

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 68

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

October 2019



Milton and Eastney Allotment Association Autumn Show
Best Scarecrow First Prize winner (*Photo Angela Barnes*)

Wednesday 9 October 7.00 pm

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

NEXT FORUM AGENDA

Neighbourhood Forum AGM

Air Pollution in Portsmouth - Update from last meeting

Alistair Wood, LNT Construction on plans for new Care Home

Aquind Electricity Project details of new routes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Janice Burkinshaw, Chair presented a report highlighting projects and actions undertaken by the committee during the past year. She also thanked committee members for their support and work during the year and confirmed that two long-standing committee members (George Dominy and David Jordan) are stepping down.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pam Pritchard reported that the balance of funds in the bank account was £3,481 which included payments already made for some items associated with the Event on the Green scheduled for Saturday 22nd June 2019. She mentioned that the cost of printing Milton Matters is in the region of £650 per issue which is offset, to some degree, by advertising income. There is a possibility that this year's Picnic on the Green may result in a loss due to a lack of grant funding.

Cllr Darren Sanders stated that some financial assistance might be provided from funds accessible by Baffins Ward Councillors and he will investigate.

ELECTION OF FORUM COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Lee Todd attended from Portsmouth City Council to independently oversee the election of committee members and officers for the ensuing year.

The current committee members and officers were unanimously re-elected to serve for the forthcoming year, and Janice Burkinshaw resumed duties as Chair for the meeting.

Lee was thanked for attending

Hayley Trower from Portsmouth City Council attended with three colleagues to provide a presentation about air pollution, a topic that is very important to residents as pollution is increasing and air quality standards are seen to be getting worse across the City. Unfortunately, the venue's technology failed and a visual presentation could not be shown. However, Hayley and her team did a sterling job of informing attendees about pollution, past problems and possible ways forward in Portsmouth.

It was pointed out that traffic (HGVs, cars and buses) provides a significant level of pollution, with local/background factors (pollution transported from other areas in the air and domestic central heating systems etc) being important also. Very little is caused by shipping. Five particular areas of the City are identified as having significant levels of pollution, including Mile End and the Western section of the City, plus the area around Velder Avenue.

Effects of air pollution: information from Public Health England confirms that short term effects include shortness of breath, coughing and wheezing, while long term effects can include strokes, lung cancer, respiratory problems and cardiovascular disease. Pollution does affect everyone, but the more vulnerable people in society (children, certain adults, pregnant women and many elderly) sustain the greatest impact.

Cont....

FORUM MINUTES June cont

The future: as vehicle use is attributable for 50% of the City's pollution, changes to how people travel can play an important part in reducing levels and residents are encouraged to use cars less, walk or cycle more, and make greater use of public transport. Central Government has identified that Portsmouth is one of a number of areas where there are significant air pollution levels, and the City must provide a plan to reduce NO2 emissions in the area as soon as possible, ***The plan has to be submitted the Central Government by 31st October 2019*** and plan must be evidence-based - a camera survey is being undertaken commencing on 24th June for a week in London Road and Fratton Road as part of this work. Automatic number plate recognition cameras could be used to identify euro standards of vehicles and their origins and destinations and, in future, a simple ticketing and billing system could provide fare capping over the full range of transport services across the City. A Bus Rapid Transport System, similar to the one recently introduced in Gosport (although Portsmouth does not have access to the facilities that Gosport has for appropriate routing) and retrofit buses could be provided in the City as a result of extra Government funding.

The City Council has recently introduced electric charging points in various locations as a step towards encouraging more motorists to move to cleaner energy sources.

Councillor Darren Sanders made the point that the City Council needs to look elsewhere to see what initiatives are working in other parts of the country and the world. This might include a "sustainable distribution centre", which could reduce the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles delivering daily to each and every shop across the City. Councillor Ben Dowling is looking at liaising with Portsmouth University to encourage transport initiatives.

Questions/comments from the floor included the need for cheaper bus fares, a restriction on students bringing cars into the City, restrictions on further unrealistic government housing targets in an already-overcrowded City, plus the introduction of further residents' parking schemes.

A Clean Air Day has been planned for this week, (see PCC Facebook page) and there are two online sites to look at for further information:-

www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search "air quality in Portsmouth"; and www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search for "electric vehicles".

Hayley and her team were thanked for providing some excellent information and answering comments from the floor.

SOLENT NHS TRUST PLANS FOR ST. MARY'S AND ST JAMES' HOSPITALS

Sadly, the promised speaker for this topic, Fiona Garth, failed to materialize.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Dowling will investigate the news that the No.13 bus service will be suspended for 2 weeks from 8th July for Bus Lane repairs.

Milton Jumble Trail, 20th July 2019, 1100 – 1400, various locations. (See Keep Milton Green Facebook page)

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BIRD AWARE - SUCCESS IN THE SOLENT



Portsmouth is at the very heart of a unique stretch of coastline known as the Solent. Stretching over 250 kilometres, the area is home to 2 international ports, 2 national parks and the popular tourist venue of the Isle of Wight. With this wealth of diversity, it can mean that our attractive coastline is exposed to numerous natural and human pressures.

Recognised internationally for its ecological value, the Solent provides an invaluable food supply to both a sedentary and a migrant bird population. Some birds fly as far as three thousand miles to overwinter on the Solent, making it literally a life line to a variety of bird species. For this reason, three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been designated across the Solent. These support both nationally and internationally important numbers of a variety of bird populations. Notable species include the Black-tailed Godwit, Common Ringed Plover, Eurasian Teal, and Dark-bellied Brent Goose. Many of you will have admired these birds along the Eastern road and Farlington Marshes in the winter and over ten per cent of the global population of Dark-bellied Brent Geese rely on our precious coastline during this period.

With such a rich coastal landscape, settlements are numerous, and this has resulted in high urban density along many parts of the coast. Significant numbers of people (and their dogs) enjoy casual walks, cycling, sailing and a range of watersports in the same spots the birds rely on to survive. For overwintering birds, the proximity of humans and the nature of their recreational activities can have significant impact. With limited opportunities to feed, defined by the tides,



human disturbance can inadvertently disturb the birds when they most need to feed and rest. After long and arduous journeys to the Solent, such disturbance can deprive them of vital feeding opportunities which can quickly impact on their ability to survive. Many conservationists are already aware of the increased energy expenditure associated with birds being disturbed while feeding or roosting.

Bird Aware *Cont..*



Originally based on anecdotal evidence from local ornithologists and harbour authorities, significant local research has been undertaken in recent years to highlight such disturbance. This research anticipates an increase in disturbance resulting from a

rising population. In an effort to minimise the impact of this, a major local partnership was formed. Comprising of thirteen local authorities, four nature conservation bodies and two national parks, Bird Aware Solent publicly launched in 2016. The Partnership represents a concerted effort to have a positive and meaningful impact on the birds through public engagement.

It is now increasingly recognised that access to the countryside is crucial to the long-term success of nature conservation projects and has wider benefits such as increasing people's awareness of the natural world and health benefits. In line with this best practice a team of dedicated Bird Aware Rangers work along the Solent coastline, helping educate those using it. Armed with a stock of leaflets, advice and best of all, a friendly disposition, the rangers actively engage with the public, helping them realise the value of the landscape and how little changes in their behaviour can be of significant benefit to the birds. Face to face conversations are having a real impact and leading to unexpected support from a variety of sources. The Rangers are building strong working relationships with landowners, community groups and local businesses. Bird Aware is a far-sighted project that is helping many organisations to work in partnership for the benefit of conservation.

Combined with an informative website, numerous public-facing events - and not to mention articles in the very best of publications! – Bird Aware Solent is really helping the public enjoy their valued landscape in new, more considered ways. The public facing work is also backed up by tangible research which helps inform the campaigns undertaken. For those with an academic interest, the research can be found on the Bird Aware website at www.birdaware.org. *Spencer Dawson*
Brand and Communications Lead

Bird Aware Solent can also be followed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – search 'Bird Aware', take a peek and show your pride at being Bird Aware?

Milton Village Community Association

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

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

Office: 9.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri Website: www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020

If you receive Milton Matters you can become a member of our Association, and the new programme is out now! You do not have to be a member to enjoy any of the activities and trips but if you do join, **you can book onto trips and events at members' prices at any time!** (subject to availability) The membership year runs 1st Sept. to 31 August and costs just £7.50 pp per year (or part of the first year) and entitles you to discounts on private hall hire, priority booking (for following programmes) and cheaper prices for trips/events and special offers/discounts in Pure Ground Coffee Shop! Sample of new trips and events below – please ask for full programme!

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING TRIPS/HOLIDAYS

Tue 15 Oct – Wine Women & Clothes Swap	Thu 10 Oct – Greatest Showman Singalong
Sun 27 Oct – Milton Ghost Walk	25-28 Nov – The Yorkshire Experience
Tue 29 Oct – Landing Craft Duplo/Lego Event	Thu 5 Dec – Nativity The Musical <small>Mayflower</small>
Thu 31 Oct – Halloween Tea Party	Sun 22 Dec – Santa Train/Leonardslee Lights
Wed 6 Nov – Landing Craft Tank Talk	Sat 11 Jan – Bluewater January Sales
Sat 7 Dec – Abba Tribute Night!	Sat 15 Feb – Come From Away <small>London Show</small>
Tue 17 Dec – Xmas Carols & Afternoon Tea	Tue 21 Apr – King & I <small>(Mayflower)</small>
Sat 25 Jan – Jersey Boys Tribute Night!	21-24 Aug – Rouen & Honfleur

CURRENT REGULAR ACTIVITIES at Milton Village Hall (Red = New)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
Music Mad	Music Mad	Music Mad	Weight Watchers	Yoga	AS Tots Soccer	Keep Fit
Little StepsGym	Scrap-Booking(m)	Bingo n Brunch (m)	Little Steps Gym	Cribbage Club	Little StepsGym	AA
Tai Chi	Coffee Morning	50+ Keep Fit	Tots Soccer	DesignMake Create		
Mum&Baby Fitness	Beetle Drive (m)	Little Steps Gym	Quiz Time (m)	DesignMake Create		Light ↓ House
Curling	Trading Cards Club	Breve Easy Choir	Pilates	Beginners Line Dance		Church
Zumba	Yoga	Aerobics	Zumba	Yoga	Improv Comedy	
TapDance		Swing Dance (lindyhop) Swing Dance (Charleston)	Line Dancing	AP Performers		



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PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2019

(PHOTOS FAY SMITH)



PICNIC ON THE GREEN 2019



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Milton Village Hall 12 pm

Izzy Wizzy Witch Magic Show

Balloon Modelling

'Unicorn Rides' in Bransbury Park

And at Eastney Community Centre

Fancy Dress Competition 1 pm

Izzy Wizzy Witch Magic Show 2pm

REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD THE PUB?



What has happened to the nice new homes at White House Terrace? We used to see the much-loved landmark of the White House pub on this corner but since Radian Homes have built their scheme on this site, there seems to be difficulty with the Housing Association maintaining good standards of repair. Tenants must be frustrated by the problem too. Boundary walls to the properties have been left with large sections of bricks missing for many months. The Forum were concerned that this is a focal point in our area as the homes stand on the corner of Goldsmith Avenue and so raised the issue with Radian Housing in March this year. The Grounds Maintenance Team replied to say they were dealing with the gardens but the wall would be dealt with by the Association.



Although they acknowledged our e-mail, no action has followed. Local Councillors also took up the issue but still no repairs have been carried out to the boundary walls. Who can help now?

Chair

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PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan project came about from the proposal in 2013 by the City Council to allocate St James' Hospital and Langstone Campus for 545 new homes. Housing already built in our area since 2000 totals 825

There isn't sufficient infrastructure to accommodate so many extra people. This is why we need to improve planning for this neighbourhood. Our Plan is also

intended to provide more sustainable land-use policies. So far, this project has proved incredibly difficult and frustrating to achieve due to (i) ***Staff changes within the Council's Planning Department;***(ii)***The Council is structured with different departments having different agendas*** (iii) ***Because the Council cannot, after all this time, get the message across to Central Government that the housing and growth targets for Portsmouth especially, and Urban South Hampshire generally, are totally unrealistic***

We have an article on 'Bird Aware' featured in this edition of Milton Matters reminding us of how lucky we are having these 3 Special Protection Areas for Habitat Conservation in South Hampshire. We have made extensive commentary in our Plan on the one closest to us in Langstone Harbour. The Special Protection Area in Langstone Harbour is reason enough to undermine the excessive development originally proposed because its existence rebuts the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development in planning terms.

I have discussed the Langstone Harbour SPA and the potential impacts of the Habitats Directive before in the October '18 Milton Matters but it is worth reminding readers what this actually means because, having met the potential developers for the St James' Hospital Phase 2 scheme last week, this absence of a right to build in National Planning Policy terms seemed an anathema to them. It was as if the mention of this was an absurdity undermining the Council's housing strategy but that is exactly what it does mean.

There must be exceptional circumstances in the wider public interest to allow new housing here because the National Planning Policy is intended to bind Local Authorities to its objectives notwithstanding Central Government's nationally imposed targets and irrespective of whether the Council has or does not have a 5-year housing land supply. The get-around policy for South Hampshire has been through a mitigation payment which funds the Bird Aware Wardens referred to in our feature. However, the response from Natural England to our draft Plan Consultation is that our policies are not compliant because we can no longer rely on the "Bird Aware" mitigation in preparing this Plan. The City Council received legal advice from a Barrister specialising in

CONT

PROGRESS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN cont

Planning law in August 2018 to the same effect but unfortunately did not share it with us until after our Consultation. We saw a letter referring to it late last year but it was not until it was given to us in July 2019 that we could properly understand the implications. To avoid repeating the same mistake, the Council has offered to fund an independent check on our final text. For our Plan's purposes all we can really do is impose a condition on future development that it must be subject to a Project Level assessment to determine how much harm or damage to the Langstone Harbour Habitat will result from the new development so that the level of/type of mitigation can be determined. The property development industry is actively seeking to secure another get-around but for our Plan's purposes, and the potential Developers of St James' Hospital, right now there is no acceptable one.

For the redevelopment of St James' Hospital, we also have National Planning Policy constraints around historic assets. I've mentioned before how the Council tried to get around this, granting an application to demolish the pair of Edwardian Villas (Fairoak House and The Beeches) for the benefit of Homes England. Thanks to a change in staff, the Council has now reversed its recommendation. That has held up the progress of Phase 1, as too has the nitrate prohibition you will have read in newspapers and seen on TV.

Being a Grade II Listed Building, St James' Hospital is now afforded a greater degree of protection from development affecting its setting, - the grounds surrounding it. Case Law is complicated but National Planning Policy was updated in 2019 effectively re-inforcing the exceptional circumstances to permitting visual intrusion on the setting of historic buildings. As ever it is open to interpretation but the proposed developers either deliberately, or through ignorance, did not seem very aware when we met them. We have emphasised the importance of the setting in our Plan amendments.

Finally then, to amendments for Langstone Campus. On Natural England's advice, we are strengthening the Habitat Conservation elements and we are returning to a very early aim of ours to improve visual amenity of the Coastline. We are trying, subject to the agreement on the wording, to include a policy to exchange development rights allowing the University to develop part of the Sports fields at the southern end on condition of a total clearance of the former Campus site. Originally, we were advised against it but there may be a way to do it and simultaneously enhance wildlife habitat, nature conservation and recreational open space. That is exercising a lot of creative thought and may not work if the University wants to retain their remaining ex-Student Halls of Residence anyway. It would though keep open the option of a new school site but it could also realise development gain for the University, if housing could be mitigated against in the future.

Article continued on page 19

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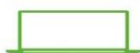
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MILTON & EASTNEY HISTORY WALKS

Our D-Day Walk

At the end of last year, we secured Heritage Lottery funding, with the help of the D-Day Story, to highlight what was happening in Milton during the Second World War and particularly D-Day. We set to work trying to develop a walk that brought these together, using primary sources and other material, which started in 1940/41 and took us through to 6 June 1944.

We were fortunate in being able to use the D-Day Story and Portsmouth City Council archives, which enabled us to piece together the following:

- Wyn Brown's story until she was bombed out from Dunbar Road in 1941,
- the role that the White & Newton factory had in producing parts for Horsa Gliders used on D-Day,
- what was happening in Langstone Harbour during the war and after,
- the role of our local hospitals (St James' and St Mary's) in wartime,
- The story of L/Cpl James Webb, who was awarded a posthumous Military Medal for his actions on D-Day and is buried in Milton Cemetery.

From this research, 2000 leaflets were produced using the Heritage Lottery funding, and these were available from the D-Day Story and Milton Village Hall, and some other places. We had to top up the D-Day story's stock, as they ran out over the week of commemorations. The leaflets were to enable people to discover this fascinating local history for themselves as it was designed for a self-guided tour. We did try to produce a walk that could be done on an app, but could not for copyright reasons. To augment the tour, street signs were funded by the Milton Neighbourhood Forum, and shop signs were produced to give people an idea of what Milton was like during the war

We also undertook guided walks on 2 June, 9 June, 22 June and 14 July. We do these so that we could explain more than the space allows in the leaflet or on our website miltonportsmouth.info. These have been given to groups of about a dozen each time. We are planning to do another on 29 September.

Booking for the walks is done through Milton Village Hall and our thanks go to Alison and Kimberley for taking on this task.

Our D-Day Walk *cont..*

We are planning a Ghost Walk at the end of October, booking again via Milton Village Hall. Watch the community boards for dates and times. If you have suggestions for other walks, if you want to join us in researching, or want to contribute your family's stories, info@miltonportsmouth.info.



Neighbourhood Plan from P.15 To summarise we are incorporating the recommendations from our April/May 2019 Consultation before aiming to submit our final draft to the Council later this year. As we did not arrange an AGM for the Planning Forum this summer, we shall hold one before the main event of the Open Forum on 9th October 2019. I can then explain, in person, how we have the Plan to where it is, what more we need to do and why.

Rod Bailey Milton Neighbourhood Planning Chair

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FORUM ISSUES

We are hoping to feature the Council's progress on air pollution solutions at our next Forum on Wed. 9th October as the Council must be approaching publication of the report to agree its Air Quality Action Plan with DEFRA due 31 Oct. The High Court Judgement of February 2018 requires Portsmouth to achieve air quality to legally compliant levels in the shortest possible time but no later than 2021 by the means most likely to achieve them. We have invited Hayley Trower's team to bring us up to date and tell us about the new Portsmouth on-street parking app as well.

The Marvellous Milton Market website has been updated and can be accessed via <http://miltonmarket.co.uk>. The site offers free advertising to charities and community groups.

We are planning our usual Halloween Fun Day in Milton Market between the Beddow Library and Bransbury Park. Do come along and join in all the activities. We are still waiting to hear from Tesco if our April application for funds has been successful. If not, we may have to make a charge for the Magic Shows this year. They are so popular we are sure you would not wish to miss them. Watch the above website and our community noticeboards for details.

Community events do cost money to put on. Halloween normally costs about £650 and we have received grants up to this year. The Picnic on the Green failed to attract a grant, so a loss of £700 was sustained. We shall keep trying to find help for our community events.

On Wed. 9 October do come along to view the plans of a proposed new facility for the elderly in Locksway Road. LNT Care Developments have submitted a planning application for a 66 bed care home offering residential, nursing and dementia care. The 3 storey building with 21 parking spaces and cycle store will be built on the site of Forest Lodge looking towards the Cricket Pitch, if planning permission is obtained.

Come along too to hear the latest information about Aquint electricity scheme now that the routes have been firmed up!



We did enjoy the Milton & Eastney Allotment Show on 1 September. Such lovely produce and a very warm and friendly group.!

Congratulations too to the young person who took First Prize in the Scarecrow competition. He looks a real sweetie!



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