Portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.richards@Portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Membership application forms are available from Chris Richards or from the membership secretary Katrina Fell [katrinasfell@googlemail.com](mailto:katrinasfell@googlemail.com)

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## PROGRESS ON MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



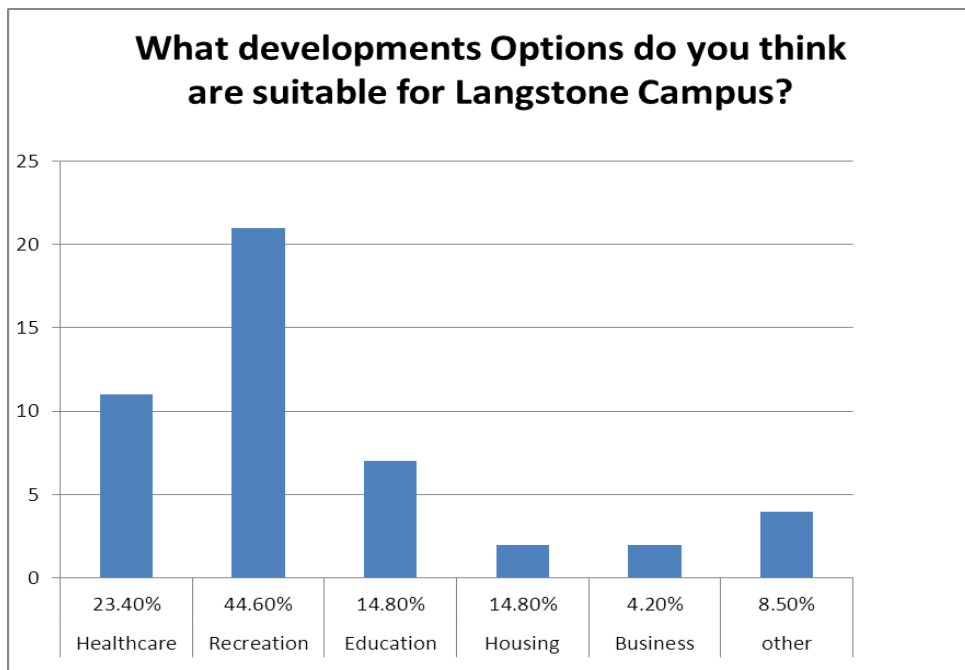
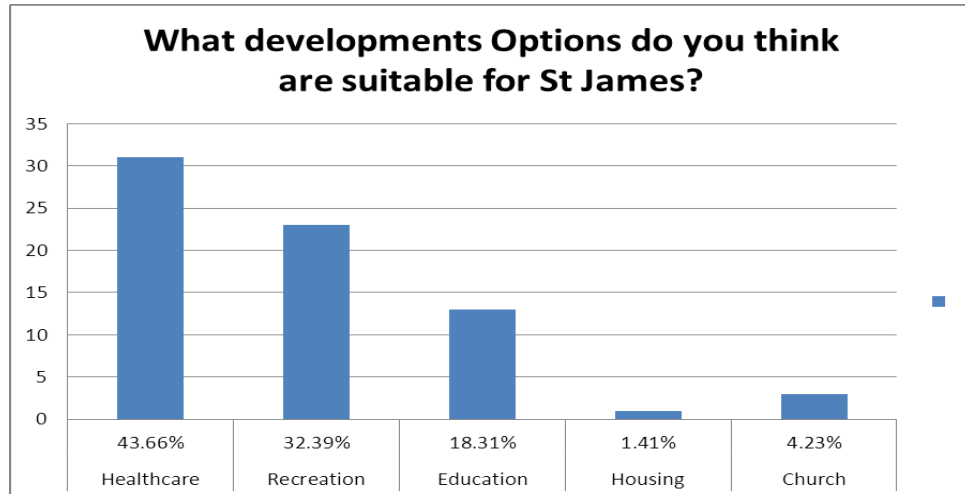
The attendance at the Community Consultation Event on 5<sup>th</sup> April was excellent. The Planning Forum was anxious it might not attract enough interest but in the end we saw over 200 of you as well as Natural England, the University, the NHS, the HCA and the Solent Health Trust.



The consequence is of course we will have to get our Plan off the ground but more about that later. We had some thoughtful comments on what you would like to see and some imaginative ones too, including an Urban Farm for educational purposes on St James's Hospital and a Country Park. These are a lot more appealing than another housing estate and would certainly preserve the green spaces. The graph opposite illustrates more succinctly the spread of comments on future uses for both St James's Hospital and the Langstone Campus.

Neighbourhood Planning was conceived under the "Localism" initiative and "Localism" is meant to give local communities a say in how their neighbourhoods are developed. From your comments, we have a consensus on the issues facing Milton (which for that matter apply to much of Portsmouth). We know the NHS is severely stretched and the local schools are full. The road network in Milton is particularly inadequate at peak times and especially at weekends:- the air quality suffers compromising the health of those living on or near to the main roads. Green spaces are vitally important as are sea-defences and maintaining or improving the shore-line.

There is a balance between what the Community wants, the landowners want and the infrastructure can cope with. The Forum remains committed to working on mitigating the Council's perception of the "how many houses can we fit in Milton" principle. The Planning Minister's view prior to the 2015 Election was that it's up to us and the Portsmouth South MP has recommended we get on with it. Our Neighbourhood Plan is founded on "Sustainability" in order to create a balanced community for the benefit of all those who live and work here. The National Planning Policy Framework aims to achieve the same thing. The rules on Neighbourhood Planning direct us towards promoting development in accordance with the strategic policies in the Portsmouth Plan and one of the biggest qualifiers is the development must be capable of being delivered.



## PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN *cont..*

Planning Policy Framework aims to achieve the same thing. The rules on Neighbourhood Planning direct us towards promoting development in accordance with the strategic policies in the Portsmouth Plan and one of the biggest qualifiers is the development must be capable of being delivered.

The Portsmouth Plan has already allocated St James's Hospital for a mix of uses including health and residential. Economically, the most viable use of the Grade 2 Listed Hospital main building will be for apartments. If the main building were to be allocated as homes for the elderly or retired, the demand on the local schools will not be affected. The Community Consultation and our Residents Questionnaire suggests you would support such a proposal. The "qualifying constraint" is a financial restriction rather than an ideological barrier. Portsmouth City Council for example has told us a new Secondary School on the University site will be difficult to deliver notwithstanding there are good social and environmental reasons for having one. It is the cost of a new school measured in monetary terms now rather than over time, and the inability to measure social and environmental costs on a balance sheet. The Council have therefore told us they cannot justify a new school.

This is where the biggest clash arises because sustainability is a long term goal and logically will be the most financially viable based on the simple principle that investment now benefits future generations who will otherwise pay higher economic, social and environmental costs in the future. The failure to properly address the emerging inability to expand school-places is very disappointing. The Council's priorities are to meet this financial year's budget (or at best the next). We haven't yet got a credible means of evaluating social and environmental costs to change the Council's mindset and we are left with being pressured to surrender to the prevailing obsession with housing. Because this realises the highest return to the landowner, it's a huge obstacle to our "vision".

The rhetoric of "Localism" and Communities having their say is tempered by many competing motives but we do have in Milton a groundswell of support to challenge the Council's inclination towards housing as the preferred land-use option. We are not promoting significant housing numbers but the hard evidence to counter the Council's simplistic residential solution is taking longer than we had anticipated so please bear with us. If you think you can help, particularly with evaluating social and environmental costs then please contact our Secretary:- [Secretarymiltonnpf@gmail.com](mailto:Secretarymiltonnpf@gmail.com) or speak to me at the Milton Open Forum on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at the Mary Rose School.

In the meantime we are still evidence gathering and drafting policies with the aim of completing the Neighbourhood Plan in 2017.

***Rod Bailey - Chairman Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum***



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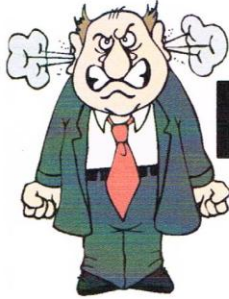
The value of our trees can be calculated in their contribution to air quality – absorbing carbon dioxide every day and discharging oxygen at night. They soak up rainwater which otherwise would run into the combined sewer system. They provide shelter to nesting birds, roosting bats, insect life on which the birds and their young feed and shade in a concrete-dominated city space. Increasingly mental health specialists are recognising what our Victorian forefathers knew, that to spend time in the green shady canopy of woods can restore our wellbeing and provide relaxation and a therapeutic environment. Just walking through the presence of trees can be calming and restoring, so they are clearly essential and valuable as a retreat from traffic and congestion, overcrowding and poor air. Kevin is keeping an eye on all the trees which might be lost and putting forward the case for retention and most importantly, REPLACEMENT of any trees which are lost through disease. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf!

Chair

# WHAT NO



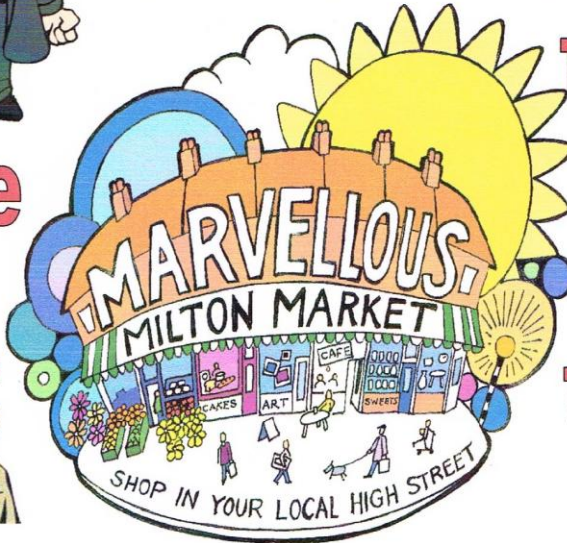
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## FORUM ISSUES

The next Open Forum on Wed.15 June will bring news about the City's plans to improve traffic flows. We will all be keen to hear this as it seems to local people that when you are on the road in Milton Road, Rodney Road, Goldsmith Avenue and Eastney Road **THE LIGHTS ARE GREEN BUT THERE'S NOWHERE TO MOVE TO!** Traffic also means fumes and the Forum is very concerned about monitoring the levels in our area, near our schools, homes and health facilities. More homes on the Prison site will increase traffic through Milton and although the readings for Velder Avenue traffic lights have improved since the 'no right turn' was introduced, they have deteriorated in Baffins Road probably through increased use of Langstone Road. Louise Bevan from Portsmouth Public Health will tell us more about the city's strategy, so COME ALONG.

---

**Saturday 11 June 2015**

HM QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

**ST.JAMES GREEN, LOCKSWAY ROAD, MILTON**

**'PICNIC ON THE GREEN' 2pm - 5pm**

Opening by Brian Kidd

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**MR TALL BALLOON MODELLER**

If wet, Mr Tall will continue in Milton Village Hall

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## MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

[MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)

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Dave Wilcox – Vice Chair  
John Couch – Treasurer  
Rod Bailey MNPF Chair  
Margaret Nicholas (Secretary)  
Ian Clark  
Paul Docking  
George Dominy  
Dominic Goodyear  
John Grove

### **Ward Councillors – Milton**

Cllr Will Purvis  
6 The Parkway,  
Milton, PO3 6GQ  
(07590 282135)  
[wapurvis@me.com](mailto:wapurvis@me.com)

Cllr. Ben Dowling  
4 Hollam Rd, Milton  
(0754 0947364)  
[btldowling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:btldowling@yahoo.co.uk)  
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
39 Lindley Ave., Southsea  
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[geraldvj@gmail.com](mailto:geraldvj@gmail.com)

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### **Ward Councillors - Baffins**

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58 St Mary's House  
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[darrensanders59@gmail.com](mailto:darrensanders59@gmail.com)

Cllr. Lynne Stagg  
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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  
Neighbourhood Forums Freepost address:-***

**FREEPOST (RTLJ-ARYT-ECKC) PORTSMOUTH PO1 2AR**

***or e-mail [MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)***

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