



Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Statement Date June 2021

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1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement accompanies the submission of the Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan (June 2021). It summarises the community engagement programme and the Regulation 14 consultation that were undertaken. It shows how the requirements of Regulations 14 and 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) have been satisfied.

2. Summary of Community Engagement

Following a desire to have more input into the local planning process and following promptings from one of our local MPs (Penny Mordant MP) a group of local activists and local councillors decided to investigate the setting up of a Neighbourhood Plan. To establish the need and to gain approval for a Neighbourhood Planning Forum this group sought the opinions of local people. These initial consultations utilized the "Keep Milton Green" Facebook group (currently 11,000 members (June 2021)), the Milton Neighbourhood Forum (MNF) which has held regular open meetings for the past 15 years along with discussions with local councillors and discussions at Portsmouth City Council (PCC) run public meetings.

Following these discussions, the proposal was put to the January 2015 meeting of the MNF. A vote was taken amongst attendees and it was unanimously agreed that the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum (MNPf) should be established. The inaugural meeting to commence the process leading to a Neighbourhood Plan for Milton, in the City of Portsmouth, took place on Thursday 29 January 2015. It was agreed that the proposed area to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan would be similar to the boundaries of the MNF area (although excluding a small area to the west) because the MNF was a well-established and active forum with boundaries agreed by PCC. The inaugural meeting agreed its intention to lodge documents with the City Council to start the Neighbourhood Plan process on Friday 13th February. Those documents to include the defined area to be included in the plan, a list of at least 21 names and addresses of members of the Forum and the Constitution of the Forum.

The first full meeting of the MNPf took place on 12th February 2015. At this meeting it was agreed to use a constitution provided by PCC and which had been approved by PCC's legal department. The MNPf agreed to use this document as the basis for a draft constitution of the MNPf. The formal application was made to PCC on 30th March 2015, a consultation was conducted by PCC in April and May with ratification by the relevant cabinet member in June 2015 and redesignated on 27th August 2020. This declared that the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum be a qualifying body.

The supporting documents can be found at [Neighbourhood plans - Portsmouth City Council](#)

The objectives of the Forum were declared as:

- To prepare, in partnership with the local planning authority, a neighbourhood plan for the area.
- To meet the needs and aspirations of the Milton community by safeguarding the Neighbourhood against unsustainable development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in general conformity with the strategic objectives of the Portsmouth Plan (PP)
- To promote balanced and integrated land-use patterns for the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Neighbourhood.
- To conserve and enhance the green and spacious character of the locality as described in the Portsmouth City Council Planning Document Urban Characterisation Study.
- To protect and improve the locally, nationally and internationally designated nature conservation areas and open spaces, in accordance with the PP.
- To ensure new development in the Neighbourhood is adequately supported by the necessary infrastructure in accordance with the PP and the NPPF.
- To foster community engagement in future spatial planning and enhance civic pride.

2.1 Approach to community engagement

The aims of the Milton Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) consultation process were:

- To involve as much of the community as possible throughout all the consultation stages of Plan development so that the plan was informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders from the start of the Neighbourhood planning process;
- To ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process where decisions needed to be taken;
- To engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of approaches and communication and consultation techniques and;
- To ensure that results of consultation were fed back to local people and available to read (in both hard copy and via the Forums website) as soon as possible after consultation events.

2.2 What was done?

From its inception the MNP had some information available on local attitudes to planning in the area. This was thanks to a 2014 Milton Site Consultation carried out by PCC. The Residents' Comments are shown as a supporting document to <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=3391>

Armed with the information garnered from the 2014 PCC consultation the MNPF produced a trial residents community engagement questionnaire to be piloted at the annual Milton "Picnic on the Green" community event on 20th June 2015 and at the Milton Neighbourhood Forum on 24th June 2015. 70 copies of the questionnaire were filled in across both events. Copies of the questionnaire and results can be viewed at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents. Annex A - trial survey questions and Annex B- trial survey results

In light of these responses MNPF amended the trial questionnaire to produce a Residents questionnaire and a Business and Organisations questionnaire These can be seen at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents. Annex C -Final residents' questionnaire. Annex D – Final business questionnaire.

4380 copies of the resulting Residents Questionnaire were distributed to all homes and community hubs in the Milton Plan area within the magazine "Milton Matters" between 18th September and 7th October 2015 and 104 copies of the Business and Organisations Questionnaire were distributed by hand between 18th and 23rd September. See www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents. Annex F -business questionnaire distribution list. The Residents Questionnaire was also publicised in the newsletters sent out by the PCC councillors for the area and through the 'Keep Milton Green' Facebook page. Pick up boxes for collection were arranged at 10 local sites and a freepost return address was provided for paper questionnaires. An option was also provided to complete the questionnaire online at www.miltonplan.org.uk. The online link was posted on the "Keep Milton Green" Facebook page. All returns were requested by 2nd November 2015.

At the 19th November 2015 MNPF committee meeting it was agreed to extend the closing date for the on-line survey until the end of January 2016 to seek more responses from traditional 'hard-to-reach' groups – especially young people. Emails were sent to those students at Portsmouth College who lived in Milton. The on-line survey link was posted on the following Facebook pages - Milton Cross parents' group, Milton Cross School, Meon Infants, Meon Junior, Milton Park Primary, Little Spinnakers parents, Milton Market, Jack and Jill preschool parents' group and Moorings Way infant school parents' group. A reminder was also posted on the "Keep Milton Green" Facebook page. The resident's survey finally closed on 31 Jan 2016 with a total of 559 responses, although not everyone answered every question. Results of the surveys are shown at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents. Residents Survey Summary, Summary of Business responses, Annex G– Milton residents results and Annex H. – Milton business survey results.

2.3 Who was targeted?

In preparing the MNP the MNPF has consistently ensured that residents and all other stakeholders including the local authority, interest and hard to reach groups, land owners, businesses and statutory bodies have regularly been consulted and their comments have been noted and, where appropriate, incorporated into the plan as it evolved.

2.4 Outcomes/Feedback

Once the community engagement questionnaire results had been analysed, an Open Day was held in Milton Village Hall on 5 April 2016, the main community building in the Plan area, to present the survey results, update local people on the Plan's progress and give them a further opportunity to give their ideas for the future of Milton. Over 200 people attended including representatives from the NHS, HCA (Homes and Communities Agency, now Homes England), PCC, the University and Natural England. The event was publicised widely through 'Milton Matters', 'Keep Milton Green' and the local daily newspaper The News. The Forum also emailed the 300 survey respondents who gave email addresses to let them know the event was happening. Written invitations were delivered to those respondents who did not provide an email address.

The open day displays included details about the background to the Forum, its vision and objectives, draft ideas for potential policies to include in the Plan, flipcharts and a whiteboard to encourage people to present ideas along with separate boards to enable ideas for the St James' Hospital and University sites. Details can be found at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents. " Open day 5 April 2016"



Milton Neighbourhood Open Forum

MNPF update boards have also been displayed at numerous local events including Milton Neighbourhood Open Forum on 14 October 2015, at Eastney Community Centre during the "Marvellous Milton Market" event on 31 October 2015, Milton Neighbourhood Open Forum on 24 February 2016. Because of the success of this open day further events have been organized annually at Milton Village Hall on 15th March 2017 and 3rd March 2018 to ensure that as the plan develops it still reflects local opinion.



Picnic on the Green and Milton Village Hall

To further engage residents and gain their feedback MNPf set up a display at the annual Picnic on the Green on 11 June 2016 where the results of the Open Day were displayed together with a plan progress update. Details at www.miltonplan.org.uk under "Picnic on the green 2016". Once again, a good response was received and displays and consultations have been repeated at the 2017 and 2018 Picnics on the Green.

In addition to all of the above consultation activities the MNPf Chairman has given regular updates on the plan in every copy of Milton Matters magazine which is published quarterly and delivered to all homes in the plan area. Details at www.miltonplan.org.uk under "Milton Matters". In addition, Milton Neighbourhood Forum holds an evening time open forum in a local school every quarter which is open to the public. The MNPf chairman gives an update at these and invites questions and comments.

Alongside these public events, Forum representatives have met many key stakeholders, including:

- The MPs for the Plan area, Penny Mordaunt, Flick Drummond and subsequently Stephen Morgan.
- Natural England
- The Homes and Communities Agency, now Homes England (landowners of much of the St James' site)
- Portsmouth University
- NHS Property Services and Solent NHS Trust (the current owner and operator of St James')

Throughout the whole process there has been continuous dialogue with PCC Planning Department and the six councillors covering the Plan area are on the Forum Committee. Ideas from these meetings have been incorporated in the Plan.

A table of these consultations can be found at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents - Table of Consultations summary.

The public responses confirm there are many fears over the lack of school-places both locally and City-wide, over the shortage of GP surgeries, excessive traffic, congestion and poor air-quality and loss of green spaces. Overwhelmingly though there remains a strong opposition locally towards housing expansion especially large-scale as originally proposed although

there is some acceptance that smaller residential developments could be accommodated on either or perhaps both. On the positive side many would like to see the hospital re-used for elderly and social-care if medical uses can't be retained. There is much support for recreation/sports fields and a new school at Furze Lane.

PCC recognise their initial Site "Allocation" for 480 new homes (reduced from 545) in Milton was excessive. They accept the need to continue to monitor the Velder Avenue, Rodney Rd/Milton Rd junction and recognise that traffic congestion and management is a key constraint to major new development requiring access via the Eastern Rd and Moorings Way junction. The Council acknowledge there's a shortfall locally in terms of Primary School-places and City-wide with secondary ones and claim there is an absence of suitable sites to build a new secondary school.

Natural England remain anxious about potential damage to Langstone Harbour and the wildlife from an increase of recreational uses from significant housing expansion. Historic England recognise the importance of the Hospital and will be supportive of any policies promoting its conservation. They've also acknowledged the significance of the landscaped "parkland".

MNPF findings suggest there's an absence of enhanced social-care housing City-wide coupled with an apparent inability to address it.

The Plan policies were drafted around public response, factual evidence and stakeholder engagement. This is about housing needs (especially affordable and elderly/social-care) demographics and population predictions; incomes and employment; schools and GP/patient ratios; road and infrastructure capacity; retail capacity; and air quality.

A record of all MNPF committee meeting minutes is available at www.miltonplan.org.uk under "Minutes of meetings"

A greater level of consultation has been undertaken than the legislation requires and full details of all consultations are provided in the Consultation Documents that supports this Consultation Statement. The Consultation Documents are available to view on the Forum website. www.miltonplan.org.uk

3. Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14)

3.1 How the Consultation Was Undertaken

Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations (pre-submission consultation)

Before submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, a qualifying body must

- (a) publicise, in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry-on business in the neighbourhood area;
 - (i) details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan;
 - (ii) details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected;
 - (iii) details of how to make representations; and
 - (iv) the date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised;
- (b) consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan; and
- (c) send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.

MNPF published the draft MNP on 3 April 2019 for a six-week period until 17 May 2019. It was advertised on "Keep Milton Green" Facebook page, on www.miltonplan.org.uk, the PCC website, notices on lampposts in the plan area and emailed to 247 addresses. It was available to view on www.miltonplan.org.uk and paper copies at Portsmouth Central Library, Portsmouth Beddow Library, Milton Village Hall, Eastney Community Centre and Portsmouth City Council Planning Department. This action was posted on the "Keep Milton Green" Facebook page. How to respond was shown on the website and response forms were left with the paper copies.

MNPF confirm that all consultations complied with the Gunning Principles e.g.

1. That consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage.
2. That the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response.
3. That adequate time is given for consideration and response.
4. That the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.

3.2 Statutory Consultees

A list of Consultation Bodies was provided by PCC. See www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents - Copy of statutory consultees.

Green shading in column A on spreadsheet means contacted by email.

All emails were sent on 3 Apr 19 with the text

"I attach for your comments, the draft Milton Neighbourhood Plan and proposals map. I also attach our Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Housing Need Analysis. I would be grateful for your comments by 17 May 2019".

3.3 Issues

A "master table of Regulation 14 comments received" (36 pages) can be found at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents -Master table of reg 14 comments received.

4 Responses to Representations

A "Table of Regulation 14 response and action taken" (64 pages) can be found at www.miltonplan.org.uk under Consultation documents - Table of Reg 14 response and action taken