MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 50 Milton Neighbourhood Forum Oct 2013

Do you remember when it looked like this?



Milton Matters was first published in 1995 when Velder Avenue still had the roundabout, local pubs included the Travellers Joy and the White House, the University Building stood on the corner of Locksway Road, Linington's Garage sold Jet petrol from this corner and McMurdo's Works operated from Rodney Road. There was no Skatepark in Milton Park or Bransbury Park, no Yellow Box Store, no Milton Cross School, Mary Rose School or extension to Rodney Road to relieve local traffic queues through Milton. Read John Couch's reflections on 50 editions of Milton Matters - pages 10 & 11.

> NEXT FORUM MEETING Wednesday 9 October 7.00 pm Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

PLANS FOR NEW TESCO STORE AT FRATTON PARK WILL THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY BENEFIT MILTON? TELL US THE ITEMS YOU WANT TO RAISE

FORUM M INUTES – 22 MAY 2013

Chair of the Milton Forum Committee, opened the meeting and confirmed that the minutes of the previous public meeting held in February 2013 had been publicized in Milton Matters. She congratulated committee member Ben Dowling, who has been given a Young Persons Civic Award by the city council, and confirmed that new committee members will always be welcome.

Since the last public meeting, the committee has been monitoring the application by St James Hospital to fell a number of protected trees (now withdrawn) and a planning application will soon be submitted for a new housing development off Lapwing Road where tree alterations may be sought.

A new community noticeboard provided by the committee has been located at Shearwater House in Moorings Way, and 3 more will be located in the forum area soon. Also mentioned was the planning application for new, temporary classrooms at Moorings Way School to cater for additional youngsters.

POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Jay Howard spoke about the very significant current problem of theft from unattended vehicles where valuables have been left on display. He confirmed that the final location of Southsea police staff is unknown because a full review of accommodation needs was underway across the county, spearheaded by the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson mentioned that a police traffic speed monitoring exercise in Locksway Road had been undertaken resulting in an embarrassing situation of one resident who was stopped for exceeding the speed limit, as she had previously complained to the police about traffic speeds in the road!

MILTON COMMON

Peter Roberts spoke about developments at Milton Common since his last visit to the forum in February 2013, and thanked volunteers who had joined a recent litter pick on the common. He stated that some works have been undertaken regarding the provision of information notice boards on the common, path erosion, wheelchair access at the eastern end of Moorings Way and plans for path resurfacing, all of which will take time to achieve.

The application for upgrading to full nature reserve status is proceeding well and works on bramble and scrub management have begun. Three skylarks have been seen, and a mosquito survey is ongoing. He plans a "nature day" event 30th May 2013.

MINI ROUNDABOUT, LOCKSWAY ROAD/ MILTON ROAD

The proposals to improve the mini-roundabout at the junction of Locksway Road and Milton Road were discussed.

The main point made by residents was that there had been no consultation with local residents in advance of the work to implement the mini-roundabout in the first place - another example of the city council "doing its own thing" with no regard for views of residents. *Cont...*

FORUM MINUTES 22 May.cont

MINI ROUNDABOUT .. cont

Many views were expressed, some in support of the revised proposals and some to support reverting to the status quo; a show of hands indicated that the residents were roughly 50/50 for/against the new proposals.

PLANNING MATTERS AND AIR POLLUTION

Vicky Piper from Portsmouth City Council's planning team spoke about the council's Site Allocation Strategy, which has been produced to both identify local assets needing to be protected and preserved from development, despite pressures to meet developmental targets set by central government and identify the planned potential development sites.

The Strategy document will be used to guide developers and to protect any areas not included in it. She handed out leaflets giving the e-mail and postal address to enable people to comment on the plan (deadline 24th June).

She identified a range of sites in the Milton Forum Area, which included the University Halls of Residence, which could become housing if surplus to University requirements. However the Furze Lane Playing Field was excluded from development. The Good Companion public house site was identified as needing to be retained for a pub as there are no others close by. The Hester Road Adoption Centre and two sites at St James' Hospital (off Lapwing Road and the special school site) were identified for housing.

One of the Hospital development sites is for 38 houses and seems to rely on access from Lapwing Road, which is not viewed as being appropriate by residents as the road is narrow and no regard has been taken of infrastructure implications of a large development here. Any future development on the University halls of residence site could result in the building of 110 dwellings.

The Fratton Railway site is safeguarded for employment schemes. **Fratton Park's future** was mentioned, and Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson stated that the plans for the site are focused on the need for a new and improved football stadium.

Residents expressed very strong views that the development plans for any building at St James' Hospital should not proceed without a major investigation into infrastructure, access and noise impact across the entire Moorings Way estate. Dissatisfaction was also expressed that only a small number of local residents received any written notice of the hospital's planned works, when those works have an impact on most of the area and not everyone reads the "News". Due to the concern at road capacity, it was requested that a Forum meeting be held with those undertaking traffic surveys in connection with the site allocations strategy, before the consultation on the document is concluded.

Air pollution was then mentioned, and Cllr Vernon Jackson confirmed that the air quality at the Velder Avenue/Milton Road junction has improved following the changes undertaken with regard to traffic queuing times. 3 YOUR LOCAL FAMILY LAW SOLICITOR



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PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2013



This year's picnic was great! Thanks to the weather, the help we received from all the local clubs, businesses, associations and friends of the committee who came along and gave their time to our event. We were grateful to the Milton Councillors who donated their annual local ward allowance to us this year which gave us £340 towards the cost of the hired entertainment. As the event is free, we never make a profit on the Picnic on the Green. It is aimed at giving eeveryone an enjoyable afternoon out for all the family and the dog, and at using the St James' Field on this one day of the year. We can always use more help. We never have enough face-painters, there was still a queue at 5.30 waiting for their turn. If you could help us next June, please send us an e-mail at MiltonNForum @ aol.com

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CENTENARY OF ST JAMES CHURCH MILTON



The Centenary of the Parish Church of St James Milton, was celebrated in July with a wonderful display of 34 floral arrangements completed by parishioners and friends of the church.

Not only did the displays complement this beautiful building which was consecrated on 25 July 1913, but celebrated the range of events which have taken place in this Church over 100 years.

Flowers interpreted the themes of marriages, births, remembrance of the fallen, our seasons, the saints, The range of experiences in church –

joy, friendship, love, memory, music and gladness were all there in floral form. Local associations which support the church and communitywere also featured such as the RNLI, Scouts, and Milton Glee Club. Past friends and relatives too had tributes, including one to Rev. Roy George,, Vicar of Milton (1974-1990)

The display was possible through the generous donations of many Milton parishioners, residents, businesses and friends of the Church and it was a wonderful three-day event which so many people were able to enjoy.



A MAJOR TESCO STORE IN MILTON?

There have been rumours for some time that the Fratton Park Car Park area could be used for a Tesco Superstore. We have now learned that plans for a large store of similar size to Havant Tesco are due to be submitted to the Council at the end of August. We have invited the Consultant to the Developer of the site to come to our next Open Forum on Wed. 9 October to give you the precise details of the scheme but our understanding at the moment is as follows:-

- The new store will be open 24 hours (apart from Sunday mornings when the existing Tesco Express in Goldsmith Avenue will be open)
- This store would be the only 24-hour supermarket on Portsea Island
- 2-hour car parking will be permitted with number-plate recognition for fines
- The store will be 5575 sq. m
- The store will be built on stilts with 579 car parking spaces
- There will be a petrol station on the site
- The Eastney and Crasswell Street Tescos will remain open
- How many of the jobs on offer will be part-time/full time?

The benefits to the Football Club are that they have land for a new car park for 250 vehicles and coach drop-off point but no longer have an involvement in the old car park site and shop building on Rodney Road.

This scheme will be supported and welcomed by some local residents whilst others will be concerned at increased traffic levels, particularly on match-days and through the night, Deliveries to the store will use local routes and 579 cars will have an impact on Milton's already stressed road network.

Although protection of local shops is not a material planning consideration, there are many who have supported and been supported by our local shops for many years and would object to them being forced out of business. Opinions vary on how much impact a major superstore would have on Milton Market but it would be unrealistic to imagine it would be none at all! The slow death of local shops has been evident throughout the city when major stores move in – Winter Road being a prime example on our doorstep.

Please take the time to come along to hear the facts and if you wish to comment for or against the planning application, visit the Portsmouth website <u>http://idox.portsmouth.gov.uk/online-applications/</u> to get the number of the application and send your comments through <u>planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk</u>



Milton Matters 50th Issue

A Look Back

The Forum was set up in 1992/3 with an elected Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Street Representatives the latter changing to Forum representatives in 1996. The first Milton Matters was published in September 1995 with an early picture of "The Old Farm Building" in Milton park together with a statement by the vice chair, Janice Burkinshaw that the present chair, Peter Mills was retiring due to other commitments and went on to thank him for his dedication to the interests of the area both as chairman of the Forum and his role as General Improvements area spokesman. (Peter returned to the committee in 1997 and has remained to this day). Janice was elected chairperson in February 1997. Inside the first issue, contents included poems, your letters, remembering life in Milton and a story about Brent Geese. These winter visitors from northern Russia were to feature in many a discussion over the years since. On the back featured a list of Officers, representatives and ward councillors. The magazine has reported on a huge range of topics and issues affecting the Forum and neighbouring areas over the years and this article is an attempt to highlight some of the events and maybe success stories that have happened.

Portsmouth University, Foster Hall and the Dorothy Dymond Building



In February '96 we were concerned about plans to increase student accommodation at the QEQM site in Furze Lane together with the demolition of the Barnard Towers. A year later we were fighting a planning application to build an Asda superstore on the site of Foster Hall. Both of the above were rejected. Fast-forward to early 2004 and

we heard of the plans by Barratt Homes to build 154 flats and 32 affordable homes on site of Foster Hall/Dorothy Dymond building (our forum meeting venue) The work to demolish the buildings began soon after. A plot of land was set aside to construct a new special school later to be named The Mary Rose School and officially opened in February 2007. It is now the venue for our forum meetings. *Cont.*

St James Hospital



When the hospital announced plans to redevelop and sell off large parts of to be known as the Princess Diana Memorial Park Trust with the intention of purchasing several acres of the land to the east of the main drive to

be retained for the use and benefit of the general public. This was unanimously supported by the forum. There followed a long drawn-out battle in the courts and government enquiries before an area of grassland surrounded by mature trees to be known as St James Green was finally secured to the care of Portsmouth City Council in 2006. Meanwhile permission was given by the Health Authority for the Forum to stage the first 'Picnic in the Park' in June 2003 and with the help of members of Langstone Church who loaned us some of their equipment the event went ahead to celebrate saving the land for public leisure. We have just staged our 11th of these annual events which are free to enter for the local community and feature a variety of stalls, music, fun races, ice creams, dog shows, Punch and Judy, bouncy castles and much more to be enjoyed by young and old alike. There is an established 'tree trail' and the green is open all year for children to play, exercise your dog or just enjoy the scenery.

the estate for housing building, it was a cause for concern to local residents and it was decided in about March 1998 to set up a charitable trust In March 2010 a Pathfinder Play Scheme was installed behind a fenced off area to allow youngsters to play in relative safety and later that year the forum secured Community funding to stage a Saturday morning play scheme for 3-5 and 6-9 year olds to be trained by qualified coaches in fun ball co-ordination games and the scheme ran through autumn.

Youth Schemes – Skateboarding

Early in its existence the forum committee identified the need to find more outlets for youth activities in our area. Skateboarding was becoming very popular but specialist facilities were very limited so we worked with the local authorities and the police to secure funding and detailed plans for skateboard rigs to be set up in Milton and Bransbury Parks. Our donation came by way of a generous gift from Barratt Homes. Both skateboard units were formally opened in Oct. 2004. We are currently seeking funds for the repairs and improvements to the skatepark after a plea from Portsmouth Youth Parliament.

<u>Milton Common</u> – In about 2000 the Avenues Community Association announced plans to set up a Recreation Area Project on Milton Common with a play area, picnic area, goalposts and refurbished pathways. Successful in acquiring permission and funding the project was commissioned in 2001. More recently we have had presentations and briefings from Peter Roberts on the work being done to maintain and sustain the natural environment of the common.

<u>Respect Programme</u> – In February 2007 we were being informed of a new activities programme for young people living in the Milton and Eastney area. Based at Bransbury Park it would be led by Julian Wadsworth as Project Leader, backed by the Football Foundation and run in part by Portsmouth Football Club in the Community. The scheme was joined by the Royal Navy in 2009 to help broaden the range of activities. The project has been proved an unprecedented success and changed the lives of many young people for the better.

Brief summary of other changes in our area

Fratton Park – up to the premiership. two FA Cup finals won 1 lost 1,

- Down to second division now community owned we wish them well
- 1999 Improvements to Eastern Road complete
- 2000 Milton Cross school PFI financed opened
- 2001 Boundary changes to wards part of forum area now in Baffins Ward
- 2003 First colour edition of Milton Matters published
- 2004 Planning brief for new housing on the site of Lacey Lodge/Beneficial Centre(later to become Waterside Gardens estate)
- 2006 Copnor Bridge to be rebuilt
- 2007 Plans to demolish Ford Lodge and the Old Samuel Lodge to make way a Milton Village Retirement scheme – independent living for the elderly 2007 Southern Water announce new plans for improvements to the Eastney
 - Pumping Station
- 2009 Linningtons Garage site finally cleared now Churchill Homes Housing
- 2010 Milton Village Retirement homes Shearwater House and Brent Court Completed on the site of Ford and Samuel Lodges..
- 2011 Demise of Travellers Joy pub for flats and new vets practice
- 2012 Milton Village Community Association premises extended and the new Pure Ground Coffee Shop run by Langstone Church opens 11



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Scrapbooks	Little		Games	Act 1	AA
(m)	Steps Gym		Club	Drama	
	50+ Keep Fit	Zumba	Tai Chi		Light
					House
	Williams		Beginners		Church
	Dance School		LineDance		
	Lighthouse	Pilates	Messy		
Church		Mad			
Yoga	Keep Fit	Line	Yoga		
-		Dancing	_		
	Music Mad Scrapbooks (m) Yoga	Music Music Mad Mad Scrapbooks Little (m) Steps Gym 50+ Keep Fit Williams Dance School Lighthouse Church	MusicMusicWeightMadMadWatchersScrapbooksLittleWatchers(m)Steps GymSteps Gym50+ Keep FitZumbaWilliamsDance SchoolLighthouse ChurchPilatesYogaKeep FitLine Dancing	Music MadMusic MadWeight WatchersYogaMadMadWatchersGames ClubScrapbooksLittle Steps GymGames Club(m)Steps GymClub50+ Keep FitZumbaTai Chibance SchoolWilliams LineDanceBeginners LineDanceLighthouse ChurchPilatesMessy MadYogaKeep FitLine DancingYoga	Music MadMusic MadWeight WatchersYogaSpanish MumsScrapbooksLittle Steps GymGames ClubAct 1 Drama(m)Steps GymClubDrama50+ Keep Fit Dance SchoolZumbaTai ChiWilliams Dance SchoolBeginners LineDanceLineDanceLighthouse ChurchPilatesMessy MadYogaKeep FitLine DancingYoga



Winter Events at Milton Village Hall

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Day Trip to Greenwich * Christmas Lunch at Beaulieu Belgium & Holland Xmas Party River Cruise * Disneyland, Paris Sunday Lunch at Greyhounds (Hove) * New Year's Eve Gala Break Full Monty * Norfolk Weekend * Belgian Chateau & Carpet of flowers NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR STARTS 1ST SEPTEMBER!

For all info, please contact the office or see our website

NEWS OF MILTON COMMON

This year is the first under the stewardship of Peter Roberts using the grant which has been given to the Council to improve the wild-life diversity on the Common and to encourage its use by the whole community. The 7 new information boards have been installed and should be compete by the end of September. A new wheelchair access point has been laid at the end of Moorings Way, close to the bus lane and the parking and paths on the common have been resurfaced. Reports have been made of a swallowtail butterfly being seen this year but there is as yet no photograph. However, a Peacock butterfly has been spotted - one of the many butterflies and moths inhabiting the common this year. The swans nested on both Swan and Duck lakes this year and the cygnets are doing well.



Three skylarks have been heard on the common and extra works will be under during the autumn to control brambles and create areas to encourage plants by the introduction of marine gravel. If you use the common and note any nuisance behaviour, quad biking, etc., do contact the Community Wardens on **08000 853840**. They operate 10 am to 10pm Mon-Fri 2-10pm weekends and bank holidays and will pass on any relevant issues to the Police.

The seaward edge of the coastal path will be (working for Portsmouth Council) in October

repaired by the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (working for Portsmouth Council) in October this year down as far as the top end of Swan Lake where the path is particularly bad. No improvements will be made to the path, but more rock armour blocks will be added to the beach to hold the present line. 16



PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY PLAYING FIELD



There are many ways in which the community will be able to use the new facilities at Furze Lane. Many community clubs which local people can join, are using them already. These include Nomads Rugby Club, Havant Hockey Club, City of Portsmouth Hockey Club, Portsmouth FC Academy, Portsmouth Netball Association, Hampshire FA, Pitch Invasion, Chelsea Academy (plus their holiday schools) and our Community Women's Football team. There will also be a number of ad hoc local football clubs utilising the new 3G for training.

Local people who do not belong to clubs can book the following courts through the University's new on-line system at www.port.ac.uk/sport email sport@port.ack.uk **4 tennis courts 2 netball courts new 5-a-side cages**

To book grass and synthetic pitches, phone 02392 845719. Car parking charges apply for sports pitch users so an impact is feared by residents of Locksway Road. If this becomes a problem, please e-mail us (<u>MiltonNForum@aol.com</u>) so we can pass on your concerns.

When planning permission was given for this new sports area, it was a condition that the grass playing fields on site, next to the sea, should not be in use when the sports facilities were in use to allow grazing space for Brent Geese in winter.

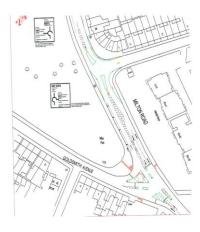
FORUM ISSUES

At the next Open Forum, we shall hear from the Consultants who are dealing with the planning application for the potential **Tesco Development** at Fratton Park and we will have a representative of the Planning Department on hand to answer your questions as well.

A new report has recently been approved by the Council Cabinet which sets out how the money which the Council raises from developers called the **Community Infrastructure Levy**, will be shared out around the city. James Sandy Community Engagement Manager from the Council will explain how this will work.

A suggestion has been made that members of the audience at Open Forum Meetings should have more time to **raise issues** which are concerning them. This has been included on the agenda on 9 October to see how successful it is. The Forum cannot have enough experts in the room to answer all the questions which may be raised, but will be able to pass on the concerns to the relevant body, or raise the issue as a future forum topic. Ward Councillors present, will also be able to answer some questions but not others.

We have just heard that plans are now complete for the re-vamping of the **Locksway Road Roundabout**. The Council will remove the hatching and increase vehicle deflection to reduce speeds and make the roundabout more prominent. Improve uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points on all approaches, with redesigned and repositioned signage to raise awareness and visibility. The offside merge lane will be removed northbound.



At the **Goldsmith Ave/Milton Road** junction the existing traffic lights will be replaced using the latest technology. The existing offset crossing will be removed and replaced with full pedestrian stage crossing and integrated with the signals. Two 'straight ahead' northbound lanes will be replaced with one to eliminate weaving conflict on approach to Locksway roundabout plus a 1.5m wide northbound cycle lane.

We look forward to seeing you at Mary Rose School at 7pm on Wednesday 9 October.



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