

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your Neighbourhood Plan was submitted on 27th July to Portsmouth City Council and on 6th September they publicised it for their Statutory 6 Week Consultation closing on 18th October 2021.

The Council's Planning Webpage shows where to look for the Plan and how to comment.(P.8) See the plan in Milton Village Hall, Eastney Community Centre and Milton Library. Also <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/service/s/development-and-planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/> or otherwise go directly to our website - <http://miltonplan.org.uk/>

All comments are very welcome especially supportive ones. However, at this stage they should be more concerned with whether its Policies meet the Basic Conditions around Sustainable Development compliant with National and Local Planning Policy. The Plan must be subordinate to, and in compliance with, the strategic policies of the City Council's Plan and clearly, if the Council had proposed different Policies, then we would not be supported at Examination.

It is the final stage before it proceeds to a Public Examination by an Independent Planning Expert, appointed by the City Council, with our consent.

Assuming we are successful in that process, we would still be required to face a Local Referendum and obtain over 50% approval in the votes cast, for it to become part of the City's Local Development Scheme.

This Plan has been six years in the making. According to initial guidance, it should have been only two. However, the City Council changed politically; their staff came and went; there was a delay forced by Nitrate pollution concerns; and then Covid .

The Policies are "evidence-based", mostly from PCC's own research and reports. They steer a course towards sustainable development between now and 2037, negotiating the inconsistent objectives of Central Government's rhetoric to leave the natural environment to the next generation better than it is now, with their excessive housing targets, all in the context of manoeuvring local "short-term" politically "expedient" annual Election cycles.

The Planning Forum's aim was to allow for development that meets the needs of local people and improve their quality of life. Since the mid-late 1990's much of the Hospital estate was redeveloped for housing at the expense of improving local facilities. Parents of Primary school-children living in the 349 new homes already built on St James' often face crossing the Eastern Road to access Langstone School or otherwise, driving round adding yet more traffic congestion and air pollution. Milton Park School abuts a heavily congested road and is highly and often, over-subscribed, and the Meon Infants and Juniors School site is so cramped, playtimes are staggered to mitigate injury.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposes St James Hospital be redeveloped for a mix of uses including specialist residential

care; residential training; healthcare and community facilities including education; and residential conversion; all subject to the Grade II Listed Building; Chapel and Edwardian Villas are retained in their green setting. The Plan's Green Space Policy requires "Matrons Walk", the land north of St James' Green and south of "Woodlands Walk", and the parkland north and east of the Chapel, be designated Local Green Spaces in order they be retained as such in perpetuity.

The plan's proposals for Langstone Campus have been problematic. Notwithstanding the local traffic congestion; many environmental constraints associated with the conservation of wildlife habitat required under the International Conservation objectives for Langstone Harbour; the Campus site is partially "brownfield". The University still wanted a residential scheme and they have a planning right to use the existing buildings even if there are environmental restrictions. The type of development that could meet community needs within the environmental restrictions would be an educational facility but it seemed as if the University couldn't see it might be in their long-term interest to have one in order to sustain University admissions into the future.

Our consultation indicated it as an ideal site for a through school for 5 to 16-year-old children, because it utilises the greener environment with its great opportunities for outdoor games and sports, its accessible site local children could walk to and an area of the city short of school places.

The plan's long long-term objective (and we know we can't "make" it happen because we cannot control the land), is to allow for an extension of Milton Common into the Campus should the University, or their successors, find no alternative use for the redundant buildings. It involves swapping the development rights attached to the Campus, with some of the open-space use on the Furze-Lane Sports-Fields. It would recreate the open frontage to Langstone Harbour, which pre-existed the use of the Campus for a Teacher Training College that in turn, preceded the International Conservation Designations with all its objectives to protect the wildlife habitats in Langstone Harbour.

The pandemic taught us how crucial open space is to physical and mental well-being and, if this alternative outcome of a Milton Common extension is ever achieved, then ultimately, the Plan will have the physical amenity for the benefit of the Local Community, and indeed Portsmouth generally. That's because this most densely populated UK City, is so grossly under-provided for in terms of green and open space amenity (which in itself is a contributory factor to our high levels of deprivation and lower than average life expectancy), we would have re-balanced development for the enduring benefit of future generations.

The plan proposes cycling and pedestrian access be made a priority in future development schemes where high levels of renewable energy provision will also be required to mitigate carbon emissions. Furze Lane is proposed to be retained as a "cycle and bus only" route with improvements for cycle access across Milton Common to the Eastern Road to link into the Sustrans Network. 3

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – cont..

In addition to the liaison with the City Council, the project involved community and landowner engagement. However, because it took so long, the NHS managed to avoid master-planning their withdrawal from the Hospital and instead persisted with their fragmented disposals policy. We therefore still have one non-compliant, environmentally unsustainable application to oppose. That comes from PJ Livesey, a Manchester based Developer, to convert the hospital and build their lego-style, "flat-roofed blocky house" designs which are not just disharmonious to the Hospital's setting and landscape; they destroy 53 Tree Preservation Order trees too and build on protected green space in the current Portsmouth Plan. This is the biggest obstacle to realising all the Plan's objectives but now the Neighbourhood Plan is lodged with the City Council it carries some legal weight.

You may think the NHS was created for us and by us for the common good but the PJ Livesey proposal is effectively predicated on an abuse of community responsibility supported by the dysfunctional objectives within Central Government. PJ Livesey has been encouraged to pay the highest price possible for the Hospital site to enable the NHS to meet Central Government disposal targets notwithstanding it is a historic site with buildings in disrepair; highway limitations; and community infrastructure deficits. Under MHCLG's distorted planning guidance, a positive value is ascribed to property and buildings with liabilities. PJ Livesey's loss is therefore underwritten by an automatic right to receive a substantial return, physical amenity for the benefit of the Local Community, and indeed Portsmouth generally. That's because this most densely populated UK City, is so grossly under-provided for in terms of green and open space amenity (which in itself is a contributory factor to our high levels of deprivation and lower than average life expectancy), we would have re-balanced development for the enduring benefit of future generations.

It's a financial return for a liability they were aware of from the outset. By using this artificially contrived exemption of financial "viability" they, and the landowner, become rewarded for compromising the setting of a Listed Building and the landscape it sits in. Effectively it's a state sponsored scam undermining environmental and social objectives to the detriment of the community compounded by the fact the land was built for and by, local people, out of local funds.

You will be encouraged by the City Council's latest iteration of the Portsmouth Plan approved for Consultation on 27th July in so far as it improves upon the earlier Consultation proposals for Milton in 2017 (albeit qualified with a rejection the excessive housing numbers nobody wants, and the environment can't sustain are included). That is because it offers the potential for a mix of uses for the Hospital, including medical and community uses, elderly residential and affordable housing, in addition to market housing. This Policy broadly aligns with what we've planned for because it reduces car-dependency and simultaneously affords/retains employment opportunities. We always wanted the Hospital to be "master-planned"

holistically so that future redevelopments could all function cohesively.

You will be very pleased the Council's Plan for Langstone Campus broadly aligns with ours in terms of permitting development for a range of uses including education, recreation and community uses with residential, where they retain the overwintering Brent Geese feeding areas and can satisfy Natural England and the Council, the habitat damage to the adjoining Harbour can be "appropriately" mitigated. The Milton highway network has been stretched in recent years beyond capacity, and without any real opportunity to improve junctions meaningfully, a housing scheme for up to 120 new family homes would be inappropriate.

Our two MPs, Penny Mordaunt and Stephen Morgan, have both helped us and are united in challenging imposition of excessive housing targets on the City by the Housing and Communities Department. That is especially important to meeting our plan's objectives because, notwithstanding the absence of space and land-supply to accommodate the 17,700 new homes in Portsmouth, there is no sufficiency in infrastructure here to sustain it, and nor is there the means of providing it.

Penny Mordaunt has been influential with Homes England in making them re-think the other development proposal, which is on the Hospital grounds, east and south, of the Grade II Listed Chapel. After we resolved our three-year conflict with the City Council in March when, our evidence that the Arthur Cogswell built Edwardian Villas, were indeed so significantly historic and integral to the Hospital's function proved unequivocal, they couldn't be demolished without proper justification and Listed Building Consent, Homes England are reviewing their proposals. Stephen Morgan, the St James and University constituency MP, has been particularly energetic in fighting MHCLG's housing targets, because he is all too aware of why these housing numbers can't be accommodated in the City, and why they pose a particular threat to the retention of green spaces in Milton.

Consider too, Southern Water has failed for the last ten years to curb raw sewage releases into Langstone Harbour on current levels of development and, 55% of the Harbour's macro-algae contamination, is from nitrate depositions also arising from existing urban and agriculture development. So where is the social and environmental benefit from any new development let alone of this magnitude?

The contamination is 62% higher in Langstone Harbour than in Chichester Harbour, which ought to be sufficient justification to review the relationship between development and the environment. Solent Authorities have been required to devise a mitigation strategy to reduce stress on the harbours wildlife habitats from recreational disturbance to accommodate recently planned increases in housing developments. We are 3 years into a Central Government 25 Year Plan to restore Nature and the Environment so how can reducing increases in environmental damage ever be compatible with restoration? Poor water quality harms the whole eco-system that our precious marine life, our bird populations and ultimately, we all depend upon.

Rod Bailey

Chair Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum

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STOP AQUIND!

Let's Stop Aquind has worked relentlessly over the last year to stop the Aquind Interconnector through Portsmouth and beyond. The city of Portsmouth cannot cope with such an enormous project which will disrupt and damage our local environment.

We have submitted objections to the planning inspectorate and the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy at every stage of the Examination process and thereafter.

On the 8th September the Secretary of State decided to delay the decision on whether to grant a Development Consent Order until 21 October.

Let's Stop Aquind is working together with PCC, our 2 city MPs Stephen Morgan and Penny Mordaunt who all agree that this project must be stopped.

We have collected over 6000 signatures for a petition that Stephen Morgan will take shortly to the House of Commons.

We are planning another static protest **Sat. 2 Oct.in** Guildhall Square. Do come and support the cause!

If you do not know about the Aquind Interconnector proposal, please look at our website www.stopaquind.com or join us on Facebook group - [Let's Stop Aquind](#).

Viola Langley

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HOW TO COMMENT:-

COMMENTS ON THE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (BY 18.10.21)

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NEW CITY PLAN (BY 31.10.21)

By post - C/O the Planning Policy Team, Regeneration, Floor 4 Core 4,
Civic Offices, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2AL

By email - planningpolicy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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 Office: 9.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri Website: www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP 2021-2022

If you receive Milton Matters, you can become a member of our Association! You do not have to be a member to enjoy any of the activities and trips but if you do join, you **can book on to trips & events at members' prices at any time!** (Subject to availability)

The membership year runs 1st September to 31 August and membership costs just £9 per adult (children are free) per year and entitles you to discounts on private hall hire, priority booking & cheaper prices for trips/events. A Membership Application is overleaf. A sample of the forthcoming trips we have on offer are below or email or pop in for the full new programme.

UPCOMING TRIPS (subject to availability & non-member supplements apply)

Sun 17 Oct – PORT LYMPNE Big Game Reserve Safari & Dinosaur Forest - A£47/C£39	Thu 27-Fri 28 Jan – THE PUDDING CLUB & COTSWOLDS BREAK £129pp
Fri 26 Nov – HEVER CASTLE & Christmas Lunch - £49pp	Fri 25-Mon 28 Mar – ISLE OF WIGHT BARGAIN! £139pp
Tue 30 Nov – WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET & SHOPPING - £10pp	Fri 27-Mon 30 May – FLORIADE FLOWER FESTIVAL & DUTCH RIVER CRUISE £467pp
Sat 4-Mon 6 Dec – CARDIFF & THE ROYAL MINT weekend £149pp	Thu 21-Sat 23 Jul – FAB LIVERPOOL! £149pp (2 nd date may also be available)
Sun 19 Dec – WISLEY GLOW & Cream Tea Adult £39 & Child £35	March 2022 – FROZEN SHOW (LONDON) Please register interest!
Sat 8 Jan – WELLS & STREET (CLARKE'S) January Sales Shopping £20pp	PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE TRIPS!

CURRENT REGULAR ACTIVITIES at Milton Village Hall

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Tap Dance	Adult Ballet	50+ Keep Fit	Home Ed Crafts	Line Dancing		
Ajitu	Cribbage	Baby Theatre	Bereavement Group (m)	Yoga		
	Beetle Drive (m)	Seniors' Well Being Club	Children's Ballet			
	Yoga	Lets Bounce Back (PCC Weight Loss)	Pilates			
		Community Choir	Line Dancing			
		Dog & Puppy Training				



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2021-2022

The membership year runs from 1st September to 31st August. For new applications, you must live in MVCA Area of Benefit to become a member. (Proof of address may be requested.) A maximum of 2 adults (both living at the address stated) & up to 4 children/grandchildren under 18 years are permitted per membership. A membership card and number will be sent to you and must be quoted for all bookings and correspondence.

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NAME OF APPLICANT(S): D.O.B.

..... (MR/MRS/MS)

..... (MR/MRS/MS)

CHILD.....

CHILD.....

CHILD.....

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Please be assured your personal information will not be passed to third parties and will only be used to send you information about membership and MVCA news and activities. Our Privacy Policy is available on request.

I/we enclose my/our Membership Fee of £

Payment Method: Cash Cheque Bank Payment (please circle)

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MILTON & EASTNEY ALLOTMENTS SHOW 2021



Keen family gardeners Orla Otteson-Phelps (12) and her Nan Mo, plothead at Milton Allotments swept the board of prizes at this year's event. It is great to see the younger generation taking up gardening so enthusiastically under expert guidance of course! 12

MILTON & EASTNEY ALLOTMENTS SHOW 2021

2020 was a very good year for allotments. They were the one place that we could go without limit when we were in Lockdown. Enthusiasm for growing vegetables and flowers increased enormously and the allotment was a place of refuge for friends and family. There was of course, no Show last year, but the Milton & Eastney Allotments Association made every effort to put that right and this year's Show was again a highlight of the local calendar. Great cakes and refreshments on sale, a popular raffle, plenty of cups of tea and the glint of many silver cups and shields waiting to be presented to the gardeners who had submitted their produce for scrutiny in the



Showtent. Add a sunny afternoon on the showground - result - a jolly afternoon to meet friends and plotters including the *Milton Mermaid* featured on the cover, who won the 'Funniest Vegetable' class.

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Patients seeking urgent non-life threatening care should now contact 111 rather than go along to a hospital A&E department. They will be assessed over the phone (or online by going on to www.111.nhs.uk) by a Clinical Assessment Team and, if appropriate, an appointment will be made for them to go up to the hospital.

It may be though that their health care needs can be better supported elsewhere in the system such as at a Minor Injuries Unit, Pharmacy or with a GP. It is interesting to note that 111 can make GP appointments for patients.

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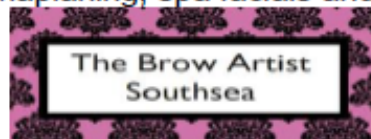


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16

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Drivers and operators of selected types of vehicles can apply for an exemption from the government-mandated Portsmouth Clean Air Zone (CAZ) when it launches in November 2021, meaning that they will not have to pay for some or all of their journeys through the zone.

The council has agreed the exemptions after consulting with the public and engaging with vehicle users across the city. These exemptions apply to travel in the Portsmouth CAZ, different rules may apply in other clean air zones. Private cars and vans won't be charged to drive in the Portsmouth CAZ, but could be charged in other clean air zones in the UK. Apply via cleanerair@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

NetZero Roadshow comes to city Portsmouth Council is hosting the Greenfleet NetZero Roadshow, South & South West, taking place in the Portsmouth Guildhall on **October 7**. You will be able to hear from experts from the council as well as Office for Zero Emission Vehicles, Crown Commercial Service, National Grid, SMMT and Association of Fleet Professionals. There will also be conversations about the upcoming Clean Air Zone, as well as the chance to test drive a range of cars and vans, and plenty of networking opportunities. If you're responsible for your company's transport needs, or are interested in how to make the switch to electric, register for free now at events.greenfleet.net/netzero/south

FORUM ISSUES

Since the last magazine, life has become more like it used to be although the threat of disease is still with us. As there are some significant plans for the City being published this month, we decided to try to hold our first Public Open Forum for 20 months. We have arranged a **NEW** venue at **Langstone Church, Shore Ave, PO4 8NB** on Milton Common as the Mary Rose School is hesitant to have us on the premises.

Do come along at **7pm** on **MONDAY 11th OCTOBER** to hear about the New Portsmouth Local Plan - a draft to set out where to build new homes, opportunities for local jobs and facilities we need. How to protect the environment and deliver high quality spaces we want. Tell the Council if they have got it right before 31 October 2021. You can view the documents on line www.portsmouth.gov.uk/the-local-plan or at drop-in events but we will host questions at our **Open Forum**. You can also view the evidence gathered by the Council in 2019 upon which they have formulated the plan.

The Forum is delighted that some issues raised in our neighbourhood planning process for Milton have been taken into account in this new draft City Plan. The **Neighbourhood Plan** has now been finalised also (based on evidence gathered in 2017) and lodged with the Council. That too is offered for consultation up to 18 Sept. **SEE PAGE 8 'HOW TO COMMENT'**.

The Neighbourhood Planning process has involved local volunteers in a tremendous amount of work. It has been a huge task involving a great many hours and sacrifices to achieve it. **IT HAS ALL BEEN VOLUNTARY** and Milton is so fortunate to have committed people who want to see the best for their community and its future. The legal framework, the finances, the need for consultants, the meetings, the drafting and redrafting, the scrutiny and the disappointments have to be recognised and I am sure you would want to thank all involved for the part they have played in trying to keep Milton a pleasant place to live in a sustainable way. Please do not expect the Milton Neighbourhood Plan to prevent development. It has to work within the Local Plan constraints but the influence of a dedicated and tenacious team on the job has brought our needs and wishes to official recognition. Let's hope that the Plan passes through its final stages to achieve our goals.



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[Neighbourhood Planning Forum website http://miltonplan.org.uk](http://miltonplan.org.uk)

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