

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 61

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

June 2017



Oakley Wellham's winning picture "St James Park" in the #Keep Pompey Green 'How Green is Our City?' competition see page 10

TUESDAY 13 June 7.00 pm

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

NEXT FORUM AGENDA

Closure of Portsmouth University Furze Lane Campus-Fiona Bell

Update on St James and the Neighbourhood Plan

Walking and Your Health – Liz Griffin

Please note change of date due to Election

FORUM MINUTES March 2017

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

Since the last public forum, the committee has continued to monitor local planning applications and has discussed other ongoing matters, including:-

Air Quality Issues and Pollution: (see item on the Neighbourhood Plan Update below);:

Milton Heritage Trail: Claire Upton-Brown, (Assistant Director, Culture & City Development at Portsmouth City Council), was invited to the committee to discuss the possibility of creating a Milton Heritage Trail. The siting of a plaque to commemorate the achievements of local artist Edward King was also discussed. Grant Funding will be sought for a heritage trail, including from the CIL pot.

Protection for the St. James' Hospital Cricket Ground: an application has been submitted to the City Council to request that the cricket pitch at St. James' Hospital be nominated as an asset of community value. The application does not include Country Cottage.

Community Infrastructure Levy: this is money paid by developers to the City Council and is then allocated to the relevant electoral wards. In Milton items have been agreed to be funded, including the purchase of three defibrillators (already installed and sited at Milton Village Hall, Eastney Community Centre and Fratton Park), cycle racks at Milton Market, and a path extension at Bransbury Park. In addition, a request from Meon Infants' School has been received to improve their playground. 2

CIL money can also be used to provide additional Speedwatch cameras.

The audience suggested that the purchase of the Cricket Ground in St James be held in reserve for CIL money in case the nomination as a Community Asset is successful and plans are ever brought forward to sell the land, in which case the community will hold the funds. Cllr. Dowling confirmed there is no 'end date' to CIL funding.

Cllr.Sanders informed the meeting that due to a City Council Cabinet decision, CIL funding arising from the development of the former Prison, will NOT be passing to the Baffins Ward in which that development will take place, but transfer to the city as a whole.

ST. JAMES' HOSPITAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Rod Bailey presented a situation report on progress towards establishing a Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed that the HCA intends to lodge a planning application during July 2017 for phase 2 of the developments at St. James' Hospital, including the Harbour School site but excluding The Orchards.

Phase 2 is primarily geared to housing/residential use as already supported by the City Plan. He then spoke about the second part of phase1, with the hospital proposals for training facilities and the University use of land for some element of housing (which the Neighbourhood Planning Forum believes to be inappropriate).

Rod highlighted the fact that there is already a need for an additional 145 school placements by the year 2025 and that Milton has an ageing population

FORUM MINUTES March - cont

With this in mind, there are 2 units at the hospital (The Beeches and Fair Oak) which could be eminently suitable for use as "half-way houses" to accommodate patients from Queen Alexandra Hospital who are ready for discharge but have no adequate care package in place at home. The NHS wishes to retain The Limes for which they will need to have access for maintenance. It is likely that the Turner Centre will disappear.

Rod indicated that the vision of the Planning Forum is for a village housing community, incorporating a mix of housing and green space. By creating a Neighbourhood Plan, residents have a chance to have a say in any future development and to have policies in place to protect precious areas and local buildings. Attention was drawn to the recently published Keep Milton Green leaflet, which sets out many of the reasons for having a Neighbourhood Plan. Residents interested in helping the planning group are welcomed and there is a current vacancy for a secretary. Contact Miltonplan.org.uk

Rod further explained the Council is currently preparing a new Citywide Plan including 14,000 new homes

HOMELESSNESS

Elaine Bastable, Housing Options Manager for Portsmouth City Council, spoke about work being undertaken across the city for homeless people and rough sleepers - currently 37 are known to her team. The number is rising and there is a working group investigating the causes. She confirmed that there are Salvation Army hostels, but no accommodation

In severe weather the council has a duty to protect vulnerable homeless people and must act if there are three consecutive nights of temperatures at 0 degrees. This winter, a spare building was equipped with 44 beds and used to house 100 people. This winter shelter closed in March and the building will be used for other purposes. Contact Elaine's team at **023 9288 2689** if you have concerns for a rough sleeper.

Paula Martin from Hope House (Salvation Army) confirmed that four beds are available at a safe house. It was noted that rough sleepers using doorways can only be moved on by the police if the property owner requests it.

Martin Silman spoke about the limited help provided by the Landlords Association, but the whole issue is complex particularly due to the changes in paying benefits directly to recipients rather than to the landlord, formerly guaranteeing the rent. He touched on the lower occupancy rate in Portsmouth and Milton homes now compared with the 1950's when the population was higher but more people lived in each house. He re-inforced that there is very limited assistance available to homeless souls.

DEFIBRILLATOR-see CIL item above)

As the Ambulance Service was unable to come, the Chair read out a procedure guide. Full instructions on use of the defibrillators are contained with the apparatus at each location and voice prompts clearly indicate the method of use. It is **imperative** to summon ambulance assistance as well as operating CPR on a patient, Ongoing CPR is critical, as a defibrillator will only be of use if the patient's heart has stopped (a defibrillator will indicate if its use is appropriate).

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WILD FLOWERS FOR PLAY AREA.

The Wind-in-the-Willows Pre-School, based in The Lodge, at St James' has



very kindly donated funds to create 2 wild-flower beds in the children's play area at St James' Field. The youngsters went along to choose the site and are looking forward to watching the flowers grow and learning their names.

FAREWELL AND 'THANK YOU' SHAW TRUST

Many local residents are saddened to say goodbye to the Shaw Trust Plant Nursery which has provided a great service to the local area and the city. We understand that not only had it lost a number of landscaping contracts but also had to vacate the beautiful garden they created at St James Hospital, and closed in March. The Forum has valued their support since we started the Picnic on the Green as they stored our equipment, donated prizes and provided a stall selling plants on the day. Formerly 'Greenfingers' the nursery has supported many people who needed training to get a job in horticulture and have given us all a good service when we visited their base to buy plants, compost and garden equipment. **You will all be greatly missed.**

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Tel. 023 9287 3788 Email: miltonvillagehall@gmail.com

Office: 9am-12.30pm Mon-Fri Website:

www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk



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Current Regular Activities at Milton Village Hall

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music Mad	Music Mad	Music Mad	Weight Watchers	Yoga
Little Steps Gym	Little Steps Gym	Little Steps Gym (am)	Little Steps Gym	Cribbage Club
Curling	IT Drop-In (m)	50+ Keep Fit	Destress & Relax Group	Tai Chi
	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym (pm)	Quiz Time (m)	Creation Station
Zumba	Advanced Cribbage	Lighthouse Church	Pilates	Beginners Line Dance
Tap Dance	Yoga	Aerobics	Pet Talks	Yoga
	Ballroom & Latin Fun		Line Dance	
	Boxercise			

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!

Fancy any of the trips we've still got availability on? Join now & enjoy the cheaper members' prices!

Trip Availability 2017

We currently have a few spaces on the following trips:

SING-A-LONGSOUND OF MUSIC
2nd June £26 (NM £28)

BBC COUNTRYFILE LIVE SHOW
4th August £39/£29 (£43/£33)

MONKEY WORLD
23rd August £29/£26 (£32/£28)

SNOW WHITE PANTO Mayflower
19th December £35 (£38)

WARNERS SINAH WARREN
29th-31st January 2018 £99 (£109)



Like us on Facebook for latest news & info!

ANOTHER MILTON LOCAL - BEDDOW LIBRARY



The days of silent libraries with no talking permitted and severe staff tut-tutting when a whisper is heard are over!!! Beddow Library is a bright, inviting building

Milton Over 60's Friday Morning Club

Regularly filled with the sounds of children enjoying games and special activities overseen by the dedicated staff who ensure that it remains a community-based library with a welcome for everyone.

Several Clubs are run there each week - craft, scrabble, toddler groups, career advice services, etc. And I'm sure you've all seen the wonderful colouring books for adults in the shops. Well why not go along on Mondays between 2-4 pm where adults can relax and enjoy this stress-busting activity with all materials provided!! And, if you have a special skill, why not consider setting up your own craft club - how about a knitting group?

Also I hadn't realised that anyone can use the library's garden which is open during library opening times. You might just like a sit-down in a quiet place or to meet up with friends or family, etc for a picnic.

Finally, they are planning to improve disabled access to the garden area, along with some improvements to the garden itself, providing a fantastic free space that can be enjoyed by all. So, please go and visit your library which plays an important part within our community. There is so much going on there and many thanks to the staff who work so hard on our behalf. [Checkout Facebook Friends of Beddow Library](#)





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Summer Events



FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DAY – Thurs. 1 June
 10am – 12pm Become an amateur archaeologist for the morning and uncover evidence of the past at **Milton Locks Nature Reserve**. Locksway Road, PO4 8LT

This is a hands-on event aimed at families with primary age children. Please wear outdoor clothing and wellies. Booking is essential phone 01489 570240



ST JAMES' CHURCH SUMMER FETE is on Sat.17 June at the Church and garden. Don't miss this annual event where you can meet up with friends old and new and enjoy splendid refreshments, bargains and good fun.

KEEPPOMPEYGREEN - ART COMPETITION

Our local MPs, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave their support to



Southsea Green's proposal to launch a competition to raise awareness of the value of green spaces and wildlife in our crowded city. Many entries were received and you can see some of the paintings and photos on line at #Keppompeygreen. Following an exhibition Café Parisien the winners received their awards at Northarbour in February.

Lorna Wilkinson's Baby Bluetit on Windscreen Wiper

Ruth's Pompey Garden



On the cover we have featured 6-year-old Oakley Wellham's delightful painting of his favourite green space which won First Place. Many of us agree with Oakley that St James is our No.1 green space. He drew a huge tree which dwarfed the hospital building. The green space came to life with himself, Mum, a squirrel, a snail, blackbird, conker tree and the sun. To see how important St James is to such a young resident, should be a lesson to anyone who

seeks to destroy this lovely place.



THIS YEAR'S 'PICNIC ON THE GREEN
Saturday 3 June 2017
2 PM TO 5PM
ST. JAMES FIELD, LOCKSWAY ROAD, MILTON
Opening by Brian Kidd
with Gardeners' Question Time
Fruit & Flower Plant Sales
PUNCH & JUDY SHOW
(IF WET SEE MR PUNCH IN St JAMES CHURCH HALL)



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AFFORDABLE CYCLING FOR ALL

Here at the Community Cycle Centre at / beside The Stacey Centre, Walsall Road, we are a group of 'cheery' volunteers, reviving and renovating bikes in an effort to get more of our community cycling. We are a not-for-profit group and invite you to donate unwanted bikes, which our mechanics then work on, to pass on to the public for a suggested donation (to help cover the cost of the parts we do have to buy).

Each bike is assessed and 're-cycled' where appropriate. Even bikes which have seen better days are very useful for parts, which we remove and store for re-use on bikes our mechanics are working on. Once a bike is 'complete' it is cleaned, polished and tested for roadworthiness. It is then placed on display with others and bearing a suggested donation price. We have men's ladies' and *lots* of children's bikes of all types and sizes, eg mountain bikes, road bikes, folding bikes and sometimes even tandems!

If you are considering having a bike, do come and browse, compare, test with no obligation and secure yourself a well-serviced 'pair of wheels'! Why buy any old bike eg on ebay, when you can have a fully serviced one, with a very realistic price tag. Also, if your bike later needs some adjustment, we are local for you to bring it back to us.

We can fix problems on your own bike too and replace parts (at cost price!) if required. Better still, stay and help service it yourself and learn as you go! We are always very happy to welcome new volunteers to join us on Saturdays, even on a casual basis: no commitment - just come if and when you have some spare time.

Pam Wilkie

Portsmouth Cycle Forum and
Community Cycle Centre

PORTSMOUTH STRAY DOGS SERVICE

By law the City Council has to care for stray dogs and our service in Burrfields Road covers the Southsea to Bedhampton and Portchester areas. Firstly they have to care for any dog which has escaped from its home – often through builders working on the premises, a gate open down. Dogs and most are hours.

However, a taken to the claimed. 'dumped' bills are too banned well house-indisciplined



the postman leaving or a fence breaking are held for 7 days reclaimed within 42

third of all the dogs Kennels are never They may be because their vets high, a landlord has dogs, the dog is not trained, too loud, or needs regular

expensive grooming.

The Service takes on these challenges and does everything to rehabilitate the dogs so that they can be re-housed in a new partnership with people who understand their needs. We believe there is a home and a dog for every situation. New owners are under no obligation, they can start by just taking the dog for a short walk, build up to longer walks, have it overnight, then for longer. The service takes as long as it needs to rehabilitate a dog. Some adjust after a couple of days but others can take as long as 6 months to reassure and retrain. We hold a Christmas event every year and owners bring dogs back to see us and they recognize us from the time they spent here.

People who would like to take a dog from the kennels, may register by phoning 02392688181. We make sure that the circumstances of the new home are right, invite the new owners down to meet us. We can always use donations of blankets or towels for the dogs.

Carol Plumley Meet Carol and the dogs at this year's Picnic on 3 June when she plans some doggy activities for you to join in

NEWLY PLANTED TREES IN ST JAMES

Do you remember these photos which appeared in 2016? The replacements have now been planted.



Due to the concerns expressed at the Planning Committee, the NHS were required to replace the trees which had been covered by Tree Preservation Orders, with the largest practical specimens. These are now in place and we are reassured by Nicola Booth at the Hospital, that there will be a rigorous watering regime to give them the best possible

chance of reaching full maturity and the splendour of their predecessors. Why not take a walk around the grounds to check them out?



Tree Warden Kevin Doyle and KMGs Kimberly Barratt with replaced Horse Chestnut



MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As you know, a Neighbourhood Plan is a Community Plan consistent with the Council's Strategic Policies. A Masterplan is a landowner's plan to maximise profits consistent with the Council's Strategic Policies. In theory the differences should be marginal.

In terms of the Neighbourhood Plan we now have 2 draft external reports:- a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and a Strategic Environment Appraisal (SEA) scoping report. We have to assimilate these into our draft policies before we can

go to the Council with our pre-submission Consultation.

The HNA tells us there is a need for elderly persons' independent living units & extra-care housing in addition to the usual family homes. This is consistent with our findings. The SEA tells us the questions we should ask of Natural England and others about the potential environmental impacts of our policies. Considering the Neighbourhood Plan regulations require us to follow the Strategic policies in the Council's Plan & we are aiming for a Sustainable Community this is somewhat onerous. However the Council is not going to recommend proceeding to an Examination without one so we will adopt its findings accordingly. It does show that growth in Portsmouth has exceeded South East England and the rest of England between 2001 & 2011. In Portsmouth it is over 9% compared to under 8% in SE England. For Milton specifically, it's over 10%. Considering we are the most densely populated City in England with limited highway capacity there is a question in my mind about the sanity of Town Planning.

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE cont..

On 4th April representatives from the Neighbourhood Forum, the Planning Forum & Keep Milton Green met with the Master-planners, LDA Design, the NHS and the Council in a joint “workshop” to explore issues and options for the redevelopment of the Hospital & the University site.

We hope it is acknowledged the environmental constraints restrict development opportunities on the Furze Lane sports-pitches. LDA Design appear to have embraced the Community's aspirations towards minimising the loss of trees and green spaces in their plans for the Hospital Phase 1 site. Whether or not the Edwardian Villas can be saved is yet to be determined. The NHS have expressed a desire to include the green-space to the north & east of the Chapel in the Phase 2 disposal but they have not confirmed the need for an 80 bed Interim Care-Home.

All have agreed the later 20th Century extensions to the Hospital detract from its appearance & could be considered for demolition & replacement with better designs in future plans. All accept the principle of a north/south cycle/pedestrian route from Edenbridge Road to Locksway Road.

I will be happy to explain more at the Open Forum on 13th June. The Homes and Communities Agency who are preparing formal plans have been invited to the next Open Forum.

Rod Bailey, Chairman Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Since our ‘Workshop’ on 4 April the Milton Neighbourhood Forum and the Planning Forum have learned that Portsmouth University intends to close the Furze Lane campus at the end of the 2018 summer term. Local residents and businesses have been shocked at this news as assurances had been given that the campus would remain open for some time into the future. We have invited the University to attend our next Neighbourhood Forum on TUES. 13 June to answer questions about the future management of their site and to clarify issues.

Janice Burkinshaw, Chair Milton Neighbourhood Forum

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YOUR NEXT FORUM TUE. 13 JUNE 7PM

The day of the next Forum has to be changed as we are not allowed to hold public meetings in the 6 weeks before an Election so please mark the date on your calendar and come along to receive an update on issues in our area.

Milton Village Hall has its usual table of events on page 7 but you may like to note that there are two new activities which you may like to take up:-

DANCING FOR FUN starts on Tuesdays 5.45-6.45pm. 6 week courses learning to dance - first course alternate weeks Waltz & ChaCha! Please contact Kate on 07597103057 for more details.

RELAX & DESTRESS GROUP starts on Thursdays 11am-12noon. Need to relax? Learn how to cope with stress? Come along to this new class on Thursday mornings. For more details, please contact Alison on 07492 859404.

ST JAMES CRICKET FIELD – As a result of the sale of much of St James Hospital estate, the Cricket Club has successfully applied to Portsmouth City Council for the field to be a Community Asset. This means that if the field is put up for sale, the community will have the right to buy it if they can raise the money. This should protect the field for future use as a cricket venue. This site is the first that our Council has granted this status to, so **WELL DONE** to the Cricket Club for going through this procedure and ticking all the boxes!

Fratton Park is of course in our Forum Area and the Club is so important to many of our readers. It would be nice if more fans could travel to matches by train and get a discount off their tickets or if a park-and-ride just for matches could be introduced. We may grumble about parking on match days but pride in Pompey has been renewed in their promotion to Division 1 next year topped by winning the League in the last game of the season!!!. This is a very special achievement due to the club being community owned and run by its fans who have its best interests at heart. **WELL DONE POMPEY, We wish you every success in the year ahead**

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Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Will Purvis
6 The Parkway,
Milton, PO3 6GQ
(07590 282135)
wapurvis@me.com
Cllr. Ben Dowling
4 Hollam Rd, Milton
(0754 0947364)
btldowling@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
39 Lindley Ave., Southsea
(02392 834551)
geraldvj@gmail.com

David Jordan
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Ward Councillors - Baffins

Cllr. Darren Sanders
58 St Mary's House
St Marys Rd, Portsmouth
(07740 680612)
darrensanders59@gmail.com
Cllr. Lynne Stagg
71 Highgate Road, Copnor
(02392 780245)
lynne.stagg2@gmail.com
Cllr. Stephen Hastings
c/o Members Services, Civic
Offices, PO12AL
(07733301907) PO5 3NW
cllr_hastings@outlook.com

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 e-mail address:-

MiltonNForum@aol.com



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