

MILTON MATTERS

Issue No 24

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

June 2004



Milton's own 'Time Team'

NEXT OPEN FORUM MEETING

Tuesday, 15 June 2004 at 7.00 pm

Langstone Church Hall, Shore Avenue (off Salterns Ave)

AGENDA

Primary Care Trust – New Mental Health Facilities at St James

**John Slater – The Planning Process and update on
Fratton Park Planning Application**

**Steve Lawrence – Planning Brief for new housing on
Lacey Lodge/Beneficial Workshops site**

'THANKS LADS'

On the front cover we feature Conrad Johnson from Barratts and Pat Bartlett and his team from Hughes & Salvidge who kindly arranged for local residents to take away the surplus office furniture from the Milton Campus prior to demolition. We had a good response from you and many came along to take away desks, shelving, cupboards, etc. for home use. The 'boys' were very helpful and polite. The furniture had to come down from the upper floors of the building and they worked at it all morning.

Many thanks!!

As a result of disposing of the surplus furniture, 25 skipfuls of waste were saved from going to landfill.

The demolition contractors are crushing all the old materials from Foster Hall and the Dymond Building and this is to be re-used in the new flats which are being built on site.

The team have also visited Milton Park School and warned the children about the dangers of going onto building sites. They have arranged a poster competition and will chose a winner from each Year who will get a £25 voucher.

When they were demolishing the Dymond Building a piece of skirting board was pulled off. On the reverse was written:

"August 3 rd 1938	B Long
Temperature 83 degrees	M Hodge
F.J. Privett, Builder	L Pharoah
Portsmouth & Haslemere	F Tong
Rest in Peace"	

These builders left their mark on a lovely and useful building which is now no more. Do you know who they were? Have you any stories to tell us about them? Did they get called up?

When the demolition team removed the Foundation Stone from the building, they found a Time Capsule behind the stone. This held a copy of the Evening News and Daily Mirror of January 1937. The copy of the News is on display in the Marketing Suite on site.

The Forum has the piece of skirting board, an inscribed plaque of when the building was opened and will be given the old newspapers when the flats are all sold. Any suggestions where we can keep these so we do not lose the memory of the former Teacher Training College?

Chair

Competition winner

Yes - the features

we asked you to identify in last month's

Milton Matters were the urns on top of the Dymond Building.

Our first correct answer received was from P.J.F. Russell of Ironbridge Lane who wins £25.

Well done and many thanks for your contributions.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

All those interested in running and developing Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Milton Forum Area are invited to a meeting on Tuesday, 29 June 2004 at 7 p.m. at the Langstone Church.

The Forum receives regular updates from Neighbourhood Watch – the latest advice includes a warning for the warmer days ahead. Thieves know you will be out more, so secure your home. Don't leave jackets or bags unattended in public in a pub, library or shopping trolley. These are places where thefts occur. Don't leave the car unlocked when paying for fuel at a garage. Lock the car when going around a Ferry Terminal, there are lots of bags and cameras to tempt a thief who knows you feel safe because it is daylight and there are lots of people about.

**MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
MINUTES OF OPEN FORUM MEETING- 16 MARCH 2004**

GENERAL POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

St James Green

There have been delays in conveying the land to the Council. The Committee has written to Sheila Clark (NHS Trust) to ask if the land will be reinstated in time for a 'Party in the Park' in July 2004.

Parking/traffic calming

Any comments on traffic calming at Moorings Way School should be sent to Portsmouth City Council as soon as possible.

Locksway Road/Milton Road

Improvements are to be made to this road junction, but not traffic lights.

Rodney Road/Milton Road

Alterations to the junction are planned to start in June. Any comments should be sent to Portsmouth City Council.

Fratton Park planning application

John Slater will update the Forum on this matter at the June meeting.

MAIN MEETING TOPICS

Skateboarding

Seamus Marne, Carl Burton and Steve Oldmere (Technical Officer) provided an update on skateboarding.

Carl explained that a project exists to look at skating in the city. A certain level of skill is needed to use Southsea Skate Park. There is a need for easy access to a low cost/no cost facility that novices can practice on. This needs to be community-based and somewhere that children can walk to. This would have two main purposes – to be suitable for beginners and for more advanced skaters

Seamus explained that the present proposals were for a 'half-pipe' to be installed in Bransbury Park and for a 'street layout' in Milton Park.

Concerns were raised –

- ◆ A Glasgow Road resident argued in favour of a location away from that residential area, as noise and graffiti could occur. It was noted that experience at the Wickham site had shown that noise was not a major problem.

- ◆ Skaters present at the meeting said that there were complaints when they used the Guildhall Square, but that they had nowhere else to go.
- ◆ The police explained that they are proposing to arrange the installation of a 'youth shelter' in Bransbury Park to draw children away from Glasgow Road, The parks were there to be used and this plan could fit in well with the skateboard site.
- ◆ The Manager of Milton Village Hall would like to liaise on these plans as the Hall has its own development plans.
- ◆ It was felt that locked gates would not, in themselves, prevent children accessing the site at night.
- ◆ There was general approval to the plans and a feeling that children needed local facilities.
- ◆ A vote was taken. 38 votes for/none against 'Plan B' for Bransbury Park and 35 for/none against the Milton Park plan.

Police report

The police noted that whilst people feel less safe, in fact burglaries were down by half in the last ten years and violent crime was down by one-third. The police must now record all crimes and there were police present on bikes in the city, which should reassure the public. Policemen on bikes were also more likely to be approached by members of the public.

It is important that the public tell the police what is happening locally and the police will then attempt to deal with this.

All beat officers have mobile phones.

The use of fireworks was perceived to be a local problem. The police explained that there was an £80 fixed penalty for the misuse of fireworks or the person could be arrested under an explosives act. There was also felt to be a need for more police to patrol the local parks.

Milton Campus site

Representatives from Barratts, the builders, and Hughes & Salvidge the demolition contractors explained the plans for the Milton Campus site.

- ◆ Demolition is starting and is expected to take six months, with construction of the new flats to take a further two years.
- ◆ Concerns were raised over dust, vibration, and the control of site vehicles. Barratts intend to manage this professionally.
- ◆ Wildlife on site – a section of one building *may* have bats and there will be a survey in June to review this.
- ◆ There will be no cell phone antenna on the site and there will only be one communal satellite television dish.

Forum Minutes – Continued

Milton Campus site

- ◆ One end of Foster Hall will be demolished first, then Pottinger Building and the Dymond Building.
- ◆ The trees that are to remain will be protected during the demolition and construction process.
- ◆ The foundation stone will be salvaged, but the urns on the top of the Dymond Building have been frost damaged over the years and are beyond saving.
- ◆ Barratts explained that just over 100 trees will be retained on the site. 30 mature trees will be lost, but indigenous trees will replace these later.
- ◆ There will be between 50 and 70 people working on the site and the building in Locksway Road will be built first.

Next meeting and other points.

The next Open Forum meeting will be on Tuesday, 15 June 2004 at 7 pm. Possible topics for discussion will be wheelie bins for recycling, Fratton Park plans and local traffic proposals.

- ◆ There is a vacancy on the committee and applications are welcomed.
- ◆ The plans for the development of Milton Village Hall are on show and comments are welcome.
- ◆ Notice would be given of a Saturday morning access to the Milton Campus if local residents wanted any of the remaining tables, chairs, etc. left by the University.
- ◆ Langstone Christian Fellowship is having a 'tent event' on the weekend of 25 to 27 June 2004.

'PARTY IN THE PARK'

SATURDAY 17 JULY 2004

WE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER FAMILY FUN DAY IN
ST JAMES ON THE GREEN AREA
COME ALONG AND BRING A PICNIC
BRING YOUR DOG TO THE DOG SHOW
WE SHALL BE OPEN FROM 2PM TO 5PM AS LAST YEAR
COME ALONG AND USE OUR NEW GREEN SPACE.

KEEP MUSIC LIVE!

After reading your March issue of *Milton Matters*, you asked for contributions regarding items of interest in the Milton area. My wife and I moved to Milton ten years ago and are very happy here. I first came to Portsmouth in the fifties when I joined the Navy and like many lads in their younger days, I played guitar in the 'Rock' n Roll' era. Eight years ago, a guy called Roger Courtney started a music club at the Old House at Home pub in Locksway Road; he was known in the local music world as 'Mr Entertainer'. He was a singer and guitar player and we and others had seven wonderful years, playing at the Old House at Home every Thursday evening, but sadly Roger passed away a year ago and most of the old crowd drifted away. The point I am trying to get over is that you are never too old for music. I am 70 and I still play at the Barn, Milton Arms; the Old House at Home and at the Tap, North End on Sunday evenings. If there are any singers or musicians - ladies or gents - who would like to get together on those evenings, please join us. No matter what your standard, it's live music and WE HAVE GOT TO KEEP IT ALIVE!

Further information from Ray Philpott, telephone 023 9235 3391.

And keep an eye out for publicity of weekly gigs in the News such as:

Wednesday - Folk, Old House at Home

Thursday - Rhythm Roots and Blues at the Old House at Home

Thursday - 'Open Mike', Milton Arms

Sunday - 'Open Mike', The Tap, North End

Footie on the Common

'Who has moved the goalposts?'

This is a common metaphorical expression in many walks of life, but it applies quite literally to Milton Common! In answer to readers' and residents' questions, our enquiries of Portsmouth City Council have established that the goalposts on the western side of the common were removed during the winter to allow the area to be reseeded and to recover. We are pleased to report that the goalposts have been moved yet again - and are now back on the Common. It's kick-off time!

What's Happening Next?

The next Open Forum meeting will be held on 15 June 2004 at 7 pm. at Langstone Church Hall, Shore Avenue (off Salterns Avenue). Come along and learn about what is proposed for our area.

St. James Hospital. We are seeing considerable activity on the St. James Hospital site. Not only are Persimmon Homes building new properties for sale, but the NHS is developing a new facility for mental health treatment at the edge of the St. James Hospital site in Locksway Road.

A number of residents have expressed interest and, to be honest, concern at which type of services will be provided by the new units. There have been many applications by the NHS in the past and people are a little confused on exactly which type of new or existing service will be transferred to the fine new buildings which are springing up opposite their homes.

We have therefore, invited Sheila Clark, the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust in Portsmouth area to come along to our meeting and explain which mental health services will be run from the new buildings. She will be able to answer your questions and also to update you on what else is going to take place at St. James. We know there will soon be new homes for NHS staff being built near the main drive to St. James, for example.

We in Milton have lived alongside the hospital for a very long time and take an interest in its activities. We need to understand how it will work in future and what we can do to support it. So this should be a talk for us all.

Fratton Park development. Fratton Park proposals have been announced now and a public meeting was called for 10 May at the Football Club. It is a complex proposal with housing and traffic issues as well as the benefits of a larger stadium and improved facilities for our Premiership side. John Slater of the Planning Department will come to our next Open Forum meeting to explain how the public can join in the planning process and answer any outstanding questions on the Fratton Park plan.

Eastern Road development. You may also know that it is proposed to close Lacey Lodge and the Beneficial Centre on the Eastern Road when the East Shore and Futchers Schools close and combine on the new Locksway Road site. The Eastern Road site will be sold for housing. This will raise lots of questions for people living nearby. The future of the site is still being debated, so Steve Lawrence from Planning is coming to the Forum to consult on the development brief which will be passed to potential purchasers and developers of the site.

Responses from the public close 28 June.

So come along and make your contribution!!

CARE

- I have two sons. Once they were both in hospital at the same time. One was in Queen Alexander, he had broken his shoulder while skiing in France. He was inundated with cards, gifts, visitors and very many good wishes. The other was in St. James. No cards, gifts or visitors for this one. The first son was not ill, just injured through participating in sport, the other was seriously ill in the Intensive Care Unit of St. James (Solent 1). Why is it that mental illness is not regarded by many as an illness?

Caring for someone with a mental health problem is grief in itself, as quite often the person can be young, but having mental illness must be unbelievably sad. The general public does not understand and can often shun and ridicule the person. Many family members will not make an effort to give sympathy and kindness - so what can we hope for from people in general?

Mental illness can hit anyone at any time, or any family. The people that you see around are always someone's mother, father, wife, husband, daughter, or - as in my case - son. So please remember this and show toleration and kindness and I thank you people from Milton for this.

There is a support service for families and carers of the mentally ill in the City of Portsmouth. It is a local service (telephone: 023 9275 6780) which you can contact for help and advice. There is also a group called COMPASS which is a support group for Carers/Families of people with mental health problems. It meets in the coffee lounge in St. James main building every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm

Sincerely,

Thelma Turner-Hill

ON A SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY, 2003

On a day when I was young
To the water's edge for the Ferry Boat;
We stepped in and sailed across
To Haying Island, with it's golden gorse
And shimmering foam at the water mark.
A sandy shore was new to me.

Later family parties, children splashing,
And building castles with buckets and spades;
Blowing wind, hot sand, salty air.
There were ice cream cornets and lemonade
And sand in our sandals as we gazed at the big wheel.

My heart in my mouth as I watched
My small son at the very tip-top,
On our discovering that he was missing.
His father - "Say nothing". We could only wait!

Now in this Island, grown-up sons
Sail about in the calm of summer,
When the wind is fair and the tide is in.
Tales of "Passing the South Parade Pier"
"Near the Nab" or "The Isle of Wight".
They've learned the "Rule of the Road"
And we all know the story of
The Mulberry Harbour.

Rose Lynch

GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

The JOHN DOYLE PARTNERSHIP - Accountancy Services
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TRAFFIC MATTERS

Milton Neighbourhood Forum receives updates on traffic plans. Currently, the Milton Traffic Calming programme including outside of the Moorings Way School is underway and will be completed soon.

A pedestrian crossing is planned for the Locksway Road shops later in the year. This is still to be advertised for public comment. A £20,000 contribution from Barratts will bring the fund for Locksway Road traffic calming to £60,000.

The residents of the Vernon Avenue and Alverstone Road area have expressed serious concerns and opposition to the plan to cancel the traffic light access from their roads. The proposal was to ask them to turn left and use Rodney Road, gaining access to the Velder Avenue junction via the Rodney Road exit. When Fratton Park becomes a new housing area, as well as with higher football match attendances, this could cause considerable delays. As a result of their comments, the Council will be looking into this again and consulting further with the residents.

We all complain about the number of cars parked in our roads. In the shops, doctors' surgeries and libraries people are saying that they cannot tolerate the stress of trying to park nearby and many are planning to move to other districts with parking facilities. **I have not heard anyone say 'I will have to give up my car'**. So we have got to recognise that the problem is going to stay with us and will have to be managed in some way. Residents' Parking Schemes are being rolled out across Portsmouth. The current programme has just finished at Fratton, with Southsea to follow soon.

A report to the Traffic & Transportation Executive in November 2003 stated that the Fratton Park area and Milton area would both benefit from a scheme. There is no timetable for this yet, but the Fratton Centre changes may bring these forward.

We believe that we need an update on these proposals from the Council and are most likely to obtain this after the local elections on 10 June. So watch this space.

There are many complaints about firms' vans parked on our streets. Did you know that employees who have private use of a firm's van pay up to £500 extra income tax a year, so they are making a contribution.

New recycling scheme

The Milton Forum Area is going to be included in late summer 2004 in a new scheme for recycling. There are 50,000 new wheelie bins which will hold much greater quantities of recyclable waste and these are going to be given to suitable properties to replace green boxes. Fortnightly collections will continue. The new bins will take all the same materials, paper, card cans and plastic bottles, jut put them loose in the wheelie bin, no need to sort. Take the tops off plastic bottles or they will pop in the crusher!

The aim of the bigger bins is to recycle about half of each household's rubbish which will be better for the environment, save council tax money and help Portsmouth meet the recycling targets set by the Government. Portsmouth has been set a target of raising recycling from 16% to 36% by 2006, so this is an ambitious project and everyone needs to get on board. You will receive a letter with more information before you are due to receive your new recycling wheelie bin.

Some residents may be concerned that this service will not suit them. The property may not be appropriate or you may be disabled. Waste Liaison Officers have been appointed to help residents make the most the service and help with resolving practical issues.

If you have any questions or queries about recycling, log onto the website www.portsmouth.gov.uk and click on Residents then Environment and Waste. Or ring City Help Desk 023 9283 4092.

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contributes towards the cost of printing *Milton Matters*.
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Please contact any
Forum Representative
or Ward Councillor for
more information or
assistance.

If you would like to be a Forum
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Neighbourhood Forums
Portsmouth City Council
FREEPOST (SCE 4514)
PORTSMOUTH, PO1 2YZ

For more information on Neighbourhood
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Your council

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