

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 20

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

FEB. 2003



Congratulations to St. James' Hospital on a beautiful restoration of the Listed Gazebo

NEXT FORUM

**Wednesday, 26 February 2003 at 7.00 pm - Dorothy Dymond
Lecture Hall, Milton Campus, Locksway Road**

AGENDA

**Residents Parking Schemes - Ken Ellcombe City Engineer's Dept
Update on joint initiatives for Youth Action - PC Brown & Hewitt
Milton Campus Planning Brief – Mike Allgrove, Planning Dept.**

THE WALLED GARDEN AT MILTON

I was interested to see the photograph of the Walled Garden on the cover of Milton Matters NO.16 (Oct 2001) as I was a student 1941-43 when it was the Portsmouth Training College for Women Teachers. A landmine dropped on Foster Hall and the residential students moved to Bishop Otter College. I and the other local girls remained for instruction there.

The Walled Garden at the back of Foster Hall was complete with its four walls, each with an arch and gate. The espalier fruit trees were still there. Being Wartime, the garden was divided into allotments for growing vegetables. The College Gardener and Caretaker were two of the occupants. After the War, at a later date, the lawns with flowerbeds at the side of the paths were re-instated.

Miss Grace Barber was the Biology Lecturer and she had beehives there. I helped her with the bees and Myrtle Stubbs' father was the adviser for Miss Barber's beekeeping section. When Miss Barber died, a small memorial garden was placed where the hives had been. I could see it in the photo – a low drystone wall surrounded a square of crazy paving with four small flower beds. They were planted with miniature roses and alpine plants in the cracks of the stonework.

By the entrance gate, facing the Principal's study, there was a very large mulberry tree. Students used the leaves for feeding silkworms for school nature study classes and the ripe mulberries dropped all over the path. The Principal then was Miss Dorothy Dymond who was a brilliant lecturer and specialist in Medieval history. The lecture theatre at the University Milton Campus of course, retains her name.

Winifred J Beer

PLANNING BRIEF FOR MILTON CAMPUS

• including FOSTER HALL and DOROTHY DYMOND BUILDING

The City Council is about to launch its planning brief for the Milton Campus which will be vacated by the University next year. The land is to be sold and your views as residents of the area are sought on the plans for the site.

The Forum has already discussed this issue in Open Forum and wrote to the Planning Department emphasising

- The importance of retaining the mature trees on site
- Our preference for keeping the existing building and converting it to housing for the elderly or as flats
- The wish to retain the walled garden
- The value of the Dorothy Dymond Lecture Hall as a community facility
- The concerns of residents that this site is earmarked for part use as a business/industrial site, with all the effects this would have on local roads and amenity

The City Planning Officer has taken notice of our comments and a draft brief has been developed. There is still the issue of finding a plot for the replacement East Shore School and this site could be considered. If it were agreed, then the need for industrial/business use here would be set aside.

Do come along to the next forum on Wednesday 26 February at 7 pm to contribute to the consultation process. This will be the only public meeting and will be a joint Milton/Eastney Forum for all to put forward their points of view on the future of this prominent and important local landmark.

GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

The JOHN DOYLE PARTNERSHIP - Accountancy Services
Marian House, 62-64 Priory Crescent. Tel/Fax: 023 9261 0450
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Restricting Road Rage

Increasing prosperity has had an adverse effect in Milton – a high number of cars belonging to both University staff and students are now parked in the roads adjoining the University. Long term residents will remember that this has not always been a problem, but in recent years, residents – especially those who are ‘round and about’ the house during the day – have found great difficulty finding a parking space on their return home, perhaps from a shopping trip, etc.

The University did try an ‘ecologically friendly’ approach of discouraging car use amongst students. Being flat, Portsmouth is amenable to cycle use, and the University provides transport between its sites. Unfortunately this proved to be a case of ‘best laid plans’ and car use has flourished with roads such as Cromarty Avenue, Milton Park Avenue, Catisfield Road, Weston Avenue, etc. being turned into a car park during weekdays. Despite meetings between a group of local residents and the University, (with the latest being attended by the Council’s Parking Officer, Mr Ellcome) this situation has not changed.

The suggestion was therefore made, supported by a majority at the last meeting, that consideration should be given to a ‘resident’s parking scheme’ and a survey was to be carried out. Although the University’s move from its Milton site is now on the horizon, such a scheme might still be relevant when the educational use on the site is replaced by flats or houses and light industrial units.

What’s it going to cost me?

Residents affected by a parking scheme will naturally be concerned about its potential cost to their wallets. Historically, no charge is made to a resident for a parking permit for the first car in the household, but a permit for a second car will probably cost £50 per year. Usually, visitors can park free for two hours, but will need to display a permit (purchased by householders from the Council) for longer stays. However, schemes can be tailored to ‘fit’ an area and the scheme’s parking restrictions could, for example, be imposed only from, say, 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday. This would mean that evening and weekend visitors would be unaffected. Parking problems associated with events at St James’s Church and Fratton Park have been mentioned and these would probably not be

resolved by such a 'weekday' scheme. If residents felt strongly about these then they could vote for an 'all week' option, but this would probably have additional monetary costs for visitors and, perhaps, these issues are of a more limited nature. (And probably pre-date many residents!)

What next?

If you feel strongly that a resident's parking scheme would (or would not) be a good idea please make your views known to your local councillors (names, etc. on the back page of *Milton Matters*) and Mr Ellcome (c/o Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AL or telephone 023 9282 2251) and come to the **next Forum on 26 February** to raise your questions. Having said all this, it is understood that there is currently a 'freeze' on new schemes while the council review the operation and charges of those presently in operation. With the May elections now on the horizon, it now seems unlikely that a survey in Milton will be carried out in the near future.

A personal view

I think it is important to remember that residents have no automatic right to park outside of their property and this would not change under a resident's parking scheme. What it would, hopefully, mean is the ability to be able to park within a reasonable distance of the front door, making the loading and unloading of children, groceries, dogs, etc. somewhat easier. If a survey does go ahead, residents will have to decide if this is worth the cost of a packet of cigarettes a month.

Richard Curtis

Vacancy for Secretary

Hilary Collins, the capable and dedicated Secretary to the Forum, has moved on to be a co-opted member of Southsea Town Council.

We are looking for someone able to join our committee and take minutes of the meetings and handle correspondence.

Interested? Phone Larry Nicholas, Link Officer on 9284 1269

Minutes of 18 September 2002 Forum

Complaints about the Fair in Milton Park (which had not been arranged by the Forum) had been taken up by local Councillors. It was not likely to be repeated in the same form.

Milton Village Green status awaits High Court appeal by Portsmouth Council against the decision not to grant a Green

St James Gazebo is to be refurbished if Planning Permission is given to demolish one of the 3 gazebos and repair the other.

In Locksway Road only 6 injury accidents have occurred in last 2 years so it is a low priority for traffic calming. The audience asked the Forum Committee to pursue this with City Engineer as a priority for traffic solutions in February 2003.

Ideas for youth activities in Milton have been developed by the University and local beat police Mick Brown and Andy Hewitt from Southsea Police involving

- Skateboarding, tennis, basketball and twilight football training by PFC
- Play area similar to Pen Hill in Bristol
- Sited at Furze Lane University Playing Field
- A self-supervised area for young people to meet and enjoy sport
- A deterrent to local criminal activity through no places to go
- A charitable company to run the building project
- Support from local Rangers and Police
- Timed floodlighting (as at present on the site)
- Noise to be limited by the 'bowl' design of the skateboard area

The exciting project was welcomed by those present at the Forum

Contribution to Milton Forum

Local councillors reported that £5000 is to be allocated at their request to Milton Forum area for

- Advertising in Milton Matters
- Mural at Milton Park by local artists
- £1000 to St James Church groups
- Updating computer system Milton Village Hall
- One evening a week with PFC for activities

Committee News

Sincere thanks to our Secretary, Hilary Collins for all her hard work for the committee. Hilary has now been co-opted to Southsea Town Council. Two new members of the Committee came forward: Mr A Donoghue, Mr D Goodyear.

Waste Management – Friends of the Earth

John Auric and Claire Hillman explained their policies

- More composting and recycling from 9% now to 23% by 2006
- Compost bins on offer from Portsmouth Council for £13.80
- Incineration in an environmental manner
- Reduce methane in landfill which affects the atmosphere
- Aim to move landfill from 86% now to 17% by 2006
- Encourage producers to make produce and packaging biodegradable
- Visit primary schools to educate children for the future
- View the working allotment opposite GA Days open 2nd & 4th Sunday of every month from 2pm – 4pm.

Minutes of 30 October 2002 Forum

This special Forum had been called to urgently consider the new planning application for building on St. James Hospital land at Forest Lodge in return for the whole of the Town Green application site being handed to the City as Public Open Space.

John Slater and Ian Parkinson from the Planning Dept. explained an original application for housing development was submitted to Council in 1996. In 1998 permission was granted to Persimmon Homes for 200 houses and a small area of open space. This planning permission is still live. However, the Health Authority proposes that the Forest Lodge land could be used for 14 flats and 18 houses with key worker housing for NHS staff fronting Locksway Road in return for giving up a number of the 'executive' style homes in the Persimmon Homes application and leaving the green area intact as Public Open Space.

Those present at the Forum debated the issue expressing concerns about adequacy of local drainage and sewage systems to cope with more homes, ability of current school and hospital systems to cope with more residents as well of course, traffic generated by housing at St. James.

The issue was put to the vote and 70% of those present voted in favour of the proposal.

(Note: Subsequently, at the Development Control Committee, approval was given to the Forest Lodge Scheme and contracts are being drawn up now for the handing over of the green area east of the main hospital drive as public open space)

Keep Monday 5 May free for a Family Picnic Day on St James Green. Bring a picnic and join us at 2pm on the new open space.

Portsmouth Friends of the Earth

Your local environmental group established nationally in 1973 to advance the education of the public in ecology, natural history, resource conservation and environmental studies campaigns on

- waste, recycling,
- transport,
- organic foods,
- renewable energy and clean air and water,
- working allotments and community composting

Secretary - John Auric tel 01243 - 379018

(E-mail: john.auric@btinternet.com)

Co-ordinator - Clare Blake tel 02392 827948

(E-mail: info@portsmouthfoe.org)



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MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

CHAIRWOMAN

Mrs J Burkinshaw
202 Moorings Way
Milton, PO4 8YN

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr D Wilcox

TREASURER

Mr J Couch

SECRETARY

We are looking for someone to join the committee able to take minutes of meetings and handle correspondence. Interested?
Contact Larry Nicholas

LINK OFFICER

Mr L Nicholas
Link Officer
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH

If you would like to be a Forum Representative do write in to:

Freepost Address

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FREEPOST (SCE 4514)
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PO1 2YZ

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Please contact any
Forum Rep or
Ward Councillor for more
information or assistance