

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 51

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

March 2014



***The New Year tidal surge inundated the Milton Common coastal protection works only completed in October. Come to the Forum for an update on this and Southern Water's plans to prevent sewer flooding in Portsmouth***

## **FORUM MINUTES – 9 Oct.13**

Chair of the Milton Forum opened the meeting and gave an update.

**Children's play area at St James' field:** a new red gate into this area is now in place, with a notice stipulating that no dogs are permitted there.

**Milton shoreline works undertaken by the Environment Agency** are currently underway.

**Community information board in East Shore way:** this is now in place with 2 more to follow in local parks.

**A bid for a grant for Milton Park skateboard facilities:** has been submitted, but was unsuccessful

**Boxing gym planning issue:** formal planning approval has not been applied for the change of use and the matter is being investigated

**Toilet closures:** several shops and cafes across the city have signed up to a scheme for the general public to use their toilets (the council pays them to participate in the scheme) In Milton there is the Community Centre in Bransbury Park, which offers a toilet facility Monday – Friday 10am-3pm.

### **NEW TESCO STORE AT FRATTON**

Invited speakers were in attendance to advise residents on proposals to build a new Tesco store in Fratton Way on ground currently in use as a car parking area for Portsmouth Football Club. The scheme is a joint venture by PFC and Point Estates, giving improvements to the stadium and site regeneration.

The £25 million scheme would create 300 jobs - many part-time- and will include a petrol filling station plus a pedestrian and cycle route across the area.

The car park is planned to hold 579 cars and the store will cover an area of 5574 square metres, and with a new round-about on Fratton Way for access. If approved, football club improvements will be completed by 2014 and the store will open in 2015.

Residents were asked to comment and points made included:-

**The number of delivery vehicles using the site:** anticipated as being 13 - 16 vehicles per 24-hour period

**Potential damage to infrastructure:** current roads and drainage facilities are deemed by the developers to be adequate for the new development.

**Local road congestion:** with a possible extra 500 to 550 vehicle movements on a Friday evening, residents feel congestion is inevitable, especially as Goldsmith Avenue is generally up to capacity on most days and Milton Road is over capacity at most times of the day.

**Current traffic light** sequencing will need to be reconsidered to avoid logjamming and should be resurveyed. In addition, the "tight" roundabout at the junction of Fratton Way and Rodney Road may require some alteration.

**Public transport** - only the No.19 bus directly serves Fratton Way and more should be done to encourage better access to the development.

## **FORUM MINUTES 9 Oct.cont**

**Tesco's profit motivation:** residents believe that Tesco is not interested in the effect the new development will have on local traders and residents, and simply wants to maximize profits at any cost. Inevitably, there may be job losses at other local shops, but Tesco representatives feel that the 300 jobs created by the new store will outweigh any such problems and should be seen as positively.

**"Done deal" concept:** councillors and speakers said the development is not a "done deal" and must go through planning channels. It was stressed that any development of the football club is reliant on acceptance of the Tesco plans and building the store, with residents feeling that this was a "blackmail" issue.

A formal ballot of attendees indicated that 36 residents **did not want** a new Tesco store in Fratton Way, with 19 residents in favour of it..

The Chair thanked the speakers for attending and for responding to people's concerns. Residents may write to the Planning Department when the application is submitted via <http://idox.portsmouth.gov.uk/online-applications/> (weekly monthly lists tab) Get the number of the application and send comments to [planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

### **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

James Sandy and Jacqueline Boulter from Portsmouth City Council explained that developers wishing to undertake new developments are required to contribute money into

a community "pot", known as the CIL which is a tax on developers and provides resources to enable the council to improve facilities in the area of the development. Approval of schemes is made by one councillor, after consideration by the Planning, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee. Since April 2012, the proportion available to an area depends upon whether it has a Neighbourhood Planning Forum which gets 25% but only 15% if one is not in place. The work involved in setting up such a Planning Forum is onerous and Milton does not have one. Currently, Milton ward has attracted £19560.10 under the CIL, arising from the new development at St James Hospital. It was explained that Baffins, Milton and Fratton have overlap issues.

### **SOUTHERN WATER UPGRADES**

The Chair asked Larry Nicholas to speak about the work being undertaken in Tangier Road by 4Delivery Limited, working with Southern Water, to deliver £20 million worth of upgrades across the city. The work is designed to divert a significant amount of rainwater away from the existing combined sewers by sending it into the sea, and to refurbish some of the networks's equipment.

Work in Tangier Road is nearing completion and work in Rodney Road is due to commence in the spring of 2014. This project entails installing a new pumping station, storage tank and sewer pipes and will lead to some disruption to traffic. All works are undertaken in conjunction with improvements at Eastney Pumping Station, which will help protect the quality of the water in and around Langstone Harbour.

## **FORUM MINUTES 9 Oct continued**

### **ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**Parking in Furze Lane:** Many extra vehicles are now parking in Furze Lane, Locksway Road and Waterlock Gardens since the decision was taken to build new all-weather pitches and implement charging at the university car park

**Locksway Road/Milton Road roundabout:** Many residents said that money has been wasted by the local authority having to “re-do” a scheme that was first introduced without proper consultation. It was explained that the improvement works are underway to reduce the risk of accident by building up kerbs to bring traffic down to one lane from each direction at the roundabout. There will be two lanes going north directing traffic on the inner lane to Goldsmith Avenue, the outer lane will direct traffic to the new roundabout.

**Parking in Seaway Crescent:** concern was expressed that there are parking restrictions in Seaway Crescent, designed specifically for the benefit of residents who are council housing tenants and not for general public use. Councillor Sanders stated that the needs of council house tenants and other residents must be balanced and some parking facilities need to be provided for council tenants.

**Possible play area site:** a resident asked if a play/ recreation area could be created on empty land adjacent to the Old Oyster House public house. This would benefit young people, although it would seem that there are very few youngsters living locally. Councillor Sanders agreed to investigate further.

### **UPDATE FOLLOWING THE LAST OPEN FORUM**

**Parking in Broome Square and Locksway Road** Since the meeting, this has been taken up by Cllr Darren Sanders with the new Vice Chancellor of the University who will be looking into the problem. No solution yet, but we will keep our eye on progress.

**Possible play area site:** The Housing Department are surveying the residents of the flats in Furze Lane area in February 2014 to find out their preferences for uses for the open land.

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### **MILTON ROAD NEW ROUNDABOUT LAYOUT**

There has been much frustration expressed locally about providing a solution to egress from Locksway Road onto Milton Road. The work on the latest changes to the junction with new traffic signals and 'build outs' created huge traffic delays up to Christmas. Now that the scheme is complete, it is a great improvement and should be much safer as the roundabout is more prominent and easy to negotiate with only one lane from the south. There are of course, still queues along Milton Road but that is a separate issue. Many thanks for the efforts of all concerned to improve the junction we all use every day.

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## ALL PUMPED UP



There was recent news of all manner of effluent, dead rats and many other un-mentionable items washing up on our local beaches as a result of the heavy rain overwhelming the local sewerage system. Unsurprisingly, an inadequate sewerage system is nothing new and I was reminded of this on a recent visit to Eastney Pumping Station. This is a marvellous example of Victorian engineering and ingenuity right on our doorstep and well worth a visit (it's free).

When we flush our lavatories, it's probably without much thought – out of sight, out of mind. But it was not always thus. A Board of

Health enquiry in the mid-1800s into conditions in Portsmouth flagged up problems. One resident reported that sewage had been accumulating in an open ditch five feet wide and 100 feet long for 19 years and he had only seen it emptied once in that time. Contamination of drinking water supplies meant that the local population was regularly suffering from various diseases. Perhaps the fact that army and navy personnel lived in the area was also a factor. It's difficult to stay "fighting fit" when suffering from dysentery. A steam pumping station was built in Eastney in 1868 to pump sewer contents out into the sea, but the growth of the city meant that these were inadequate.

Financial incentives are often a means to solving a problem and a Colonel Crease proposed a solution that was implemented by Sir Frederick Bramwell, one of the leading engineers of the time. The sewers were to be continually pumped out, with waste being put into storage tanks and then pumped into the sea through a new outfall. Two more powerful James Watt steam engines were installed to do the work. The Victorians were very keen on the idea that "cleanliness is next to godliness" and this may explain why the engine house has something of the look of a church about it. The opening (if that is that the right word in this context) ceremony in 1887 was followed by a celebratory luncheon in what is now St James' Hospital. Admiral Sir George Willes thanked the corporation for the fact that the health of his brother officers would be improved by the work. The city of course grew and the steam engines were eventually overtaken by more modern technology. However, Eastney pumping station remains open so that we can marvel at the technological achievements of our Victorian predecessors.

**The pumping station is open on the last complete weekend of each month and is in Bransbury Road, a very short walk from the car park on the south side of Bransbury Park. It's well worth a visit – and did I tell you that it's free; although donations are welcome.**

*Old Miltonian*

## MILTON LOCKS NATURE RESERVE



**A** working party from Hampshire Wildlife Trust has been clearing the small nature reserve which is situated between the Thatched House pub and the shoreline near Milton Piece Allotments. The aim was to open the site up and free it from the grips of scrub encroachment. However it was far from a chop and burn exercise as there were some fine details to achieve. We had to thin the trees in such a way to leave potential areas for nesting birds but not allow anyone to hide away in the thicket, making the site feel less threatening. In total we removed over 6 bin bags of rubbish each day, mattresses, 3 bike wheels, a car wheel and lots of misc metal work. It's been a really satisfying clearance project and one which all the people I've spoken to on site have been in favour of. All that remains is to install our new entrance sign and interpretation boards (to follow in the following months). *Rob*

### PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2014

**Keep Saturday 7 June free to join us at  
St James Field, Locksway Road  
For the annual Picnic on the Green with  
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## MILTON BY THE SEA



This 19<sup>th</sup> century map of Portsmouth shows how close Milton used to be to the sea. It even indicates that Fort Cumberland was out on a limb beyond marshy ground subject to water ingress. Velder Creek is clearly visible.

Milton was an area where many local villagers relied upon the sea, as fishermen, bargemen dredging sand and shingle to build Portsmouth's Prison, St Mary's Hospitals and the Guildhall. They also collected cockles and winkles daily, trawled for whelks and oysters in the area hence the long established 'Oyster House'

It has been recorded that people living along the shoreline in those days used grappling hooks to remove spent shells from the mud of the harbour. These had come through firing

practice at Southsea and Eastney. They were gathered up on the shore and the War Office would arrange for them to be collected and taken to the Gun Wharf. Payment for this work was good but as a bonus, sometimes, a barrel of brandy which had 'accidentally' fallen from a passing boat the night before might turn up adding smuggling to local occupations

*Ordnance Survey First Series Map Sheet 10 1805-1869*

*Photographs by permission of Portsmouth Museum Service*

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*The Old Oyster House public house — at the bottom of Locksway Road — between the wars.*



The Salterns estate was built right onto Velder Creek. In response to an earlier article in Milton Matters, reader Graham Rowntree told us that it was not until after the second World War that reclamation of this inlet was attempted. This photo shows Velder Creek before the City's municipal waste was brought to this site. The sea was then pushed back to create Milton Common and Moorings Way.

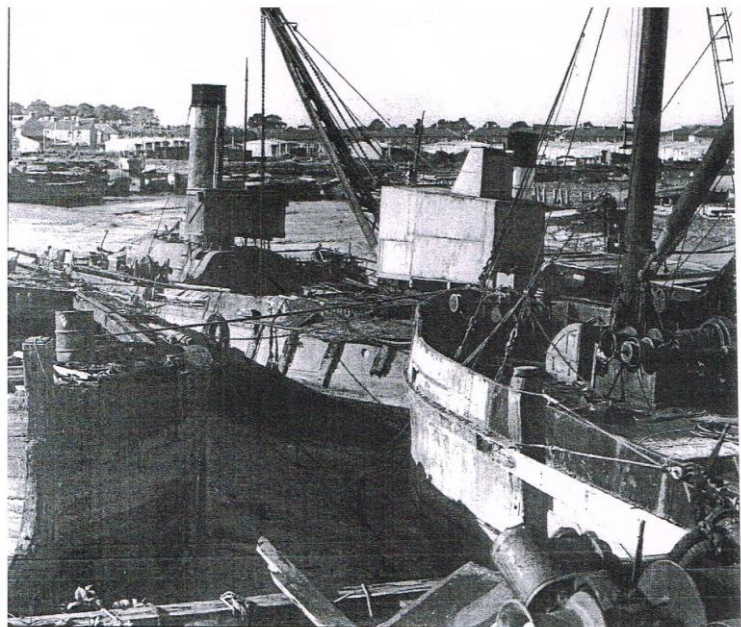


What a different view the same houses have today!





Margaret Cornell also wrote in to tell us that she used to play in Velder Avenue 50 years ago and the area where Avocet House is today, used to be occupied by pre-fabs – postwar emergency housing. In the shot below of the old boats in Velder Creek, you can just see the pre-fabs in the background.



Not all the boats went to sea of course, many becoming beached as houseboats which were much needed when local housing was in short supply during and after the war. It was from these 'moorings' that the road was named.

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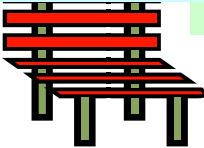
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# Milton Village Community Association

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

Tel. 023 9287 3788 Email: [allisonmvca@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonmvca@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk)

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*New programme of events out in March!*

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## KEEP SAFE IN 2014



I received a splendid calendar from a friend who belongs to Neighbourhood Watch. It features hints and tips to bear in mind throughout the year and I hope you may find some of them useful

- When eating in a restaurant, don't put your handbag on the floor beside your chair. Thieves lookout for handbags they can hook and pull away
- Mark new items with a UV pen adding your postcode and house number and register them on the national register at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). This includes bicycles
- Turn cardboard boxes inside out when recycling. You don't want to advertise to burglars any new items that may be inside your home.
- Don't leave an unoccupied vehicle with the engine running to defrost the windscreen. Car thieves will be pleased but your car insurance will be void
- If you get stuck in deep snow that comes up above your exhaust pipe, don't leave the engine running as fumes will filter into the car which can be fatal
- When working in the garden, close and lock all house doors and windows that are not in full view all the time and don't forget the garage door too
- People going door to door selling items must have a Pedlar's Certificate issued by their Police Force. Always ask to see this
- After supermarket shopping, don't leave your handbag or keys on the seat of your car while you put the shopping away. Lock the car or keep bag and keys on you as you pack the boot
- Most newer cars now need the key before they can be driven away. Make sure car keys are not left where they can be seen or 'hooked' through your letterbox
- Be safe and be seen. Give children reflective straps, bags or clothing, and get some yourself if you are out in the dark whether walking or cycling
- Always take house/car keys and mobiles phones upstairs to bed with you don't leave them downstairs and visible

## FORUM ISSUES

This winter we have seen the south of England inundated by rainwater and whilst we can be very grateful that we have not had the extensive flooding suffered by other areas, we are not immune to the effects of storm surges nor torrential rain. So at the next **Open Forum**, we shall be bringing you up to date on the work that **Southern Water** and its contractor 4D are doing to prevent the City as a whole from suffering from flooding in the future. The old city drains carry both sewage and rainwater at the same time, so this mix is to be separated. Do come along and hear how the work is progressing now that it is ending in Tangier Road and moving nearer to Milton.

The sea is also on our doorstep and the Council have been working to a plan of **flood defences along Langston Harbour**. Those who enjoy using Milton Common have long campaigned for the shoreline path to be better protected from erosion and work was completed in October 2013. However, the surges at Christmas appear to threaten the paths again as you can see from the front cover. At the meeting on **Wed. 5 March**, we shall be getting an update on the further work which is now necessary

At the last meeting, we heard about the **Community Infrastructure Levy** and that £19,560 is being held for our area. Come along to the meeting to tell us what you would like it spent on. The suggestions to date are to improve the Skatepark facilities in Milton Park and an 'outdoor gym' feature on the site of the demolished toilets in Bransbury Park. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CILneighbourhoodideas> to put your suggestions on line.

The Forum **Annual General Meeting** is due again! We are seeking a new Treasurer as John Couch, who has given us such dedicated service will be standing down. Thankfully, he will be remaining on our committee where his experience and advice will as always be invaluable, but his duties in keeping our accounts, banking money, paying out cheques and running the advertising side of Milton Matters, need to be passed to a new Treasurer. If you would like to do this job, please e-mail the Forum at [MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com) or write to **Neighbourhood Forums**, **FREEPOST (SCE4514) PORTSMOUTH PO1 2YZ**. Nominations for the committee or for an office in the Forum, must also be submitted in writing at least **5 days before the meeting** to one of the contact points above.





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John Couch – Treasurer

Margaret Nicholas (Secretary)  
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Sajal Acharjee ( “ )  
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### Ward Councillors – Milton

Cllr Will Purvis  
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[wapurvis@me.com](mailto:wapurvis@me.com)

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[@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) [Lynne.stagg29@gmail.com](mailto:Lynne.stagg29@gmail.com)

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
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(02392 834551)

[geraldvj@gmail.com](mailto:geraldvj@gmail.com)

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[darrensanders59@gmail.com](mailto:darrensanders59@gmail.com)

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Cllr. Darron Phillips  
79 Folkestone Road, Copnor  
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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:-***

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