

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 60

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Mar 2017



photo Lorna Wilkinson

As we face the loss of services at St James at least we know the listed Chapel and its multi-faith garden can still be viewed externally!

WELCOME TO THE 60TH ISSUE OF MILTON MATTERS

Wednesday 15 March 7.00 pm

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

NEXT FORUM AGENDA

Homelessness in our City- Elaine Bastable, PCC

DEFIBRILLATOR USE AND TRAINING

Update on St James and the Neighbourhood Plan

FORUM MINUTES 19 Oct 2016

Janice Burkinshaw, Chair, opened the meeting reporting that Peter Harling, has rejoined the committee.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

Since the last public forum, the committee has been monitoring local planning applications and has opposed the former Lloyds Bank premises in Eastney Road becoming a fast food takeaway which is still unresolved.

Plans to remove in excess of 50 trees from St' James' Hospital grounds were opposed successfully.

Plans to create road access to Fraser range were explained to the committee by representatives of the Hampshire and Regional Property Group to enable sea defence works to be undertaken by the Group.

Cllr Ben Dowling has successfully sought approval for safety improvements in Locksway Road at the access point to Milton Piece allotments. The "Keep Milton Green" group is working with Southsea Greenhouse on a Keep Portsmouth Green photographic project and Kimberly Barrett encouraged people to participate by providing photographs or art work for inclusion in an exhibition.

POLICING IN MILTON

The Chair introduced P.S Dean Juster, who had agreed to attend to speak about policing in the area and to try to answer any questions from the floor. He explained that 1000 police personnel have been lost as a result of financial restraints and that he is located with fire station officers at the Southsea Fire Station as part of cost saving initiatives.

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He stated that his main areas of concern were to protect the vulnerable (including children at risk of sexual exploitation), anti-social behavior at Fraser Range, and drug-related and other violence issues, especially in the area of Waverly Road, Southsea.

Questions from the floor included the problem of rough sleepers, locally found at Beddow Library, Milton Village Hall and land adjacent to St. Mary's Road roundabout. PS Juster agreed to allocate specific officers to have a watching brief and advised residents to report issues such as finding drug user syringes to the Police dedicated 101 telephone number (which has not achieved the success promised at its inception). He also confirmed that the city council policy of not locking parks at night has caused some problems. The Chair thanked PS Juster for his willingness to speak at the meeting and his agreement to follow up on issues raised from the floor.

HEALTHWATCH PORTSMOUTH

Alison Nicholson, Community Engagement Officer spoke about her work explaining that Healthwatch is made up of local people who wish to get involved in improving services and that it works locally with other organisations to build a national picture of people's views on health and social care services. Healthwatch can provide information, advice and support about local services, gather views and experiences of local people on the way services are delivered, and can influence services based on evidence collected. It can also provide support and guidance to people who wish to make a complaint about NHS care. **Healthwatch can be contacted on 023 9397 7079 or via www.healthwatchportsmouth.co.uk.**

FORUM MINUTES Oct -cont

ST. JAMES' HOSPITAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Rod Bailey stated that a meeting with the HCA scheduled for Tuesday 18th October had been cancelled at very short notice. Consequently he can provide no updated information over and above that which has already been given at past public meetings. He can, however, confirm that the HCA is currently undertaking some traffic survey work locally, the results of which will be shared with the Forum in due course.

Regarding the Neighbourhood Forum Planning Group, work is progressing and, hopefully, detailed policies will be formulated by the Spring of 2017 with support from consultants. The basis of the Plan concerns the need for sustainable community development including the need for school places and elderly care provision, but that sustainable development is dependent upon cost. The Plan could be submitted to the city council in May 2017.

In connection with the need for elderly provision locally, Rod drew attention to the two Edwardian villas at the Hospital which could be eminently suitable for providing elderly care, assuming the buildings were not demolished.

Residents expressed their thanks to Rod and the Planning Group for all the ongoing and hard work that designing a plan created.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13/14 Bus Service: FirstGroup has announced that the 13/14 bus service may have some changes implemented because of a fall in usage. The proposals remove some of the early morning and evening journeys, with no service to and from Gunwharf with effect from January 2017.

CIL Funding: Cllr Dowling confirmed that defibrillators have been purchased from CIL funds and will be installed at Milton Village Hall, Eastney Community Centre and at Fratton Park. A new suggestion for a wild flower bed for St James' Field play area at a cost of £250 was considered and agreed at the meeting.

Portsmouth University: A member of the audience stated that he believed the University would not be relinquishing the Furze lane site due to student housing need.

FUTURE TOPICS

Residents expressed concern that homelessness and rough sleepers should be identified as a future discussion topic because of the impact on the local area. Cllr Godier, the Portsmouth Council Housing Officer, and a charity such as the Salvation Army could be invited so that the problem can be considered, especially as the Baytrees and other villas at St. James' are closed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2047 hours.

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WHY HEDGEHOGS MATTER IN MILTON

We at Bert's Hedgehog Retreat would like to say a MASSIVE “thank you” for all your support this year. From our humble beginnings when we took in just a few hedgehogs, we are now a central point of contact when there is no space elsewhere: resulting in TWENTY SIX recently being homed here. Even now we are receiving calls daily.

We have taken on four extra foster carers and due to the warm weather up until mid December were still sending hedgehogs home. They are coming from as far away as Andover, Basingstoke and Southbourne. We find people have a real passion for hedgehogs and are going out of their way to bring them to us and to make donations for their care as well. The massive influx this year is due to unseasonably warm weather along with an increase in lung worm infections – which are often fatal when not treated. Other rescues centres are swamped – but we never say no even though we are overflowing at times.

Portsmouth City Council came on board this year encouraging groundsmen and gardeners to check before strimming and issuing stickers from the BHPS for their equipment as a reminder. They have also allowed us to set up a fundraising page for the Portsmouth lottery to help us raise funds.

<https://www.portsmouthlottery.co.uk/support/berts-hedgehog-retreat>

Our new shed purchased with funds from donations on the sponsored bike ride, has also allowed us to take in more sick hedgehogs, and to purchase new cages and equipment with the extra funds raised. We continue to fund raise and this together with donations allow us to continue to help release hedgehogs back to the wild, something that has been highlighted on the news and in newspapers recently. Your help to stop their decline is really important, in Milton we have a good hedgehog population and if we can continue to help them thrive, each following generation will be able to enjoy this quintessentially British mammal.

*Wishing you all a happy
2017 from Bert's Hedgehog
Retreat x*





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	Beetle Drive	Little Steps Gym (pm)	Quiz Time(m)	Creation Station		Church
Zumba	Advanced Cribbage	Lighthouse Church	Pilates	Beginners LineDance		Puppy training
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	Boxercise		Line Dance			

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

We are now only accepting NEW membership applications from within the 'Milton area'. All households who receive Milton Matters magazine are 'in area' and so eligible to apply!

Membership costs just £6pp per year and benefits include discount & priority booking on hall hire, events & trips plus discounts & offers in Pure Ground Coffee Shop!

Join before end of February to enjoy membership benefits for Summer Programme due out in March!

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MARVELLOUS MILTON MARKET @ HALLOWEEN



Pumpkin art at Fruit & Flower Stores



Milton Market Traders entered enthusiastically into another fabulous Halloween event this year, assisted by the Forum who obtained a grant of £400 and by Committee members and local Councillors who gave their time on the day to provide fun events from the Library in Milton Road down to The Fort Cumberland Arms in Eastney Road.

Beddow Library hosts the Lord Mayor



MILTON CAN BE REALLY SCARY!!



The event was made special by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth coming along to judge the 'Bake Off' in Milton Library where the staff were thrilled that over 2,000 people came through the door on the day!! Milton Village Hall hosted Charlie the Magician and Quidsin the Facepainter. Thanks so much to everyone who gave us a happy day!

SIXTY ISSUES OF MILTON MATTERS

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 1 Milton Neighbourhood Forum Sept 1995



The Old Farm Building - Milton

I am very pleased that Milton will be receiving this newsletter in support of what has already been happening in our area.

The Forum has held regular meetings in the University Milton Site Lecture Room on the corner of Locksway Road/Milton Road at which many issues affecting the ward and adjacent wards have been aired. Peter Mills has very ably chaired these meetings. Unfortunately he has had to resign as Chairperson due to other commitments and we must all thank him for his dedication to the interests of the area both as Forum Chairman and General Improvement Area spokesperson.

The task of Chairperson at the meetings is not easy. As Vice Chair I shall be taking on the role until our next election/AGM and hope to be able to keep residents well informed of local issues.

Janice Burkinshaw - Vice Chair

Forthcoming Events: Wednesday 27th September 1995 - Forum Meeting - 7.00pm - Portsmouth University Lecture Theatre Milton Campus
Subject: Update by Peter King, City Engineer on the proposal for traffic calming.

In September 1995, the first issue of the fledgling Milton Matters was delivered into the mailboxes of Milton with a cover showing The Barn in Milton Park in its full glory, a building that has stood the test of time and is still used by the community to this day. 60 issues later, Milton Matters is still fulfilling its task to inform the residents of what has and is happening now and what can be seen on the horizon for the area and the bonus is that it is free.



Milton Park today

I have looked through the issues starting with No 1. There is a wonderfully detailed article about the Brent Geese, a very familiar sight to us in the skies and the land in the Langstone Campus. As a lifetime resident of Milton, I found the cover of issue 2 very interesting as it was an aerial view of the reclamation

of Milton Lake. How many people realised that Moorings Way was once under water and that Milton Common was used as a land fill site, long before recycling was encouraged? You can see many pictures of this in the magazine over the years. Moving forward to issue 7, the cover showed Milton Asylum with cows, a familiar sight as St James had a working farm there well into the 70s. By issue 22, colour was introduced and I wonder if any of the children featured in the sack race from Picnic on the Green 2003 are still in the area? For all those Pompey fans, details of what was proposed for Fratton Park if we had remained in the premiership. Fast forward to issue 38 (June 2009) and yet new proposals from the ground are presented to the area. **Oh how things change!** A regular feature is the Picnic on the Green which is run by the forum team on the village green in St James (There are details on how this became a designated green in one of the magazines) and there are so many pictures of the residents enjoying a nice sunny afternoon in June. This year's event is already being planned for you to enjoy. Having referred to the past issues, some Milton Matters have been put on line and plans are in place to put all 60 up for everyone to enjoy. If you have any requests for a particular year before others or you want to see pictures of certain landmarks, please let us know and see if we can prioritise those. Lastly, it would be wonderful if any of you would like to contribute to future issues either with photos of the area or an article (you may have moved to the area, why not tell us what were your first impressions), you have stories of certain parts of the area long since gone, tales of your life in the area, in fact anything relating to Milton. It would be great to hear from you all.

Contact details are on the back page and the web address to see the old issues of Milton Matters www.miltonplan.org.uk Martin Lock 11

TWO DEFIBRILLATORS FOR OUR AREA



When the campaign was launched by South Central Ambulance and Community First Responders to have 50 more life-saving defibrillators installed in Portsmouth, the local Councilors and the Forum began to look at ways we could do this in Milton. As you will know from our meetings and the magazine, there is a sum of money provided through a levy on development in our area and we decided to ask if 2 defibrillators could be provided from this fund at a cost of £1660 each.

We approached local organisations and both the Eastney Community

Association and Milton Village Hall agreed to have a defibrillator box put onto their premises. It is important for us all to know where the defibrillators are kept so that any one who sees a person suffering from collapse, could access the box, open it and use the machine. Training in use of the machine is of course the ideal situation but not essential as the machine gives verbal instructions for step-by-step operation.

The Eastney Community Association machine has been installed on the left wall just outside the Centre entrance so it is accessible 24/7. The Milton Village Hall machine is being installed shortly, on the front of the old small hall to the right of the painting of the old barn.

Alan Perry will attend the next Neighbourhood Forum on Wed.15 March to explain the use of the machines.

It is important to note that a defibrillator should be used when someone has a cardiac arrest. This is when the heart suddenly stops pumping blood and is caused by a problem with the electrical system of the heart. Death can occur within minutes. This is different to a heart attack which is caused by a blockage in blood flow to the heart causing death of the heart tissue in that area, not death of the person. A heart attack may lead to a cardiac arrest. Generally someone experiencing a heart attack will be conscious whereas in cardiac arrest, they will not move nor breathe normally.

YOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



Through recent Heritage Lottery Funding, Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust are able to offer events for local children at Milton Locks Nature Reserve which is on the shore, next to the Thatched House pub in Locksway Road. Book with Jess.Daish-Miller@hiwwt.org.uk tel. 01489 570240.

THURS 23 FEB; 10.30-12noon, WILDLIFE TOTS - a session of outdoor stories and activities for pre-school children. Booking is essential, warm waterproof clothing and willies, suggested donation £4 per child.

SAT. 25 MARCH 10am-12.30pm MILTON'S HIDDEN SEASHORE - Drop in any time during the morning to meet the project team and find out how you can get involved and join in with family activities. Donations welcome

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MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



The Milton Neighbourhood Plan has to encourage new developments whilst avoiding stressing the roads; green spaces, and cramming our schools.

Our research has revealed a higher age proportion in Milton than the rest of Portsmouth and also a slightly higher car dependency. There are more 3 bed-houses than the rest of the City (in the order of 54% to 42%) and the owner-occupier ratio is almost 20% higher. Interestingly 16% of the 3 bedroom houses in Milton have only one occupant in them and 34% of 2 bedroom houses also do.

79% of working families with children are claiming tax credits:- well above local and national levels. Household incomes are lower.

The age profile means we are less healthy with 21.6% of us having life limiting disabilities compared to 17.4% City-wide.

City-wide there is an absence of elderly and enhanced care provision and QA Hospital suffers the “bed-blocking” syndrome the rest of the Country suffers. On one typical day at the beginning of January, QA had 247 patients remaining in beds for want of an adequate facility to go to and 33% of these were estimated to be for Portsmouth residents. That’s around 80 beds unavailable to City residents needing treatment.

The shortage of “Care-beds” could be addressed by re-using the redundant “Villas” at St James’s Hospital (“Fairoak” and “The Beeches”) for this purpose. The absence of a Doctors’ surgery in our Plan area could be addressed by providing one on the St James’s Hospital site.

The relatively higher age-group demography and the “under-occupation” of family homes indicate a potential demand for purpose-built elderly flats/apartments which could also be addressed on the Hospital site. This could free up affordable family homes for the younger generations.

City-wide, secondary school place shortages are rising from a projected deficit of 99 in 2015 to 145 for 2022/23 in 2016. The absence of a Secondary school in the South East quadrant of Portsea Island could be addressed by allocating land for one on the University site. As Primary School places are also in deficit, one idea might be to amalgamate our 3 Primary schools into one “through-school” which is a combined Primary and secondary school.

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE cont..

The Hospital already benefits from formally adopted planning policies so our Plan needs to recognise them. These offer a range of redevelopment options including residential, training, continued healthcare or education. There are no formal policies for the University site which is more limited by the Harbour environmental policies and the open-space designation on the sports-fields.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires the Planning system to deliver "Sustainable Development" and directs that the 3 elements of economic, social and environmental sustainability are to be achieved. None of them are supposed to be mutually exclusive. From recent engagements with the HCA and Portsmouth University, they are interpreting the NPPF in terms of financial viability-theirs! They are looking towards family housing in ignorance of the long term social and environmental consequences.

One obstacle to realising our aspirations is the ability of the Neighbourhood Plan to "deliver" these sorts of community land-uses. A new school on the Langstone Campus site may be required but by virtue of Conservative education policy and the Free School/Academy School initiative it is so much harder to achieve.

Austerity cuts to Local Authority budgets also compromises the Council's ability to fund Social-Care on St James's Hospital. The Council's easy option is not to do it. The right one is allocate the use anyway and wait for the funds to become available.

We think a pragmatic solution is for some private family-style house-building be proposed as "enabling" development to help finance the more socially and environmentally acceptable alternatives. Notwithstanding the detrimental stresses on the highway network and air quality, private-housing can at least assist the cash-flow in new development. We want to fit this "enabling" housing into a landscape as green as possible with the aim of promoting good design to best utilise solar gain and renewable energy, provide for proper cycle storage and be laid out to encourage walking between different areas of the new developments. Ideally we would like to see the St James's "Woodlands Walk" enhanced with additional tree and bush planting and any new housing within the vicinity of, and close to the Hospital main building, incorporate the best design features of the Hospital building itself.

Rod Bailey
Chairman Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum

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YOUR NEXT FORUM WED.15 MARCH 7PM

The audience at the last Open Forum asked for more information about the problem of **Homelessness** as they felt it was an increasing issue both in the City Centre and our patch. We have been fortunate that Elaine Bastable, at Portsmouth Council has agreed to explain current issues and Martin Silman, Chairman of the Portsmouth & District Private Landlords Association will also be available to answer questions.

Defibrillator training and explanation will also be on the agenda – a topic which could affect us all.

We have been speaking to St James about the future of the main building, currently under review. As the area around it is included in the Listing, the 2 'summerhouses' currently out of use will need to be protected by whoever buys the hospital.

The NHS is still working on repairs to the Chapel and scaffolding will go up shortly to replace roof tiles. We have asked if the Chapel can be open again for the Picnic on the Green on 3 June.

Concerns were expressed that a sycamore near the Chapel had to be urgently felled. The Council's Arboricultural Officer had checked the tree and confirmed it had fungal growth at the base and 30% of the tree was rotten and presented a danger. The landowner is obliged to replace the tree and may use a site further away from the roadway to save future root damage. The Tulip Tree in the Chapel Garden had to have a rotten branch removed also for safety reasons. We have raised the fact that local people want to know about these works so the Council has agreed to alert the Councillors for our Ward when a 5-day notice has been issued and they will pass on the information to the Forum, Keep Milton Green and Tree Wardens. Thanks to all for this.

2017 PICNIC ON THE GREEN - SATURDAY 3



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