

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 38

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

June 09



Come along to the Picnic on the Green 27 June it's great!

NEXT FORUM

Wednesday 17 June 6.30 for 7.00 pm

NOTE VENUE FOR THIS MEETING

Mary Rose School, Gisors Road, off Locksway Road

AGENDA

Tour of the new Mary Rose School – come at 6.30pm

Portsmouth Football Club plans for Retail Development

Revision to Forum Constitution Traffic update

Plans for Healthy Towns Initiative funded by the Government

FORUM MINUTES

18 March 2009

Matters from the previous Forum:-

Fratton Park: the Club's proposals for the future are awaited but it seems likely that they will include shopping.

Pavements in Milton: Councillors are aware that some problems still exist with different standards being adopted .

Environment Agency: plans to discharge trade effluent from Eastney Improvement Works into Langstone Harbour, comments to EA by 16/4/09 .

PLAY PATHFINDER SCHEME

Jane Leech and Brigitte Crafer from Portsmouth City Council explained plans for a play pathfinder scheme at St James Field - one of 28 nominated by members of the public. Funded by central government, the scheme is designed to encourage unsupervised play by youngsters aged 8 to 11 and it is hoped that some parents will become involved in certain aspects such as tree trails. There are no plans to partition off the play areas.

Ken Rowlands (former vice-chair of the Milton Forum at the time the Health Authority field was being considered as a village green) gave a helpful overview on how a local charity and the forum fought for the land to become public open space anticipating that the green would have a broad usage and be open to diverse activities for all.

Some dog owners at the meeting stated that they were against the proposals,

citing a fear for childrens' safety if dogs jumped up at them and from litter and glass left on the green . One dog owner actually made the point that dogs are being brought from as far afield as Brighton to be exercised on the green at Milton!

Superintendent Steve Hutchings from Southsea Police Station stressed that every dog owner has a responsibility to ensure that dogs are under control at all times and said that he felt Milton residents were very lucky to have several green areas which are suitable for recreation and dog-walking. He was in favour of the play pathfinder scheme, confirming that the police are working with Youth Service to identify anti-social groups of young people and to disperse them, and to report to Colas any issues of litter/broken glass.

The chair reiterated that it is hoped that there will be no need for any exclusions from the green and that all people using the green can do so freely. Councillor Scott confirmed that the tree trail at the annual event on the green always proves to be popular and the play pathfinder scheme does appear to be an excellent way for youngsters to help themselves to enjoy natural play.

SCAMS & TRADING STANDARDS

Amy Forster and Hasinah Begum from Portsmouth City Council's Trading Standards team spoke about scams in which people are coerced into parting with money or personal information. A useful video was shown, identifying some ways in

FORUM MINUTES 18 Mar cont

SCAMS & TRADING STANDARDS

which people can be targeted e.g. by receiving notification of a lottery win (even if no lottery tickets have been purchased) or by receipt of intimidatory mail that promises misfortune if certain actions are not taken.

Amy stressed that Trading Standards are always prepared to follow up cases where residents feel they have been targeted. One of their roles is to help to raise awareness to prevent residents from being conned by scams. Staff from the team were in Commercial Road last year speaking to the public about scams.

One particular point made was to ensure that residents do NOT return unsolicited items to sender, as this may encourage further contact.

POLICING IN MILTON

Inspector Steve Hutchings and PS Heather Terrett spoke about operation Nemesis and that, as a result of this operation, a serial burglar has been caught. Currently, the burglary level in Milton is NIL and operation Nemesis is being extended for a further two months. It was stressed that tools and ladders should always be put away, as opportunist thieves will be tempted use them to gain entry to premises.

Instances of criminal damage are down by 20% and anti-social behaviour cases are down by 17%. In addition, off-licences are being regularly targeted to ensure that sales of alcohol to under-age youngsters is not occurring.

Co-op stores have a card system enabling residents to raise their concerns for the police teams to investigate (these are collected by the police) and the regular police surgeries **ARE STILL** being held at Bransbury Park on Thursdays.

(Milton PCSOs can be contacted via 023 9289 2146).

TRAFFIC ISSUES IN MILTON

Angela Gill, Barry Rawlings and Richard Lumley from the City Council Traffic Engineering section came to discuss the Forum's concerns including:-

Rodney Rd/Milton Rd/Velder Ave:

issues raised by the Forum in the past concerned air quality, light sequencing and queue levels at this very busy junction, which sees long traffic tailbacks at peak times each day. Barry Rawlings presented statistical data to demonstrate traffic flows and proposed certain changes to the junction aimed at improving air quality & traffic flow.

He proposed that traffic will no longer be turn south from Rodney Road and the current lane for turning south be converted to a "straight ahead" lane to Velder Avenue. The inner lane in Rodney Road will then be used for traffic turning left (north) onto Milton Road. A show of hands indicated that this proposal was acceptable to the majority of residents, and the proposals will be implemented shortly.

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Parking in Moorings Way adjacent to Milton Retirement Village: the parking office will be following up the issue of yellow lines restrictions at this traffic pinch point, currently a problem because of contractor vehicles parking there, but likely to continue with occupation of the new Unit.

Velder Avenue/Eastern Road: it is felt that as Velder Avenue (travelling out of the City) has reverted to being two lanes to ease traffic flows, that the Eastern Road coming into the City (from Hayling Avenue junction) should revert to being two lanes. Traffic staff agreed to investigate this.

Churchill Homes Site: residents have concerns about traffic turning right (south) onto Milton Road from this site both now and when it is developed.

Works by Colas: Angela Gill confirmed that discussions with Colas were under way to address issues of poor pavement standards and use of slurry to replace paving stones.

Salterns Avenue Parking on Football Match days: a resident has raised concerns over parking problems on football match days, but this was not resolved as Police confirmed there are no restrictions on parking in that road.

Congestion Charging: one resident asked about congestion charging for Portsmouth

The Chair thanked all the guests for their presentations and useful information.

*HEALTHY TOWN STATUS - £6 MILLION FOR PORTSMOUTH
COME TO THE NEXT FORUM TO HEAR THE PLANS FOR VEGETABLE
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COMMUNITY CAFES AND KITCHENS*

Eastney Community Centre Café (operated by Bocadillo's, Eastney Road)



The new cafe service at Eastney Community Centre (in Bransbury Park) is now open Monday to Friday 11am to 2pm and offers very reasonably priced hot & cold drinks and snacks including sandwiches, rolls, paninis, soup, jacket potatoes, cakes etc. Modern, light & airy indoor seating plus outdoor seating available during fine weather. If you're shopping locally or in the park, why not pop in & give it a try?



MILTON FORUM GAINS GRASSROOTS GRANT

Our application for a grant of £895 has been agreed by the Hampshire and IOW Community Foundation who have given the money to allow us to continue to run our Picnic on the Green. Our aim is to bring families from the Milton area into this public

open space in the sheltered, leafy surroundings of St. James Field, to enjoy a day of fun activities within easy walking distance of their homes and to strengthen our local community. The money will be spent on the musicians, bouncy castles, storyteller, First Aid, insurance, and leaflets.

As we have received this money, it is necessary to make a slight alteration to our Constitution to indicate where any surplus funds we hold, would be distributed if we ceased to operate. The revised constitution will be presented to the next Open Forum, 17 June for your approval.

PATHFINDER PLAY SCHEME

Play proposals for St. James Field proved controversial as those who attended our last Forum will know. The Council sent out a consultation document to 2000 homes asking people to vote by 8 May.

Option 1 - Proceed with the planned scheme

Option 2 - Fence the area in the north west of the site for play

Option 3 - Abandon Pathfinder Play on this site

The results of the survey are that **Option 2** has been agreed with an unobtrusive fence, in keeping with the surroundings being used in the hope that dog users and children can share the field. The emphasis on the whole scheme is for a natural and wildlife-friendly play experience to introduce the children and families to the beauty of the site. The Architect will be at the Picnic to talk through plans for the entrance gate.

LANGSTONE CHURCH EVENTS 25 - 31 May

We cannot guarantee that all areas of Milton will receive Milton Matters by 25 May as delivery is geared to our Open Forum on 17 June, but have been asked to publicise the half-term events being held in the newly refurbished Church Centre on Shore Avenue. All welcome – all events are FREE

Mon 25th – **Tent Event** from 11 to 3; **Alpha Course** at 19.00
Tuesday 26th – Sat 30th – **Free Breakfast** 9-10 daily
Over 60's Lunch – Tue 26th & Thur 28th 12-2.00
Youth Events – Tues, Wed, Thur & Fri 15.00 – 16.0
Men's Quiz & Curry Night Tue 26th 19.00- 21.30
Women's BBQ & Pudding Night – Thur 28th 19.30 – 21.30
Children's Activities Wed & Fri 13.00-14.00
Movie Night Fri 29th, 19.00-21.00
Big Picnic – Sat. 30th 12 – 3.00
Sunday Services 10-13.00 with lunch, 19.00- 22.00



NEWS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS



Good news for those who were afraid that the Showground at Milton Piece and Eastney Lake Allotments would be taken from allotment holders. This year's Autumn Show will be going ahead in the usual place on **SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**.

The Council has been considering the option of this year's Bonfire Night at the Allotments. You will know that last year's event was cancelled at very short notice, but Stephen Rees has told us that discussions are continuing in the hope this year's will be permitted so long as the relevant permissions are gained from the Council, Fire Service, insurances, etc.

Portsmouth City Council's Democratic & Community Engagement Service (Neighbourhood Forums) contribute toward the cost of printing and delivering Milton Matters. You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or another language by calling 023 9283 4059

'PICNIC ON THE GREEN'

Saturday 27 June
1.30 PM TO 5PM

ST. JAMES FIELD, LOCKSWAY ROAD

Music from the
PGS Saxophone Quartet at 1.30pm

The Stony Ridge Band

Bouncy Castles

Tree Trail

Fun races and games

SPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS

Local community stalls

Tombola

Dog Show

Refreshments & Ice Creams

Face Painting

Mike O'Leary Storyteller

Bring a picnic

Free admission

Come along with all the family

(In St. James Hospital Hall if wet)

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What Next at Fratton Park?



Milton and Fratton Park have been living together for over 100 years. The capacity of the football ground back in 1949 was 51,385. In those days supporters walked to the match, caught a train, bus or cycled and paid 3d to store their bike in a garage on the corner of Specks Lane. The Football Special buses left the Red Lion at Cosham from 1pm onwards, progress was slow, and often involved jumping off the bus at St Marys Road, to complete the journey on foot. If late at the ground – 2pm! boys would be passed overhead by the men standing on the terraces from the back to the front to ensure a good view. The ‘Pompey Roar’ could be heard at North End when Pompey scored.

Now the capacity of the ground is around 22,000. and most home and away supporters drive to the ground and expect to park in the residential roads in Copnor, Milton, Eastney and Fratton. The queues along the Eastern Road on home match days, mean that getting around Portsmouth is difficult and slow. Both those who do and do not attend the matches are affected.

The latest proposals from Portsmouth Football Club are **not to** move the stadium, but to go back to the 2004 proposals and rotate the pitch 90 degrees increasing crowd capacity to 35,000. This means a lot more cars but we believe, only 1000 extra parking spaces thro Park & Ride at Highbury College, Marconi and Southdowns College, plus re-routed buses and 2000 extra train passengers.

Just to do the work to turn around the pitch, the Club needs money and must sell the existing car park (opposite page). Not only to sell and develop it but to bring a Tesco Superstore to this site as superstore retail is the only business coping with the current downturn in the economy.

A superstore could bring in a great deal of traffic, not only on match days which we are familiar with, but seven days a week. All this traffic would be around the Rodney Road, Velder Avenue, Goldsmith Avenue junction to gain access to the site. Velder Avenue is already an air pollution 'hotspot' very close to the Government limits for the discharge of sulphur and nitrogen oxides.

Portsmouth Football Club has a special place in not only many Portsmouth hearts but fans from Havant, Fareham and further afield. The Club is in difficult circumstances because it is without funds, despite winning the F A Cup! We in Milton face a dilemma. Extra traffic every day from a Tesco Superstore in Rodney Road, or fewer seats at Fratton Park? Supporters may say – 'hang the traffic, pollution, and congestion the club comes first'. Locals who live in the pathway of this traffic, may disagree and say 'enough is enough'.

Added to this is the effect that a Superstore will have on Milton Village – an institution held in as much affection by its users as Fratton Park is by football supporters. Milton would be the poorer without its local centre and local shops as well as without PFC.

At the Forum on 17 June, we shall hear from a representative of PFC what the Club's plans involve and from a member of the Planning Service on what can and cannot be done.

Do come along and add your views. It is an issue which has to be resolved!!!

.ROYAL NAVY JOINS RESPECT PROGRAMME

At the last Steering Group Meeting on the local youth project we heard that in 2008, 233 young people from the Milton and Eastney areas had attended courses in an amazing variety of topics from Amateur Boxing to Volunteering, Fencing to First Aid, all enhancing their knowledge and skills and helping prepare them for life and work.

A group of Milton Cross Year 10 girls spent their volunteering project helping to support and encourage pupils at Mary Rose School with cycle themed challenges bringing fun and new experiences to the pupils which they greatly enjoyed.

The Royal Navy are now offering a 'Visit and Learn' scheme and 20 young people involved in the Respect Programme spent 6 weeks hosted by the Navy. One of the lads reported enthusiastically on the thrill of crossing the Solent on a ship's mast, of swimming a length of the baths then being told to try it again, this time wearing overalls! The ultimate highlight was an assisted flight in a Naval aircraft. His enthusiasm was electric!

A group of Priory School pupils are working towards their High Board Diving qualification and Milton Cross girls group have completed their PHSE ASDAN Course. 45 young people involved with Respect have completed their 50 hours of community volunteering (V50)

Positive Futures and Kikz football scheme is attracting both boys and girls and amazingly 2 girls teams have entered into leagues to compete on a regular basis supported by the University. Kikz Under 16's and U14's girls teams have progressed to the national football finals to be held at Stamford Bridge at the end of May.

These are only a few highlights from the range of activities and successes of the scheme which has now been extended to include youngsters living in the South East Community Improvement Partnership Boundaries.(up to Victoria Road in Southsea). For details of times and events phone Respect Office on 02392 752900 or visit Eastney Community Centre.

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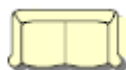
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