

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 15

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

June 2001



Recognise this ?

Send in your answer to the free Post Address on the
back page – Entries by 15th June
The winning entry will receive a £25 gift voucher

Next Forum

Wed 20th June. 2001 at 7:00pm – Dorothy Dymond Lecture Hall
Milton Campus – Locksway Road

*** AGENDA ***

Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust
First Provincial Bus Co – Q & A
The Future of Neighbourhood Forums
Area Updates

Milton Common a place that has a special meaning to me

The place that means the most to me is the beach on Milton Common. I've grown up living next to it and I love everything about it. The smell that hits you as you step down from the common on the stony beach is so refreshing and when the tide is out the smell becomes much stronger.

I go there whenever I feel down, I can sit there for hours listening to the seagulls and watching the waves lap onto the stones, foaming, then retreating back. The water is a deep blue colour and if the sun is out the colour intensifies. The beach consists of stones. Smaller rounded stones sit by the waves, the stones gradually get bigger and sharper as you move further back until you come to the grass, which is raised up by about a metre. The step down is like a small cliff face with large stones at the bottom, big and rounded enough to sit on. That's not all that's on the beach. The tide brings with it many things, anything that gets in the sea usually ends up there.

When I found out my mum had cancer I went there at about 10 o'clock. Its a lot harder to get to at night because you have to walk through all the nettles and blackberry bushes, but as you part the bushes and the path widens the sunset hits you. It is a bright orange sun surrounded by a warm red glow, the light and wispy clouds turn a purple shade and the contrast in the palette make it look like a piece of art. The sea looks calm, slowly meeting the shoreline, the sea is dark black except for the patch below the sun, a light patch that gets thinner as it gets closer to me. In the distance you can see Hayling Island lit up like a Christmas tree, the different coloured lights brighten up the back of the sea throwing a bit of colour forward. The only colours you see, except for black and white, are the orange, purples and reds of the sunset and the lights. It is a picturesque landscape where you can go and think, no noise but the sea and wildlife and no distractions. I've lived next to the common since I was born and it is the one place I feel 'at home'.

At night the loudest thing you hear are the crickets and the crunch as you step on the stony path.

If you turn left at the beach you can see the Eastern Road where the cars drive past, its a bit like counting sheep as you try to fall asleep, just seeing the two bright lights always following one another, always looking at the red sunset, listening to the birds and counting the cars go by, one by one. It's my idea of heaven.

Duncan Leslie - Student at Admiral Lord Nelson School

**The Avenues Community Association
and
The Milton Common Recreation Area Project.**

The story so far.

Back in 1998 the need for some community resources was the subject of a passing conversation between the local beat 7 Police Officer, and the Avenues neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator. Both agreed that action had to be taken and they set out to organise a meeting with other interested parties.

In Jan 99 an informal meeting was held at Southsea police station, attended by a City Councillor, three Police Officers, Leisure Services and Parks Ranger Representatives together with three Avenues Estate Representatives. The meeting centred on the recreational needs of the children and teenagers in the immediate area of Milton Common, a survey carried out approximately three years previously had identified that the young people had few local facilities and that nuisance and vandalism is a very real problem in the roads around that area.

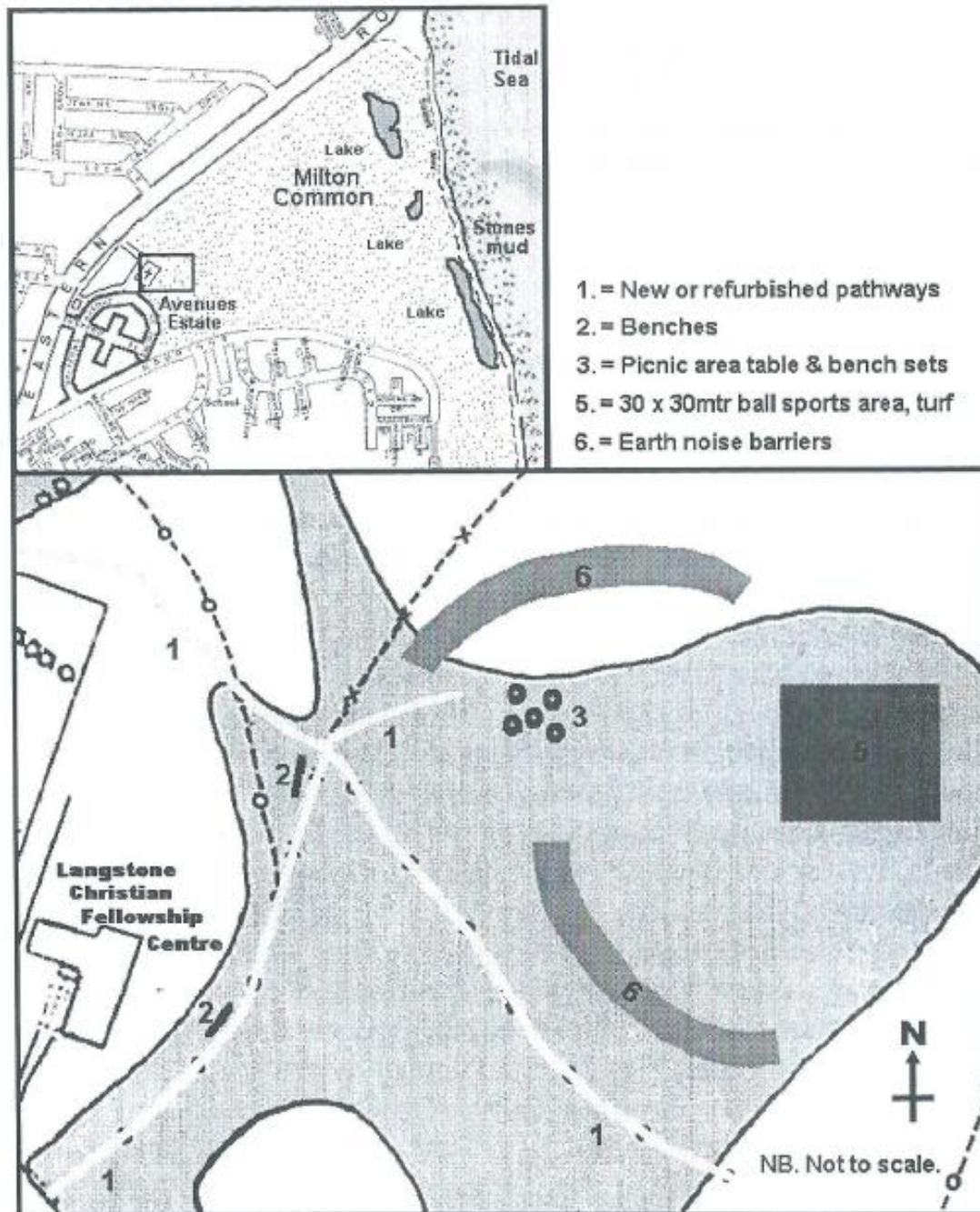
A suggestion that a hard surface sports/games area together with goalposts and basketball nets, lighting and a ball-rebound barrier in the form of a brick wall or stacked rail sleepers, was made, and the Leisure Services Representative agreed to get planners to look at the common and assess the feasibility of starting a project.

Funding was discussed at some length, with the Police and the Avenues Estate Representatives promising to look at the various grants that may be available to the project.

The Avenues estate Representatives spent long hours of research into how and where to obtain grant funding. One stumbling block was the fact that, grant funding to a neighbourhood watch is not generally acceptable unless it is directly related to fighting crime.

So, OK that being the case what are the criteria for an estate full of people wanting to obtain grant funding? The answer "after more research and advice" was, in our case, to form a community association with a binding constitution.

Soon, the Avenues Community Association was formed, complete with Officers and an Executive committee. A fully ratified constitution was adopted a few months later.



During the turmoil of forming this Community Association a letter arrived from PCC, Leisure Services regarding the ideas for the Milton Common Recreation Area Project. It wasn't very helpful, it said in effect, you can't do this, because,,, and you can't do that , because,,, etc. Through blood filled eyes a reply was quickly written and sent back, intimating that we didn't need to know what we couldn't do; we wanted to know **what we could do**, and would they please arrange a meeting with a view to working together for the **common** good, (Pun intended, groan). A meeting was arranged, and from that meeting a very good rapport was established between the PCC, Leisure Services Senior Landscape Architect and the ACA and by working together we were able to formulate an action plan and approximate costings.

After this, the ACA grant applications were being submitted at a furious rate to every suitable organisation that could be found, and it isn't easy filling in grant applications.

Many changes have had to be made to our original concept, because of cost and/or the special conditions required for landfill sites or annual maintenance considerations that the ACA could not undertake.

These are:

The tots play area, with swings etc. this part of the original project has had to be deferred on cost, but could become a project in its own right in the future.

The hard surface sports/games area is now to be turf with an under soil membrane.

Lighting and ball-rebound barrier has been ruled out.

But these concessionary changes are bringing additional benefits like: PCC are donating park furniture and goal posts, a reduced cost for the picnic area furniture, and agreed ongoing maintenance of the project.

Our grant responses have now reached our costing goal of £24,000 and contractor's quotations are awaited. Our next step is to meet with the PCC, Leisure Services Senior Landscape Architect to discuss the quotations and a timeframe for the work. Then ask PCC permission for the project to go ahead, then to ask the chosen contractor, "If the timeframe is acceptable" to begin the work.

Mrs Cilla Baxter, an ACA Officer. Tel: 92865441.

**Summary of Milton Neighbourhood Forum 24th January 2001
at the Dorothy Dymond Lecture Theatre
Portsmouth University - Milton Campus**

1. Introduction

Chair welcomed all members, guest speakers and gave an update on recent events :-

Primary Care Group unable to attend but another opportunity would be arranged.

The Avenues Community Play area Scheme – Chair pleased to announce that £24,000 has been raised and listed the main contributors.

The Forum Committee had applied to the Charities Commission for funds to publish Milton Matters but was unsuccessful. The Chair thanked P.C.C for contributing towards the printing costs but more local advertisers are required.

Brent Geese Strategy – the document highlights land in the Portsmouth Area as an International Site of Special Interest (SSI).
A copy is available at the PCC Offices.

The link between Portsmouth and Duisberg is celebrating 50 years and information is available at the PCC Offices.

City Plan – copies can be seen in the libraries. There will be extensive consultation with the people of Portsmouth and a leaflet listing exhibitions and meetings will be distributed to all households across the city.

2. Changes to Portsmouth City Council Political Structures

Brian Partridge, head of the Chief Executive's Office explained the new choices laid down by the Government for the future structure of City Councils.

Why the Change? –

To introduce new powers for local authorities to promote the economic, environmental and social well being of their area.

To achieve best value, increase electoral turnout and new arrangements for maintaining standards.

Objectives – Efficiency, Openness, Accountability, Trustworthiness, Effectiveness – and at no extra Cost

The Options

1. Leader and cabinet
2. Elected Mayor and cabinet
3. Elected Mayor and Council Manager

Timetable

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Jan – March 2001 | – consultation |
| April 2001 | Analysis of responses |
| May 2001 | Decision by City Council |
| June 2001 | Submission of proposals to Government |
| May 2002 | Implementation of new system & new ward boundaries. |

3. Neighbourhood Forums

The new council structure also affects the future of Neighbourhood Forums. The Government preferred model is an Area Committee consisting of local business people, clubs and neighbourhood representatives with local councillors involved in local decision making with a limited budget available.

Alternatives include a Parish/Town council, Regeneration Boards or other consultation methods.

Forums have the opportunity to forward their own preferences as part of the consultation procedure.

The chair thanked Brian Partridge and invited him back when results are available.

4. Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth 2001

Commander Howden began his presentation with an outline of the background, "Defence 2000" has replaced "Navy Days" and the "Royal Tournament" with all the armed forces involved in turn.

2001 – The Golden Jubilee will encourage pride in the heritage of the sea and is centred on youth.

Activities old and new by all the forces include demonstrations, concerts and the largest ever array of "Tall Ships".

The aim is for a commercial success providing value for money for an exciting day out.

Tickets: Adult £18 Child £10 Family (2+2) £44
 *** Reductions for Portsmouth residents – see July Flagship ***

The Chair thanked Commander Howden for presenting this special event.

5 **Traffic**

Paul Glover – the City Traffic Movement manager came to update the Forum on the Avenues Consultation process but first reviewed the City wide traffic problems on the main routes for which the city had been granted £34,000,000

Local issues include:

Eastern Road phase 3 due to complete May 2001

Fratton Goods Yard / Rodney Rd / Velder Ave. – some delays due to council discussions on site changes. Starting in June- the final result will allow a comprehensive review of traffic flows in the Milton area.

Milton Cross School – traffic lights still being monitored.

The Avenues – the public consultation suggested 25% in favour of a one way system in Eastern Avenue. The residents present at the meeting did not believe this would resolve the problems. They did not feel that the city council appreciated the problems that they were experiencing. Mr Glover said that the area did not meet the criteria for a "dangerous area" and could only advise the audience to lobby their local ward councillors, a response that the audience was very unhappy with particularly after the promises that had been made in previous meetings.

Mariners Walk – A public consultation will take place soon.

The Chair thanked Mr Glover and asked to be kept informed as to any changes to these specific issues.

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm

(Committee minutes should now be available for those with internet access – or try the free access points at the Library) - www.portsmouthcc.gov.uk/Nforums

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12:00 am – 10:30 pm Sun

Mr Pickwicks



CAN YOU HELP



Portsmouth City Council would like to recruit distributors to deliver publications such as Neighbourhood forums and Flagship in your area. If you are active, over 18 and would like to earn extra money (£40 per thousand households) phone 9283 4102 for an application form or get one from the Infopoint in Milton Library.

A Village Green for Milton

Local residents have saved the ornamental parkland at St. James ' Hospital from housing development by registering the land as a town green.

The St James' Memorial Park trust supported by the Milton Neighbourhood Forum, The Portsmouth Society, Friends of the Earth, Compass Mental Health Carers group, and countless other individuals succeeded in convincing a barrister at a Public Enquiry in February that the land should be registered as a Town Green. They argued that the local residents from a defined neighbourhood had used the land, as of right, for lawful sports and pastimes for over 20 years.

Portsmouth City Council confirmed the barrister's decision to recommend Town Green status at sub committee level. This beautiful land can now be enjoyed by the community at large, and alongside those hospital patients who gain so much from such an environment for many years to come.

A heartfelt thank you for all the tremendous support and encouragement given by Milton Villagers and especially to our solicitor Mr John Saulet who represented us at the Public Enquiry.

All residents will have had the Forum leaflet which explains that renewal of Planning Permission to develop this area and other parts of St James for housing is likely to be heard at Development Control in June. Also the Health Authority has appealed against the registration as a Town Green, so further information is still awaited on the fate of the land.



**BARBARN
TOWER**

Portsmouth University has agreed to repeat the opportunity for residents to visit Barnard Tower on the QEQM site at Furze Lane and enjoy the panoramic views across the city to the West and North and across Langston Harbour to the East.

Rosemary Flewitt has also agreed once again to represent the Committee and to act as the escort on the visits.

A provisional date of 22nd September has been scheduled

Further notices will be published nearer the date – so keep a look out

WORDSEARCH

15 Trees and Plants that can be found in the grounds of St James' Hospital
(Their Latin Names may Help!!)

C	H	O	R	S	E	C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T
W	O	A	P	A	N	O	E	S	Y	L	T	M	O
E	L	H	I	J	Y	E	W	M	C	S	K	J	S
S	L	N	K	B	Z	G	Q	O	A	I	G	D	I
I	Y	F	O	G	N	R	H	O	M	F	R	S	L
L	A	B	U	R	N	A	M	T	O	C	A	E	V
V	L	I	E	M	W	P	C	H	R	A	N	U	E
E	K	Z	Y	D	Y	A	B	E	E	L	D	E	R
R	E	D	O	A	K	I	Y	L	D	X	F	V	M
B	M	X	E	B	Q	C	J	M	H	E	I	W	A
I	O	W	U	E	L	R	S	K	A	A	R	X	P
R	P	Q	O	E	R	V	W	B	I	P	S	F	L
C	A	I	N	C	E	O	T	S	U	T	L	H	E
H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N	Q	B	A	H	E	G

1. **A. Pseudoplatanus (8)**
2. **Betula Pendula (6,5)**
3. **Crataegus Monogyna (8)**
4. **Fagus Sylvaticus (5)**
5. **Fraxinus Excelsior (3)**
6. **Ilex Aquifolium (5)**
7. **Laburnum Anagyroides (8)**
8. **Sambucus Nigra (5)**
9. **Ulmus Carpinifolia (6,3)**
10. **Acer Saccharinum (6,5)**
11. **Q. Rubra (3,3)**
12. **Acer Platanoides (6,5)**
13. **Abies Grandis (5,3)**
14. **Aesculus Hippocastanum (5,8)**
15. **Taxus Baccata (3)**

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Information or Assistance