

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 23

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

March 2004



Farewell Foster Hall – the Milton Campus University building which will be demolished this year hence a new venue for our Forum

NEXT FORUM

Tuesday 16 March 2004 at 7.00 pm

Langstone Church Hall, Shore Avenue(off Salterns Ave)

AGENDA

Skate Boarding Facilities in Milton

Update on the

Fratton Park Planning Application

**The Green at St James, Locksway Road traffic measures and
Policing in Milton**

SKATEBOARD FACILITIES IN MILTON

Young people in Havant, Denmead, Clanfield, and other neighbouring towns have free access to skateboarding facilities. It was recognised last year by the local beat Police that although Portsmouth youngsters have the Southsea Skatepark, they needed extra facilities which they could enjoy free of charge. At the Forum we heard of their ambitious scheme for a 'skate bowl' at Furze Lane. Sadly this did not progress further than the planning stage as the University withdrew the offer of use of their land.

The Forum took up the challenge and made a bid for funding under the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Community Chest and the New Opportunities Fund which is Lottery Funded. We have just heard that the bid was successful and we have been granted £3000 and £27000 respectively from these two funds. The proposal which met their support is to provide skateboarding facilities in both Milton Park and Bransbury Park.

The money has to be spent by October 2004 and it can only be spent on this play equipment. Only four other schemes in Portsmouth gained New Opportunities funding

- Arundel Court School Community Environment Project to provide an oasis of calm, greenery, etc
- St. Mary's Viewpoint, ball park with lighting and youth shelter
- Wymering Methodist Church Security improvements to promote use of the community centre
- Milton Piece Community Allotments with disabled access and support by part-time staff

The City Council is supporting the introduction of neighbourhood skate parks and has prepared a consultation document proposing that these be sited in Bransbury Park, Milton Park, Stamshaw Park with a BMX facility in Wymering Youth Centre. The next stage is to bring the proposals for our local area to the Milton Forum for public consultation and this will take place at the next forum. Do come along and give your views. Last time this was discussed there was a lively discussion but at the end of the meeting, a vote was taken and the result was in favour of making skate board provision available in our area.

Let's have some young people along at the next meeting. By getting this money we have shown that we are interested in providing things for you to do in Milton and clearly want you to use the new facilities responsibly when they are built.

Janice Burkinshaw, Chair



Minutes of Open Forum held 22 October 2003

The Link Officer kindly ran this meeting which had been urgently called to publicise the plans for the Milton Campus Site which would be considered at Development Control Committee on 29 October. He updated the meeting on recent committee activity - Community Police promoting Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, discos for 11-16 year olds and on parking changes in Velder Avenue and new 30 mph speed restrictions on Eastern Road to Sword Sands Path. In the new Central Depot site the speed limit will be 20mph. He reported monitoring of tree damage in St. James by Cllr. Scott.

Milton Campus Site

Mike Allgrove from the Planning Dept. explained the Outline and Detailed planning schemes submitted to the Council by Barratts which offered 154 flats on the front of the site facing Milton Road. They proposed demolishing all existing buildings on site, 154 flats and 154 parking spaces, 32 affordable homes, retain some of the trees on site, restore and enhance the walled garden with public access in daylight hours.

He explained that the Committee would be considering the proposal in the light of the Council's decision to build a new Special School on the rear of the site, the City Plan and the Council's Planning Brief for Milton Campus.

Questions and comments from the floor covered:-

- Concern about access to site from Locksway Road when the Milton Road access is closed (Mr Allgrove stated there would be £20,000 towards traffic calming in Milton)
- Density of dwellings at 127 per hectare
- Taking a decision before the Inspector's report on the New City Plan is published in the New Year
- Loss of mature trees

October Forum Minutes – Continued

- Coach access for school transport (Mr Allgrove will raise this with City Engineer)
- Car Parking allocation which will cause problems with on-street parking for site visitors
- Level of new development and its contribution to congestion
- Style of building and height
- Retention of Canal Footpath
- Placements into affordable housing
- Objections to losing existing building shell
- Piling on site affecting Locksway Road homes

Residents were urged to put their views in writing to the Planning Department before the Committee.

Forum Constitution

This was adopted at the meeting. Copies may be obtained from the Neighbourhood Forum website, see back page.

Election of Officers

The existing Officers and Committee were re-elected.

OUTCOME OF PLANNING APPLICATION

The plans for 154 flats were referred back to Barratts by the Committee on 29 October for revisions. A number of objectors attended the meeting and raised the above issues. However, at the November meeting the plans were passed after the flats had been moved back slightly, 2 fewer trees would be lost and Ward Councillors supported the changes. The new building will be 25 metres away from the fence, whereas Foster Hall is 50 metres away now .(see p7)

TRAFFIC CALMING IN MILTON

The Council has now completed the consultation exercise and plans have been finalised for the traffic calming in the roads between Locksway Road and Warren Avenue. This will involve some **road humps**, although fewer than were originally planned.

There will be **one-way roads** in **Mayles Road, Shelford Road, Crofton Road, Hollam Road, Catisfield Road**. Drivers will not be able to travel in the same direction along the whole of these roads, but will need to turn left or right into Meon Road to access either Locksway Road or Warren Avenue.

There will be a speed limit of **20 mph** in these roads plus **Church View, part of Warren Ave, Blendworth Road, Meon Road, Posbrooke Road, Weston Ave., Milton Park Ave., Mariners Walk and Euston Road**.

The work is due to begin in March 2004 at a cost of £130,000.

There are also plans out to consultation at present to establish **20mph** outside Moorings Way School, to **narrow** the road there, install an advisory **cycle lane** and install a **pedestrian refuge** in the road. The City Engineer is accepting comments on this scheme now which will cost £30,000.

All the above are planned to reduce the high number of accidents recorded in the area.

In view of the speeds being experienced in Locksway Road, the Forum has written again to the Council to ask for controls in this road also.

If We pronounce Differently, Can I Be Guilty?

My other half
Don't half
Make complicated meals
But sometimes
When the feeling takes
She'll throw together
Some simple ingredients
And bake a batch
Of basic cakes.

Plain or with jam
They're agreeable to both of us
However, upon the pronunciation of
Their designated name
We can't, it seems, agree.

Yesterday she made five
And told me
I could have three.
As she ate one of hers she said,
"I'll save the other for when I get home"

Later, upon her return
When she asked
"Where's my scone?"
I innocently replied,
"It's gone"

Gareth Toms



WALKING FOR HEALTH

There are lots of opportunities now the weather should improve to keep up your fitness and all the family's too! Walking is a great way to exercise. Portsmouth Healthy Walks are free and aimed to help you discover local areas of interest in safety, to meet people and socialise. Each walk lasts under an hour. Why not try a short walk and see how you get on?

***Victoria Park** - 1st & 3rd Monday each month, meet at 10 am, Asda.

***Stamshaw Foreshore** starts 10.30 am every Tuesday from Buckland Community Centre, Malins Road

***Canoe Lake/Seafront** on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month starting at 10 am at Tenth Hole Café on Eastern Parade

Baffins Pond, every Wednesday, 10 am from Stacey Centre, Walsall Road

Hilsea Lines, 10.30 am Thursdays, meet at Scott Road Car Park off Military Road, by the News Centre

Southsea Common 1.30 pm on 1st Thursday of the month, meet at Southsea Community Centre, St. Paul's Square

* these walks are suitable for buggies and wheelchairs

And if it's wet, a free Local Guided Tour of Portsmouth Guildhall to see the City Silver, Council Chamber, etc. is available free on Mondays (not Bank Holidays) and Wednesdays at 10 am and 11.30 am. Advance bookings taken phone 9282 6722. Groups welcome.

Details of the full programme of guided walks and talks offered by the Tourism Guiding Services includes Highland Cemetery, Spice Island, Sir Arthur Concn Doyle Walk, North End, Ghost Walk at Halloween, etc. from www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history, from the above number or the new leaflet of Guided Walks from the Library.

What's Happening?

Well. Happy New Year to all 'Milton Matters' readers. No doubt resolutions were made in every household and perhaps some of them are even still being kept. Milton Neighbourhood Forum also has its own New Year's resolution, which is to promote participation and interest in and by the local community. So here goes...

First, What's happening about the Neighbourhood Forum? Who are we? Well in the words of our constitution:

'The Forum is a non party political organisation for the benefit of Milton by promoting a discussion between local residents and the City Council and other appropriate organisations on issues of concern locally and improvements to the area's environment, appearance and/or amenities'.

If you are reading 'Milton Matters' then you are a member of Milton Neighbourhood Forum; so 'Hi, how are you doing and why haven't we heard from you lately?' This could lead us onto...

Secondly, what's happening about...

Is there a local issue that you feel strongly about? Let's be honest; we cannot guarantee that it can be solved, but 'if you don't ask, it's already a 'NO'. ' So get in touch with the Neighbourhood Forum Committee whose addresses are on the back page or write to the Freepost address, or better still, come along to the meetings

You may think that you are the only person who is concerned by an issue, but if everyone lets us know, we can gauge the true strength of feeling, and at least pass on those views to the appropriate organisation, discuss it at our committee meetings where Councillors are present, or perhaps it should be the subject of discussion at an Open Forum. So if something is bugging you, let us know.

Thirdly, what's happening locally?

Is there anything that we can do to help set up or promote local activities and involvement by you or your local organisation in our local community. The Committee is currently looking into skateboard ramps, etc. for Bransbury and Milton Parks and we shall be discussing this at open forum in response to concerns we have heard in the past that there is not enough organised for young people. Is there anything else we could be doing?

There are grants and awards made by various bodies. You will remember how successful the Avenues Association was in gaining money for Milton Common

kick about area. What else could our area we bid for? As an established organisation we can seek this money for local use.

'Milton Matters' also wants to hear from groups involved in activities in the Milton area. We can publicise your group. For example, did the BBC's Big Read programme result in a proliferation of new book clubs? Has overindulgence during the holiday period meant an increase in the numbers wanting to join fitness classes? Has the gift of a musical instrument for Christmas meant that you would like to contact other budding musicians for a 'jam session'? Maybe you had a new bike or roller blades; so where do you go and would you prefer to be in a group to keep up the momentum. Are there any cultural groups that would like to let others know about themselves? Do you want to meet other residents? We need your suggestions and would like to try to help.

Richard Curtis

Contributions Welcome

If you would like to make a contribution to this magazine, do please pass on your items to any of the committee members or the Freepost address on the back page. We would love to receive crosswords, word puzzles, quizzes, etc. if you are one of the talented people who can devise these and will include them in future issues. Do help us keep this alive as your magazine.

Comments too on the publication are always welcomed. Let us know what you think of it and whether it is useful to you. We aim to keep you informed about local matters but to have a lighter side too.

Neighbourly Thanks - Gareth Toms who made our poetry contribution, wrote to Milton Matters some time ago and we have only just been able to include his thanks to the resident of Broom Close who found his wallet on the No.7 bus and handed it in to his bank, complete with all its contents.

Portsmouth Video Makers – Cine & Video Club meets every Tuesday at 7pm at the Howard Road Community Centre, Hilsea (off Northern Parade) If you want to learn about camcorder photography you are very welcome to call in and meet the members.

Fed up with those Nuisance Calls?

OFTEL has set up a service to register that you do not want to be contacted by telemarketers. It is called Telephone Preference Service. You can register at www.tpsonline.org.uk or by calling 0845 0700707 to put your phone off limits

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Locksway Road residents close to Milton Campus are concerned about piling and building works in the vicinity of their houses when the demolition of Foster Hall takes place and building of new school by the Council and the new flats by Barratt's begin. At the last Open Forum, Barratts offered advice to the residents immediately adjacent to the site. Anyone else wishing to approach the company should contact

Julian Jones, Technical Director on 02380 275275

Ward Councillors Vernon Jackson or Alex Bentley can be contacted if further assistance is needed.

CYCLISTS BEWARE

The local Police attended the last Forum Committee and warned they will be enforcing £30 fines for cycling without lights or on the pavement!!

GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

The JOHN DOYLE PARTNERSHIP - Accountancy Services
Marian House, 62-64 Priory Crescent. Tel/Fax: 023 9261 0450
Payroll and accountancy services for small businesses, sole traders,
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GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON (cont)

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Open Mon-Sat: 5 am to 6.30 pm (Lottery 7.30 pm),
Sun: 5 am to 1 pm

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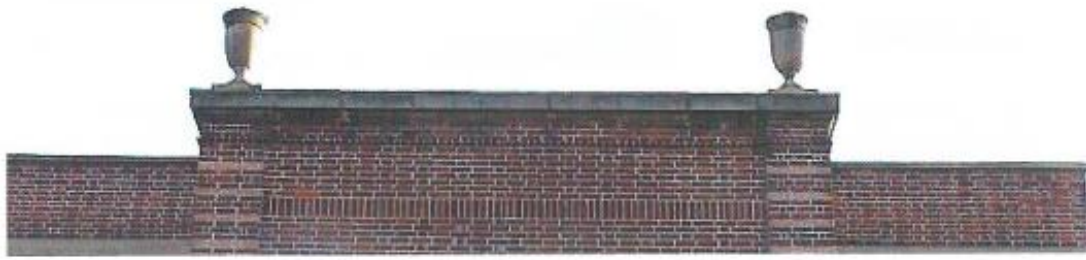
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Locksway Corner opposite Milton Park



WHERE ARE THESE FEATURES?

£25 prize for first correct answer drawn from the entrants.

Send your entry to the Freepost address on the back page.

The winner will be announced at the next Froum meeting on Tuesday 16 March at 7pm at the new venue of the Langstone Church Hall, in Shore Avenue. There is a good car park next to the Hall which is approached via Moorings Way, Salterns Avenue to Shore Avenue. The Hall is on the Common.



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MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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202 Moorings Way
Milton, PO4 8YN

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr D Wilcox
31 Broom Square
Milton, PO4 8LP

TREASURER

Mr J Couch

SECRETARY

Richard Curtis
27 Locksway Road
Milton

LINK OFFICER

Mr L Nicholas
Link Officer
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
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**If you would like to be a
Forum Representative, do
Write to**

Freepost Address

**Neighbourhood Forums
Portsmouth City Council
FREEPOST (SCE 4514)
PORTSMOUTH
PO1 2YZ**

Information on
Neighbourhood forums –
www.portsmouth.gov.uk
Your council
Neighbourhood forums

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Milton PO4 8SA

Vacancy

Or e-mail to
neighbourhood.forums@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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35 Stanley Ave
Copnor PO3 6PL
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39 Lindley Avenue
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17 Dolphin Court
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**Please contact any
Forum Rep or
Ward Councillor for more
information or assistance**