MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 65

Milton Neighbourhood Forum October 2018



1960's -Those were the days!!! Disruption of services has yet again affected us all as we lose Sunday Service 13 & 14 plus many familiar routes around the city. Read about the small building on the right of this picture on page 12

Wednesday 17 October 7.00 pm Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road NEXT FORUM AGENDA HOW IS SOUTHERN WATER PERFORMING? UNIVERSITY FURZE LANE HALLS CLOSURE - Fiona Bell NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM UPDATE - Rod Bailey CCG UPDATE ON ACCESS TO G.P.s - Dr. Linda Collie ANY NEWS ON THE BUSES? - Clir. Darren Sanders

OPEN FORUM MINUTES 13 June

The Chair, opened the meeting and gave a resume of the actions taken by the Committee since the last public meeting.including planning for the Picnic on the Green, pursuing the Heritage Trail, effective replacement of trees removed via Tree Preservation Orders, progress of CIL projects, Seafront Defences and ongoing work by the Milton Planning Forum.

HON.TREASURER'S REPORT

John Couch has given up his role of Honorary Treasurer and submitted his financial report to the Chair in his absence. The Chair then read out details from the financial accounts to identify income and expenditure for the financial year 2017 to 2018.

Income for the year amounted to £5,276, with expenditure amounting to £6,953. The current closing balance at the bank is £4,436.

A VOTE OF THANKS WAS PROPOSED FOR JOHN COUCH WHO HAS GIVEN THE FORUM MANY YEARS OF SERVICE, NOT ONLY AS TREASURER, BUT ALSO AS A VALUED COMMITTEE MEMBER.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Louise Wilders from the City Council attended for this item and conducted the AGM. All current committee members, with the exception of Christine Neal, agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected.

Janice Burkinshaw was re-elected as Chair, Dave Willcox as Vice Chair, Pam Pritchard as Hon. Treasurer, Margaret Nicholas as Minutes Secretary. Janice then resumed chairmanship of the meeting.

LOCAL ELECTIONS, MAY 2018

The chair congratulated Cllr Ben Dowling for his re-election to the Milton Ward and introduced Jeanette Smith as the newly-elected Councillor for the Baffins Ward.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Keep Milton Green: Kimberly Barrett, who leads on matters pertaining to Keep Milton Green, spoke about Speedwatch initiatives, stating that more volunteers were needed to help with this scheme.

St James's Villas; a petition to retain two of the villas at the hospital (Fairoak House and The Beeches) has been organized.

Let Pompey Breathe: a petition has been organized to campaign for safe air quality in Portsmouth to trigger a debate by the City Council. 1,000 signatures are urgently needed to force a debate at Full Council. Recent air quality readings in the City exceed national limits.

The Brewers Arms: a planning application is due to be discussed on 20th June 2018.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, leader of the City Council, spoke about various items that may be of interest and concern to City residents, including:-

FORUM MINUTES 13 June cont

Seafront Defences: a five-member cross-party group has been established to spearhead a public consultation process to ensure that a range of views can be sought. A citywide leaflet drop is being planned to enable all residents to have a say in the final scheme. Several areas of the seafront may need different schemes to be implemented. The Fraser Range site is privately owned and the owner will be responsible for financing appropriate sea defence work. (The first seafront consultation event is scheduled for Wednesday 4th July 2018 at Eastney Community Centre, 1pm to 7pm).

Schools for children with learning difficulties: Gerald stated that two more schools like The Mary Rose Academy are needed to facilitate learning skills for children with learning difficulties.

Ferry Road: Caravans/camper vans currently being parked at Ferry Road and lived in by people working locally are to be discouraged.

HMP Kingston: the developers, City and Country, appear to be unsure of the way forward and are currently reviewing schemes for use at the site. The latest scheme is for a temporary indoor combat style game experience.

POLICE UPDATE

Thefts from cars, especially those with keyless ignition are increasing. Keep all keys well away from front doors as technology allows a signal to pass through. Burglary cases and disruption of drug dealing in housing blocks have also been Police priority.

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Fiona Bell and Dean Machin from the University were present as observers, to learn of feelings of residents concerning the future of the Milton Campus, including QEQM Hall. Fiona spoke about current plans for closure of the student accommodation at QEQM Hall and confirmed that security measures to safeguard the site will be introduced from 16th July 2018.

There are no plans at present to dispose of the site, although more educational uses may be introduced. Current pay and display parking charges will continue to apply.

Fiona agreed to return to a future public meeting to inform residents of the outcome of deliberations concerning the future of the site and the views expressed at tonight's meeting will provide useful information for her. The Chair asked if consideration could be given to some community use on the campus, as meeting venues are scarce.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Rod Bailey, Chair, reported that Historic England has stated that the Villas at the hospital campus, are not significant enough to warrant listing. The Planning Forum wished to keep Fairoak and Glebe to keep the symmetry of the hospital. He stated that 300 objections had been submitted about the Homes England planning application, but was disappointed that the city council has not been forthcoming with information about school place needs. A further concern is that traffic levels are expected to increase by 41% in the next five years. Rod then mentioned that a further formal consultation stage is needed and the Planning Forum AGM will take place on Thursday 5th July 2018 at Milton Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.

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A welcome face at June's Picnic on the Green where everyone was having fun!



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If you receive Milton Matters you can become a member of our Association!

Applications for the new Membership Year, Sept.2018 to Aug.2019 are now being accepted from residents in our 'area of benefit'. Membership costs just £7 pp and entitles you to discounts on private hall hire, priority booking and cheaper prices for trips/events and special offers/discounts in Pure Ground Coffee Shop. Don't delay, contact us today

The following **new trips** have spaces still available. All trips include coach travel & entry unless stated. Please contact the office for more info. (£) = Non-Member Price

Lymington Market – Sat 6 Oct - £10 (£13)

Woman in Black London Show (m) - Thu 1 Nov - £47 (£51)

Xmas Dinner & Candlelit Tour at Stonor Park - Wed 5 Dec - £53 (£57)

January Sales at Swindon Outlet - Sat 5 Jan - £15 (£17)

Harry Potter Studios - Feb ½ Term (day tbc) - A £59 (£63) C £49 (£53)

Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) - Mon 22 Jul - £39 (£43)

Warners' Sinah Warren (H.I.) - Mon 4-Wed 6 Feb - £115 (£125)

New Year's Eve, Daish's Torquay 2019 Mon 30 Dec-Thu 2 Jan £299 (£319)

Current Regular Activities at Milton Village Hall

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
Music Mad	Music Mad	Music Mad	Weight Watchers	Yoga	Tots Soccer	Keep Fit
	Preschool Yoga	Bingo n Brunch (m)	Little Steps Gym	Cribbage Club		
Little Steps Gym	Cribbage	50+ Keep Fit	Tots Soccer	Tai Chi	Little Steps Gym	AA
Curling	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym	Seated Keep Fit	Beginners Line Dance		Light House
Bravo Karate	Уода	Lighthouse Church	Quiz Time (m)	Baby Yoga		Church
Zumba		Aerobics	Pilates	Уода		
Walking Netball			Line Dancing	Ballet for Adults		

YES, ITS ALL ABOUT PLASTIC!!!

My aim is to spread the message to reduce the unnecessary plastic waste we throw out in our day-to-day lives. Many people across our city make a real effort to recycle their household waste using the green bins and bottle banks. We've had these services for quite a while now



and for most people it's become a daily habit which is great - but we can do more! With the ever- growing media focus on plastic waste, I believe we can take further steps to reduce our impact on the planet and improve the Portsea Island Environment.

The steps we make today will change the lives of the future generation, our habits and routines need to change so we can protect this wonderful planet. Mother earth is not a resource, we should be more respectful to the environment and do our best to heal the damage done by a wasteful culture. Our government and industry have launched various initiatives but we can also make some changes to our own daily routines:-

- Using re-usable drinks bottles instead of single-use drink bottles for soft drinks, mineral water, etc. Where possible the metal aluminium types are a great option as they contain no plastic and can reduce harmful bacteria around the mouthpiece and are long-lasting.
- Switch to biodegradable refuse sacks for your green waste where possible and use biodegradable carrier bags which can then compost
- Reduce or eliminate cling film using instead cloth wraps or food containers.
- Carry a re-usable coffee cup a 4oz cup with lid is easy to transport
- Switch to using a bamboo toothbrush as plastic ones take 1000 years to decompose
- Consider plastic free cosmetics such as bar hand soap, crystal deodorant from local health food shops which only needs water, shower gels and shampoos in glass or metal containers or even bar form. The internet has huge resources to help you find these.

- Consider buying less or even no plastic packaged foods. Many supermarkets over-pack our food items to protect them. Buying fresh unpackaged foods (in your local shops) keeps us healthy and reducing this type of waste. Win win!
- Buy organic cotton clothing where possible. Many of the companies
 who produce these items have great ethics and sustainable policies to
 reduce the impacts on our environments. Did you know that manmade fibres shed minute granules of plastic which enters the water
 system during washing and ends up in fish and probably us?
- And when thinking about clothing, make sure you recycle those wool and cotton clothes to friends or via the charity shop to save the impact on the planet and to help others enjoy the comfort of the correct clothes for the climate whether summer or winter.

Our family has made a few small changes to our habits and I see the difference it is making. The children have some awareness of the need to reduce plastic waste and are less wasteful with food. I've also noticed the reduction in black dustbin sacks we fill and the increasing amount of recycling we achieve. This is very helpful as we are included in the Council's smaller black dustbin project which is aimed at limiting the number of black waste sacks we put out and increasing our green bin load.

It is always difficult to change our habits but I believe with a conscious effort to make small changes to our lives, we can make a difference for the future generation. Please consider the above ideas in your household as this could have a snowball effect with your friends and families.

Why not spend an evening on the computer or i-pad looking at topics raised in this article? You will be amazed at the number of new products and supporting sites and information there is out there just waiting for you to get stuck into!

For more information on beach clean events and other initiatives, search Friends of the Earth, Keep Milton Green, The Final Straw or Southsea Beach Watch. There is a Plastic Free Steering Group with city council involvement. It's great there is so much enthusiasm, but we all need to join in. DAN BROOKES

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN MILTON?



Kevin King says 'goodbye'

A big 'Thank You' to all our customers. I am sad to go and to close the business as Milton residents tell me that there has been a butcher at 273 Milton Road for as long as they can remember. I, Malcolm and Jim will miss all those cheerful faces and the gossip we have enjoyed in the shop. However, it is time for me to move on to pastures new and to enter a new phase in my life. The shop is still available to let. Once again Thank you all for your support. Kings Butchers Thanks too from the Forum for the help the business has given us. Chair

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN MILTON?



Meon Infant School were thrilled to receive £20,000 worth of new play equipment for their playground funded by the local Community Infrastructure Levy on developers.

The play equipment offers challenging and adventurous playtimes for the youngsters who could not wait to begin to try it out. A huge success for the local area!

Cllr Ben Dowling cuts the ribbon to open the new facility









CITY OF PORTSMOUTH PASSENGER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR'S OFFICE



Tucked away in a back street of Milton, the Inspector's office that once graced the Guildhall square in the heyday of the Passenger Transport department sits forgotten and unloved.

The inspector's office was built some time 1941-1942 either by the passenger transport department or the works department on the Eastern Road, and constructed out of timber with a slate roof. The size of the office is approximately nine feet square.

The Inspector's office arrived in the Guildhall some time in 1942 and featured in an evening News article the office replacing a smaller one which was relocated to Cosham Compound. The new office featured a clock on the roof with four faces. Inside the office featured a telephone for contacting either North End or Eastney depots.

In the late 1950's the office was moved from the centre of the



Sometime after 1972 the office was moved again to Milton to it its present location and its new life. The office had 'come home' in some way as it now sits on the old site of the Corporation Bus depot in use between



Guildhall Square to the Portsmouth & Southsea Railway station goods entrance which was no longer used. The clock on the top of the office was removed sometime before the office was moved.

The office remained in this position until the 1970's when the Guildhall square was redeveloped and the office ended up in the middle of a roundabout in 1972.

Right:- The office in the 1950's



1920 and 1932 before Eastney bus depot opened in 1932.

above: During the building of the Civic Offices in 1972

The office as it stands today

Paul Knight, City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport Depot

ALL CHANGE FOR MILTON BUSES

As you may have seen, First has changed its services affecting Milton. None of them receives Council subsidy, so depend on whether First thinks it can make money from them. These are:

- No 13/14 service on a Sunday, cutting off Moorings Way, Furze Lane, Locksway and nearby roads. The 40-minute service during peak hours also ceases, meaning one 13 and one 14 service each hour between 7am and 6pm Monday to Saturday.
- The 17 not going to Tipner and North End, but instead terminating at Admiral Lord Nelson School and Ocean Business Park.
- The 2 saw minor changes, the main one being a 15, not 20-minute Sunday service.
- The 1 merged with the 3 between the Hard and South Parade Pier.
 The service frequency stays the same. This means no direct connection to Old Portsmouth from Milton.
- The 15 ceases to go to Gunwharf but, for the next six months, does run to Hayling Ferry Mondays to Fridays as a trial. This plus – at last – a bus service from the ferry on the Hayling side reverses First's earlier decision to stop running to the Ferry and enables carfree links. Local councillor Lynne Stagg has helped re-establish this, but people have to use it!

Cutting buses defies the need to cut congestion and air pollution in Milton, especially with more homes coming. The six councillors for Milton have got the Council to talk to First about reversing the cuts. We will keep people posted on progress.





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Thursday	8.00am - 2.00pm	4.30 - 9.00pm	
Friday	8.00am - 2.00pm	4.30 - 9.00pm	
Saturday	8.00am - 2.00pm	4.30 - 9.00pm	
Sunday	CLOSED	CLOSED	

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PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Our Neighbourhood Plan's progress has been further frustrated. This time it is by a recent European Court Judgement affecting the Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) and the wider Solent SPA, both known in European terms, as Natura 2000 sites. Essentially, the UK practice of considering basic mitigation measures to reduce damage to these Special Areas of Conservation in the early stages of a Plan preparation is no longer acceptable.

We realised in 2014/15 the risks to Langstone Harbour from an insensitive redevelopment of the University Campus because of the Solent Waders and Brent Geese constraints. A Solent

Waders and Brent Goose Strategy has been created to ensure the network of critical sites for feeding birds are protected because they are so fundamentally important to over-wintering waterfowl across the Solent. It provides the guidance to maintain a network of sites through better management and protection from development and recreational pressure. The field adjacent to Langstone Harbour is now identified as "Core" and essential to the integrity of the Brent Geese feeding and migration network. We could foresee a continuation of an education use on this site would be SPA and Brent Geese/Wading Bird compliant. We also knew that very little else could be. Through our investigations, we've now established the need. The will is a separate issue. What we couldn't foresee was a European ruling reversing the UK's presumption that mitigation measures are OK for consideration at the early screening stage.

I will try to explain the background to this but forgive me if you have to read it twice: All Plans having sites within 5.6km of a Natura 2000 site or SPA are governed by a Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive requires that Plans and Permissions can only be made/granted where there is no impact on a protected area either by the nature of the Plan/permission or where specific preventative or mitigation techniques can be employed to protect them. Only where there is an overriding public interest such as protection from coastal flooding can an exception be permitted (providing the Member State takes all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the coherence of Natura 2000 is preserved). The Milton Neighbourhood Plan must have a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to assess any significant impacts our proposals could have on the Protected Harbour and also on the Solent.

Up to the recent ruling, UK practice has been to assume that it is OK in the HRA high level "screening" stage to "Appropriately Assess" the likely significant impacts on, or potential damage, to the Habitats (not the sites themselves which can be mitigated.

PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN cont.

The Planning Authorities around the Solent have therefore created a Solent-wide Mitigation Strategy where housebuilders are required to make a financial contribution to offset damage to the Protected Habitats from the consequential increase in recreational stress. Currently it is £637 for a new 3 bed house. The cash payment can be used to employ wardens to manage and control the integrity of the Habitats and deter abuse. What the European Court has determined however, is that it is not appropriate to assume mitigation is acceptable at the early Planning stage. It is saying a more rigorous assessment needs to be undertaken right from the outset. As a result, our HRA is not legally compliant and our Plan cannot be submitted to the Council until it is.

This European decision is to properly recognise the fundamental purpose and spirit behind the protection of these SPAs and their habitats. Having been Internationally accepted as Special Areas of Conservation, it does make sense their significance would be undermined by any premise that mitigation could be acceptable. I have posted my thoughts on our website:- http://miltonplan.org.uk/uncategorized/st-james-marketingseptember-2018/. The implications for both our Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging Portsmouth Plan is that the development charge per new dwelling to mitigate recreational stress on the SPA's is not enough at the early screening stages of our respective Plans. That also means the NHS's attempts to execute a quick dump of the rest of St James' Hospital on the market for 299 new homes is also frustrated by the need for bidders to properly appraise the consequences of their redevelopment at the outset. This will lengthen the sale process. For us though, St James' still remains an opportunity site for continuing health care and adult social care/elderly accommodation all of which would be compliant with the spirit of habitat conservation. It's perverse that our ambitions to plan for Sustainable Development in Milton have been delayed by a European judgement to protect against unsustainable development!

We have yet to discuss fully the implications of the Judgement with the City Council but I am certain the inconsistencies in the National Planning Policy Framework's "Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development" will have been checked. The term "Sustainable Development" had been distorted by Central Government to mean a presumption in favour of housing regardless of the need for infrastructure such as schools, highways and hospitals. We believe there is no "Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development" at Langstone Campus or on St James' Hospital. That is not saying development cannot or will not happen. It is saying developers will need to try a lot harder to prove it will not harm the Special Areas of Conservation and the City Council will have more opportunity to oppose inappropriate development.

In the meantime we will plod on with our mission to Plan for a more favourable future redevelopment of Milton in the hope we can get our Neighbourhood Plan to the Council by the end of the year. I hope you can come along to the Open Forum on 17th October where I will be pleased to answer questions. Rod Bailey, Chairman Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum



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FORUM ISSUES

When Southern Water completed the new surface drainage system for the east of the city in February 2015. they visited the Forum to explain their aims. We were pleased to learn that there would be live monitoring of the discharges from Eastney pumping station and other areas, as a result of the investment made in the new separation of rainwater and sewage in the east of the city. £50million was spent over the previous 5 years. 80 discharges of raw sewage had occurred in 2014 and the investment aimed to overcome this in future.

We are now 3 years on but in 2018 (one of the driest summers on record!) there have been 302 occasions of discharge with consequent heavy odours across Eastney. The Eastern Road was flooded only a few weeks ago when we had heavy rain one Sunday. We have invited Southern Water back to bring us up to date but as we go to print, we have had not acceptance nor acknowledgement of our invitation. As the Environment Agency has to approve discharges, we have invited them instead to bring us up to speed. We await their reply too! It was interesting that the News reported Southern Water has just sent OFWAT its new 5-year business plan in which it expects that it will reduce average consumption of water to 100 litres per person per day to safeguard water in an area which is already classed as WATER STRESSED!! Yet Southern Water is not a statutory consultee on planning issues which will lead to a build-up of population in South Hampshire. Don't ditch the bottled water just yet!Dr Linda Collie from the Central Commissioning Group (CCG) will come to the next Forum to tell us about the new system available in the City for booking GP appointments. If there has been any progress with the discussions on the bus service, Cllr Lynn Stagg will update us.



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Kimberly Barrett Lyn Mills
Ian Clark Peter Mills
Karen Cooper Reg Puntis
Paul Docking Martin Silman

George Dominy Larry Nicholas (Co-opted Dominic Goodyear Karen Potter (Co-opted)

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