

# MILTON MATTERS

Issue No. 71

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

March 2021



Lockdown Art from Rod Bailey – the protected Brent Geese over Langstone Harbour

**No Forum Activities are planned due to Covid, except our first community magazine for a year, featuring the development plans for St James Hospital.**

*Thanks go out to everyone who is working there on the vaccination programme. A great use for the site which has stood unused for so long.*

## **OPEN FORUM MINUTES March 2020**

The Chair paid tribute to the late Dr Caroline Scott who made such a contribution to retaining the character of Milton and said that consideration would be given to a fitting memorial.

### **TOPICS DISCUSSED AT RECENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Chair mentioned topics discussed at recent committee meetings, which included:-

**Air Quality:** the City Council's proposals for gaining approval from DEFRA are still to be published for consultation.

**Aquind Electricity Cable:** following public consultation which ended on 19<sup>th</sup> February, many objections have been raised. The City Council has raised objections to the scheme, as have neighbouring local authorities, and extensive publicity has been included on the Keep Milton Green (KMG) website along with offers of help and support to residents. There was discussion concerning the value in raising a petition to Central Government (the scheme is a Central Government initiative) as the routing of the cable will cause major disruption for residents across the whole city. Stephen Morgan MP has written to the Secretary of State to raise his objections.

**Sea Defences, Eastern Road:** the Milton Forum and the Milton Neighbourhood Forum Planning Committee have both requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of a new cycle path in the sea defences works, but this has been declined as the current cycle path was considered to be adequate at the last Planning Committee.

**Event on the Green 2020:** scheduled for Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> June. Dominic Goodyear will be organizing it. A grant has been awarded from the Lord Mayor's Appeal to pay for first aiders at the event and for the hire of tables and chairs for the refreshment area (worth £650). **NB Our 2020 event was cancelled**

### **REPAIR WORKSHOP/CAFÉ**

Clare Seek spoke about the work undertaken by the repair workshop, which has been running for two years and is held each month except August on the third Saturday, (1030 to 1300) at the Buckland United Reformed Church (174 Kingston Road

Residents can bring broken items to the workshop and a team of "experts" is available to show how to repair them, and it is hoped to set up other workshops across the area. Funded by donations and a workshop costs £70 to run. Many domestic small appliances and even computers can be repaired.

Claire urged residents to e-mail her if they felt that they could assist to set up a repair workshop in Milton to complement the Buckland repair café. [repaircafeportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeportsmouth@gmail.com)

### **SAFER PORTSMOUTH**

Cllr Lee Hunt, Nicola Waterman, Lisa Wills and Pam spoke about the work undertaken by the team working towards the creation of a safer environment in the City and making the ideal neighbourhood. It was stated that some funding has been made available and £90,000 is allocated to spend over a three-year period across the City for schemes that could work towards creating safer areas and reducing crime.

**FORUM MINUTES March 20 cont**

**SAFER PORTSMOUTH(cont)**

It was reported there were 26,000 crimes across Portsmouth last year, information determined by the Health and Wellbeing Board. There was discussion on what drives crime, with four main categories.

Young people at risk  
Domestic Abuse  
Anti-social behaviour  
Drug misuse

Many points were raised by residents and all points noted to be incorporated into a detailed synopsis for use in identifying credible schemes to implement. Schemes need not be expensive, and it was mentioned that low cost ideas very often produce far-reaching outcomes.

**ST JAMES' REDEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Unfortunately, the developer (Richard Wilshire from P J Livesey Holdings) was unable to make the meeting. At very short notice, Rod Bailey and Ian Clark from the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum briefly spoke about the current situation regarding St. James' redevelopment:-

**St James Phase 1:** this phase is still at outline planning application stage. both houses and flats on the Harbour School side of the hospital grounds. The Planning Forum has questioned the status of two villas which the developer proposes to demolish, as there is conflicting advice regarding their Listed Status. There is a revised site plan and no date has been set for this to go before the Planning Committee.

18/00288/OUT Outline application for the construction of 107 dwellings including provision of vehicular and pedestrian access, public open space and hard and soft landscaping (principles of access, layout and scale to be considered)  
**AMENDED LOCATION PLAN RECEIVED**

**St James' Phase 2:** Although the developer has not attended the public meeting, a planning application was today submitted to the City Council and can be viewed online showing creation of 146 apartments within the main Hospital building and 84 dwellings (66 houses and 18 flats). Residents are encouraged to view the applications details below and submit comments/objections

20/00204/FUL and 20/00205/LBC  
Redevelopment of former St James' Hospital comprising the conversion of listed buildings to provide 146 dwellings including demolition of extensions and ancillary buildings, erection of new 2 storey housing and 3 storey apartments to provide 84 dwellings, retention of cricket pitch and listed chapel. Conversion of main hospital and Shaw Trust buildings, including external alterations - demolition of boiler house, kitchen and storage wings, service room and 20th Century buildings, window and door alterations, recessed and projecting dormers, new stairs; Internal alterations to include alterations to walls, doorways and staircases. Construction of new housing; parking and landscaping.

**66 Bed Care Home:** the care home site is to the south of the cricket pitch and fronts Locksway Road. Residents are not happy that the care home is exclusively for ex-service personnel.

The Chair thanked all residents for attending the March 2020 open meeting.

## FORUM ISSUES

This Issue is being posted on-line to enable you to view the issues surrounding the upcoming planning application for St James Hospital. We shall then distribute the paper copies after the 6 May Election. The reason is that from 22 March we enter the Pre-Election Period (used to be called Purdah but this is no longer encouraged as it has 'colonial' associations) and are not allowed to issue the magazine from that date until election is over. Sadly we cannot commit to a Picnic on the Green in June 2021 but will discuss alternatives when we can meet. Covid restrictions prevent committee or public meetings to discuss issues, or to view plans at the Civic Offices - these must be viewed online at Portsmouth Council's website.

This photo appeared in Streetlife July 1989 showing how long local people have been concerned at the future of the St James Hospital. Now in 2021, it is coming to finalisation with plans to demolish villas, convert the hospital and build homes. Under present proposals St James Field and play area will



remain Open Space and the cricket pitch leased to the Club.

The first date for a decision on the demolition/listing of The Beeches and Fair Oak Villas, is 30 March Planning Committee. After the Elections, at a Planning meeting to be arranged end of May, both Phase 1 & 2 of building at St James Hospital will be heard. We are including details of these applications in this issue. Unless Covid restrictions

are lifted by end of May we will not be able to attend as meetings are still being held on-line. On the day and afterwards, you can view the proceedings of the Planning Committee via the Council website.

We urge everyone to consider very carefully the extensive proposals for this prime, parkland site in a City which is 70% underprovided for with green space and write in to express their views to [planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk).

## ST JAMES HOSPITAL PHASE 1



In order to allow the proposed development of the site of the old Harbour School in St James and the area south of the Chapel, approval will be sought to demolish The Beeches and

Fairoak House (illustrated). The Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum believes that these are of significant historical value and should be Curtilage Listed within the Hospital landscape. They have joined PCC in a meeting with their QC over the legal evidence informing their planning recommendation. The public can comment through [planningreps@portsouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:planningreps@portsouthcc.gov.uk) as the scheme will be decided at Planning Committee 30 March.

If approval is granted, the Phase 1 development of 107 dwellings of 2 and 3 storeys will be put to the Planning Committee at the end of May 2021 at the same time as the proposals for the Phase 2 conversion of the main hospital and its surrounds with 151 apartments and 58 houses (2 of which are in the Chapel) The layout is included in the Phase 1 scheme but not the detail.

There are many concerns at this development. The traffic levels in Milton are an ongoing issue with peak period queues along Baffins Road, Milton Road and Eastney Road. The traffic from this development will discharge into Fairoak Road and Locksway Road putting pressure on the junction with Milton Road. A junction which local experience indicates is already at its limit. The effects of traffic from new homes in the Prison have not yet come on stream. The Phase 2 St James, if approved, will place further traffic into the area but that section will discharge into Edenbridge Road as well as Locksway Rd.

Air quality in Portsmouth has been recognised nationally as failing and a new Clean Air Zone is being enforced this year on the western side of the city. Surely the Zone will divert non-compliant vans and vehicles to the Eastern Road to avoid the charge which will bring heavy traffic, lorries, etc. onto Velder Avenue to Bransbury Road and beyond?

The proposed scheme would inevitably add to the density of the City where lack of adequate school places, school buildings too near air pollution hotspots, poor health outcomes, pressure on GP facilities, infrequent public transport, loss of biodiversity, and environmental concerns are well rehearsed in Milton and were clearly put to the council when it included this site in the Spatial Allocation proposals in 2014.



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## **SPRING'S FAREWELL TO WINTER**

**By Sharron Kidd**

**Illustration by Bronia Kidd**

Dear Winter,

It's time for you to go,  
Pack your case and take your snow.  
Furlough Jack Frost 'til Bonfire Night,  
Mothball your grey skies, blankets of white.  
Make muddy fields a thing of the past,  
Let us leave our coats at home at last.  
Forget to whip up arctic breezes,  
Let noses run instead with pollen sneezes.

I am Spring - Queen of all the seasons,  
I bring promises and hope for many reasons.  
I'll decorate the banks and trees,  
With bluebells, butterflies, excited bees.

I am Spring- the green witch of vast ambition,  
I transform landscapes like a wondrous magician.

I am Spring- the Lady of lighter nights,  
So book your hols on camping sites.

I am Spring- the Dame with the wake-up call,  
One word from me and there's a germination brawl.

The birds will find their voices once more,  
They'll be chirpings and cheepings and nests by the score.  
Frogs will organise an orgy date,  
Hedgehogs awaken not a moment too late.  
The mad March hares will refresh boxing skills,  
There'll be fluffy ducklings with dabbling bills.

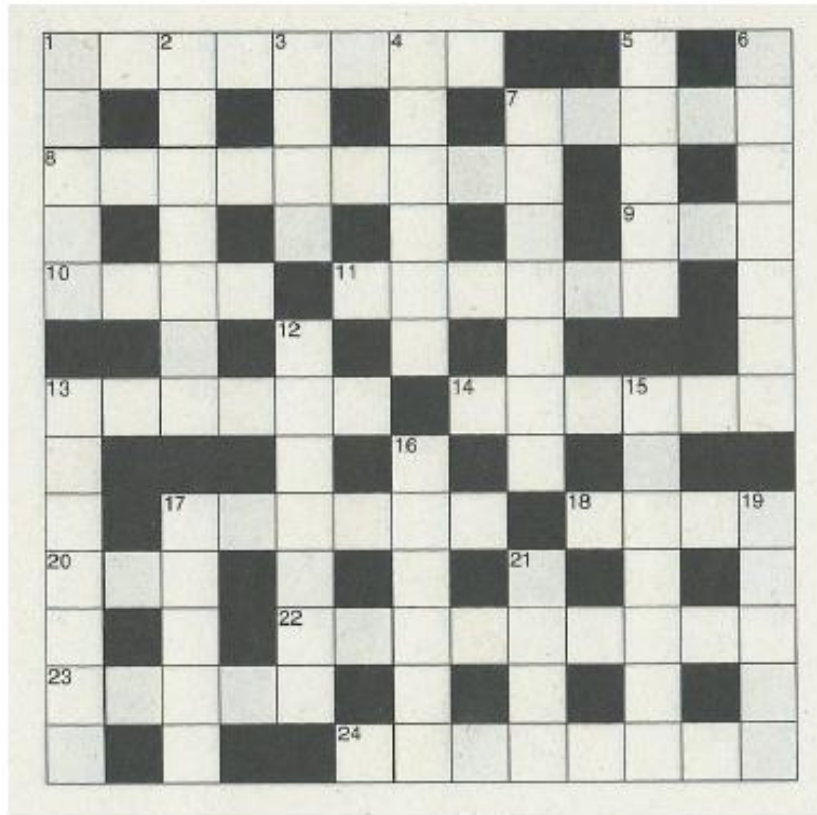
So be afraid, Winter, take your last bow.  
It's time to depart. It's my turn now.

Yours triumphantly,

*Spring*



## STILL GOT TIME TO SPARE?



### ACROSS

- 1 Old plucked instrument (8)
- 7 (Human) trunk (5)
- 8 One who seeks to deter (9)
- 9 The heavens (3)
- 10 High-flying songbird (4)
- 11 Relating to the USSR (6)
- 13 Flower's male organ (6)
- 14 Flexible, pliant (6)
- 17 Bad-tempered, sulky (6)
- 18 Fabric join (4)
- 20 Decay (3)
- 22 Lacking definite form (9)
- 23 Wear away (5)
- 24 Excessive concern with detail (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Foot lever (5)
- 2 Ancient empire in Iraq (7)
- 3 So (4)
- 4 Broadcast receivers (6)
- 5 Arm joint (5)
- 6 Tea (*rhyming slang*) (4,3)
- 7 Cressida's lover (*Shakespeare*) (7)
- 12 Convert (asset) into cash (7)
- 13 First course (7)
- 15 Here; gift (7)
- 16 Characteristic of women (6)
- 17 Bend forwards (5)
- 19 Untidy, dirty (5)
- 21 Greek cheese (4)

Answers pag15



## ST JAMES HOSPITAL Phase 2 CONSULTATION IGNORED

During 2019 the potential developers of St James Hospital Phase 2 (the actual hospital, chapel and surrounding land) held consultation meetings with Milton Neighbourhood Forum, Milton Planning Forum and members of the public in the Cricket Pavilion at St James. Residents were encouraged that although they did not wish to lose the wonderful local asset of the hospital parkland, it was regrettably and misguidedly, in the power of NHS to sell it to meet health service costs but suitable housing for local people would be developed sympathetically and responsibly by PJ Livesey.

However, now that the **full** details of their plans have been published on the Council's Planning website (Reference **20/00204/FUL**) it is clear that 'commitments' given by PJ Livesey are not going to be included. We were led to believe they would reserve the Chapel for community use and the green area north of the play space, but no. The result is a backward looking proposal not meeting residents' concerns, not taking the city forward in any respect as we believe that Planning should support Portsmouth Council's ambitions for action on climate change, air quality and community needs for open space, recreation and good mental health.

Milton Neighbourhood Forum, Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum and Keep Milton Green will be objecting for the reasons below. An enormous effort has been put into reviewing the vast background paperwork to discover these concerns. Only in late February their Traffic Impact Assessment and Viability report were added to the Council's Planning Application website, so earlier objections residents have submitted, will not have been able to include these matters. Do write again!!

A range of concerns about the development follow which you may wish to consider in your comments:-

**The Chapel:** *The Grade 2 listed Chapel is proposed to be changed into 2 residential properties. It means the loss of a part of the history at St James as well as the loss of the stained glass windows and the addition of windows in the roof. There is no information regarding what will happen with the multifaith garden in which a number of ashes have been spread. It must be retained for community use.*

**Green Spaces:** *There will be a loss in green open spaces across the site. The area to the north of St James green will be replaced with housing and part of the field to the north of the chapel will be replaced with private gardens*

**Trees:** *There will be a loss of 53 trees. These all should be left as they are protected by TPO's and are not dangerous or unhealthy and contribute to local biodiversity and moisture retention to prevent flooding. (cont.P.8)*

## ST JAMES HOSPITAL Phase 2 CONSULTATION IGNORED

**Roads:** It is proposed that the site will have 344 parking spaces (much higher than required) and that there will be **no change in traffic in/out** and around the site. Junctions, especially Locksway Road/Milton Rd are already at or above capacity and we already have issues with deteriorating air quality throughout Portsmouth and Milton Park School.

**Affordable Housing:** All affordable housing has been removed from the site. There was a legal requirement to provide 30% of the housing as affordable but the developer has stated that they have paid too much for the land and as well as not providing those homes, they have also stated that they will not provide money for offsite housing. Our city needs these homes and it is not right that yet another developer will walk away with any form of profit but at the same time, leave our city worse off.

**Design:** The design has been changed and rather than pitched roofs, there are now a number of **flat roofs** not in keeping with the character of the site. Building designs are very blocky and will not go with the setting of the hospital. The internal space of many homes is below standard. The materials and designs need to be rethought and changed.

**Renewable energy:** All renewable energy has been removed from the plans. The developer will now rely on LED lighting and more energy efficient gas boilers! In a time of climate emergency, we need to be investing in less carbon based products and relying on renewable energy. Solar power was suggested in the original plans but not built in nor electric car charging community facilities.

**Air Quality:** We are facing a climate emergency. Our city faces government imposed air quality zones so future development should be looking at zero carbon measures as well as being as sustainable as possible for current and future residents. The lack of understanding regarding traffic movements and existing junctions being at or above capacity as well as the loss of trees will all result in a net increase in toxic fumes. There also needs to be a guarantee that if planning is passed, that the developer will ensure that green measures around construction are implemented so not to worsen an already bad situation.

**Against City Plan - Current Policy MT4** should preserve the setting of the hospital and highway capacity but this plan ignores it.

**Community Infrastructure Levy** – Developers normally pay a 15% levy on their development cost towards community projects. Milton has benefitted in the past by spending money on Meon Infants School playground, new path in Bransbury Park, kitchen improvements at our community centres, etc. P Livesey in their application now claim that their profit margin from St James will not permit them to make any contribution to Milton Ward.

We object to this application for the above reasons. Please regard the poor provision and defiance of the legal requirement of social/affordable housing for the residents of Portsmouth but also, the increase of traffic movements, air quality issues, harm to the listed building settings, the loss of the chapel, the loss of the green spaces, the felling of healthy trees and poor design and sustainability of the estate as fundamental.

## ST JAMES HOSPITAL PHASE 2 APPALLING HOUSE DESIGNS

North East Corner of the site where the Gazebo is



Nos 50-54 Harrison 4/5 beds, No 55 the Cartwright all 3 levels tall. In front of that and lined up with Overton (male middle ward) are Nos 56-57 Oxlade 3 beds link detached two levels No 58 Newton 5 bed 3 levels high. The view from the chapel looking north can be imagined by sliding the bottom 3 units in front of the back R.H. 3. So, the roofline level will be three high. Chapel Way will be stopped up to fit them in.



## VIEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

*Thoughts on the REVISED application to convert the Hospital for 151 apartments and 58 houses by PJ Livesey (formerly 146 apartments, 84 houses).*

The principal objection is with the magnitude and intensity of development in a City which is already too densely populated for the land-mass it occupies. Significant too is the loss of TPO Trees; harm to the setting of the Hospital building; traffic congestion and air pollution; poor design; absence of renewable energy and utilisation of gas heating; loss of green space, particularly the green enclosure to the north of St James' Green; recreational impacts on Langstone Harbour; and the obstruction of the north/south cycle route from Edenbridge Road to Locksway Road.

St James' Hospital was built and paid for out of local funds for local residents and others in South Hampshire suffering mental illness. It's an architecturally distinctive building in a parkland landscape carefully designed to aid treatment. It was inherited by the NHS at a time of post-war need during austerity for the nation's collective benefit.

As a response to changes in mental health treatment and a need to rationalise its estate, the NHS sold off the football pitches in the mid-1990s for a couple of hundred houses or so when the City already had an open-space deficit of almost 60% by national standards. They then negotiated with the Council to provide for alternative uses to assist an exit from the main Hospital Building. It became Listed for preservation by English Heritage in 1998.

The alternative use plans became enshrined in Portsmouth's Local Plan in 2001 so that the south east part of the site became Policy MT3 and the Hospital itself MT4. MT3 is allocated for more housing and MT4 for education, residential training, a private hospital or residential conversion providing there is sufficient capacity on the local road network.

Homes England acquired an interest in Phase 1 for a housing scheme under Policy MT3 in 2017 and PJ Livesey is hoping to persuade the Council to grant consent for a residential scheme under MT4 notwithstanding the need for community facilities.

The Hospital estate has already provided 349 houses and over 500 car-spaces after the completion of Fair Oak; Cheriton; and Oakdene Roads; St James' Place and Gleave Close. In the meantime, the Internationally Designated Wildlife Special Protection Area for Wildlife Habitat Conservation in Langstone Harbour became increasingly polluted from nitrate depositions and the increased population exacerbated the recreational disturbances to the habitats the Designation was intended to protect. The UK Government in 2018 announced a 25 Year Plan to recover nature and restore the environment. The applicants on both these schemes are only being asked to mitigate their damage to the Harbour's Wildlife Habitats with a cash payment.

## VIEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

By 2050 the UK will be a Net Zero Carbon Emissions Nation but Portsmouth being a Coastal City went bolder with a Net Zero Target for 2030. Meanwhile its roads became increasingly congested and air pollution broke legal limits. The Council's objective to bring air pollution down to legally "safe" limits by 2010 failed dismally and the annual premature death rate of 100 residents persisted. As a consequence, a Ministerial Directive in 2019 mandated them to achieve legal compliance in the shortest time by the means most likely to do so. Two years later without a scheme in place, the two planning applications are coming up for determination and our roads are already severely congested at peak times and Summer or Holiday weekends.

At a time when access to a local GP becomes more difficult and school-place options reduced, it makes no sense to plan solely for housing on both sites as it only intensifies the stresses on these overstretched facilities and on the local roads.

If the purpose of the NHS is to treat the sick, then it would appear the NHS Property Services is itself sick. Ministerial direction is moving toward sickness prevention and the NHS could start with reviewing how they dispose of their estate. The Treasury Green Book requires all Government projects to evaluate their social and environmental effects and not just economic costs/benefits. The obvious question is what value was put on the costs to health from increased traffic and increased stress on GPs and their patients.

The 2019 Environment Audit Committee Report "Our Planet Our Health" suggest that "the lack of green space costs over £220 per person per year due to mental health problems alone and Portsmouth has less than half it needs according to the Council's own evidence. Fifty-three trees with Protection Orders are proposed to be felled and the highly valued green enclosure adjoining St James' Green is intended for building.

Boxed design houses are planned to be built so close to the Hospital Building; they harm the setting. As well as clashing with the distinctive architecture of the Hospital, the absence of pitched roofs prevents the incorporation of Solar PV tiles frustrating the Council's Zero Carbon Emissions objective. It is also against National Planning Policy. The greater costs associated with the flat roof terraces is presented as another reason to avoid their Affordable Housing obligations. The scheme adopts gas heating which is due to be banned in new homes from 2025. A better solution would be to keep Lancaster House and use it as a communal renewable energy hub utilising the service pipes as encouraged in the Neighbourhood Plan.

These two applications rely on artificial constructs to assume planning rights for a fully operational hospital still exist. That enables both applicants to claim their new schemes will **reduce traffic**. That's a nonsense because it disregards 349 new homes and their 500 plus car-spaces already created from the fragmented Hospital disposals since 2000.

## VIEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It's also discordant with the evidence papers for the emerging Local Plan, showing that Locksway Rd/Milton Rd and Moorings Way/Velder Avenue junctions suffer severe congestion at peak times and can't meet current demands. These two applications combined will create another 316 dwellings and 527 car-spaces.

Cycling and walking casualties are 30% higher in Portsmouth than the UK average and the Neighbourhood Plan proposed a north/south cycle route from Edenbridge Road to Locksway Road to encourage safer cycling and reduce car-dependency but the Hospital conversion obstructs the route.

The other artificiality is created by assuming the NHS has a right for a "competitive return" on a Grade II Listed Hospital Building by giving it a Benchmark Value based on an Existing Use Value plus a premium. PJ Livesey assesses the premium to be 20%. This effectively "excuses" them from meeting their Affordable Housing obligations. That cannot be a proper outcome from the sale of public land where Central Government is claiming there's a need to ensure Affordable Housing is delivered to all communities.

The Homes England application includes the loss of two heritage buildings that are highly important locally and ought to be considered as Curtilage Listed. There are 107 homes and 173 car-spaces in this scheme which would increase congestion at the Locksway Rd/Milton Rd junction but not Moorings Way. That ref is 18/00288/OUT. Both schemes should have been planned and designed holistically to allow greater unity and permeability with a better balance of land uses with more community facilities thereby reducing traffic excesses.

The Application to convert the Hospital includes a Viability Assessment claiming the Neighbourhood and Neighbourhood Planning Forums were consulted on the housing numbers which are for between 140 & 170 in the hospital conversion, and up to 360 on the land around in both schemes combined. For the avoidance of doubt, we weren't. KMG and your Councillors are members of both. They're weren't consulted either. It is a mis-statement: - none of us believe these numbers are remotely feasible.

In reality, the Neighbourhood Plan Group had consulted with the Council for over 5 years. We were encouraged to submit an indicative design house for the Hospital using cues from its architecture; we incorporated car spaces within their design to minimise their visual intrusion in the landscape, thereby minimising harm to the setting of the Hospital; and incorporated pitched roofs to accommodate Solar PV tiles to accord with renewable energy generation and the Council's Zero Carbon Emissions Target for 2030. The draft was submitted in the Spring of 2019 and we've embraced the feedback from Historic England in our redraft to ensure the future conservation of the landscape.

## VIEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We recommended a mixed use in line with the current Town Planning Association's 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept to reduce car-dependency.

The Council last year appointed "experts" from a Design Review Panel who contrived, probably unintentionally, to frustrate our entire philosophy for the redevelopment of the Hospital. PJ Livesey changed their pitched roof house types to another from their portfolio of designs. The result is a justification for omitting the Council's Affordable Homes requirements on the grounds the boxed houses were more expensive to construct!

Localism was intended to give local communities a say in the future of their neighbourhoods. Instead, we are disregarded as a nuisance. All we wanted was to promote Sustainable Development:- the very objective behind Neighbourhood Plans and what the Council are supposed to encourage.

In the meantime, the Neighbourhood Plan Group are negotiating with their Neighbourhood Plan Consultant over presentational adjustments in order to obtain his final input which we are dependent upon:- the "Basic Conditions Statement".

This is a necessity to allow the City Council to take the process over and consult for the final time. The pandemic and changes at the Ministry of Housing and Communities have delayed us.

Rod Bailey  
Chair Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum

8 March 2021



### Crossword solution from P8

ACROSS; 1. Psaltery/ 7. Torso/  
8. Dissuader/ 9. Sky/ 10. Lark/ 11. Soviet/  
13. Stamen/ 14. Supple/ 17. Sullen/  
18. Seam/ 20. Rot/ 22. Shapeless/ 23  
Erode/ 24. Pedantry

DOWN: 1. Pedal/ 2. Assyria/ 3. Thus/  
4. Radios 5. Wrist/ 6. Rosylee/ 7. Troilus/  
12. Realise/ 13. Starter/ 15. Present/ 16.  
Female/ 17. Stoop/ 19. Messy/ 21 Feta.

## PEREGRINE FALCONS VISIT LAST SUMMER

In case you have not noticed, Peregrines were sitting in two nearby locations recently. Members of the Hampshire Ornithological Society have been monitoring their moves, and there were two birds that are clearly a pair. The male was born on Chichester Cathedral in 2016, and we know this because he has a coloured ring on his leg. The birds are either on St Cuthbert's Church off Hayling Avenue, or on the 12-storey Barnard Tower in Furze Lane (part of the university complex).

Peregrines have not had an easy time. Because they like to eat pigeons the Government ordered for many to be killed during the Second World War, so that they did not intercept pigeons carrying secret messages. After the war, the side effects of organochlorine pesticides caused a further, more serious decline by thinning egg shells and increasing adult mortality. In fact, until the 1980s Peregrines had disappeared from southern England completely.

After three decades of challenge, the Peregrine started to recover following the banning of some pesticides in the 1980s, and breeding recommenced in Dorset and Sussex. Sightings in Hampshire grew in line with this expansion and in 1993 a pair nested on the chimney of Fawley Power Station. In 1995 a nest was built on a pylon near to Southampton and by 2008 there were nine pairs nesting in the county on a variety of structures and natural sites. Fast-forward to more recent times, and Peregrines are now nesting in around twenty locations in Hampshire, with a clear preference for the coast.

Most adult Peregrines remain in their nesting territories throughout the year. Young birds remain with their parents into their first winter but are chased away at the beginning of the new year. Peregrines are more widely distributed outside the breeding season than during it. They often hunt over wide areas looking for suitable prey such as wildfowl and waders on the coast.

The Peregrine is still regarded as being of conservation concern in both a European and a UK context, but after having suffered at the hands of man for many years, this top predator is now benefiting from our protection.

Time will tell if this pair of Peregrines will try to nest. If they do, then it will be a cause for celebration as a bird that we once almost exterminated has returned to live alongside us.

Keith Betton  
Hampshire Ornithological Society  
[www.hos.org.uk](http://www.hos.org.uk)





## PEREGRINE FALCON ON BARNARD TOWER

### Peregrine – Five Fast Facts

The Peregrine is the fastest animal – capable of flying at over 200 mph when chasing prey

Female Peregrines are much bigger than males at 1.2kg compared to 700g  
The oldest recorded Peregrine in the UK lived for 21 years

Peregrines usually lay 4 eggs and most manage to rear 3 chicks

About a third of their prey is made up of pigeons and doves

17



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## AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR PROPOSALS

Local allotment holders at Milton had become aware that Aquind's proposals to drive electricity and data supply from Eastney beach to Lovedean would require access to their plots to lay underground cables along the shore side of Milton Piece. Fearing disruption, loss of sheds, damage to crops, trees and wildlife the ploholders were opposed to these major works. This is just one aspect of the overall scheme so we are not the only people dismayed at what will be a huge upheaval in one of the most densely populated and congested cities in the UK. Objectors put their case on-line at a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate and the Council (who is also objecting) has written to tell us the outcome:-

Aquind gave in to demands to confirm they will use underground boring methods and NOT seek overground digging. They have given up an unlimited right to remove buildings or crops. Only trees below 8'4" depth might be affected. Aquind agreed to enter plots only on foot -not with machinery and vehicles – to clean up any escaped bentonite drilling lubricant.

The Examination is now closed and the decision on the application for planning permission and compulsory purchase powers will be announced in 3 months.

You can view updates on the Council site <https://interconnectorportsmouth.co.uk>

Viola Langley has been campaigning with many local people and you may have seen their **STOP AQUIND** banners and posters. You can follow their progress by visiting [www.facebook.com/groups/939949843156027](http://www.facebook.com/groups/939949843156027). If you wish to object to the proposal, she encourages you write to your Member of Parliament.



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## MILTON'S D-DAY STORY

*"We were walking down Fratton Road when to our astonishment we saw what appeared to be a line of military vehicles across Fratton bridge. They were bumper to bumper all along the road, then went into the railway sidings where there stood hospital trains. Someone said these are all the wounded coming back from D-Day. This would have been the day after at about ten in the evening. People were going over and giving them cigarettes" Roger Bryant aged 10, 1944.* In the following month, 126 trains left Portsmouth with 26,243 allied casualties to hospitals and 851 prisoners of war.

It's 2021, we have lived through another significant landmark year. All we can do to get together is to meet outside with others under the current regulations. Why not take a walk through Milton's D-Day past. The walk starts at Milton Market and takes you to 7 key sites in Milton, each marked with a yellow sign on a lamppost.

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### MULBERRY / LANGSTONE HARBOUR

#### 1 MILTON MARKET

In 1941 there was a wide range of shops, a cinema, police station and bank. Now, 4 original shops remain, Co-op, Gilberts, Chemist and Deep Blue.

#### 2 DUNBAR ROAD

Site of bombing in 1942

#### 3 WHITE & NEWTON – go

via the Canal pathway.

Local furniture factory

which built Horsa Gliders from 1941

#### 4 MULBERRY HARBOUR can be seen from Langstone Harbour shoreline

5 HOUSEBOATS were made from old landing craft and moored along Moorings Way, painted by Edward King. Continue on the shoreline path

#### 6 MILTON CEMETERY – see 232 WW2 War graves here

#### 7 ST MARY'S HOSPITAL where D-Day casualties were brought



Phoenix caissons, part of the Mulberry Harbours afloat. (Image: US Navy photo 1997/178)


To find out more about the route and each of these sites why not go to [www.miltonportsmouth.info](http://www.miltonportsmouth.info) to read the details and follow the trail. It should take about an hour depending on how long you spend in the Cemetery. It's a great way to enjoy the spring weather

# Milton Village Community Association

Milton Village Hall, 182 Milton Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 8PR  
Tel. 023 9287 3788 Email: [miltonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:miltonvillagehall@gmail.com)

Website - [www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk)

Milton Village hall hopes to reopen on Monday 12th April. Opening times will be limited and only certain groups can return then but at least it's a start! Our schedule looks something like this:

Date	Action
March	Pure Ground Coffee Shop is open for takeaways 
12 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Centre reopens for children's groups and support groups inc. Music Mad, PARCS, Baby Theatre School (new) and DMC for home schoolers</li><li>* Office will reopen 1 or 2 days per week (details tbc)</li><li>* Coffee Shop can open patio for outdoor seating (under covid guidelines)</li></ul>
17 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Remaining groups who do not need social distancing can return – all exercise and leisure groups, meetings etc. inc. Bingo and Quiz Club</li><li>* Coffee Shop can now offer seating inside as well as the patio but still with covid guidelines</li></ul>
21 <sup>st</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* All groups can now return</li><li>* Private functions/parties now allowed</li><li>* Trips and events can restart</li></ul>

*NB. These measures are, of course, all subject to change, in line with government guidelines ..... but fingers crossed!!*

All trips are cancelled through to 21<sup>st</sup> June and our first trip will be our holiday to **Scotland on 26<sup>th</sup> June**. Due to cancellations, we do have a **few seats available** – please email [miltonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:miltonvillagehall@gmail.com) for more info.

But we're working on a new programme for the rest of the year which we aim to send out in April when the office reopens!!



Look forward to seeing you all soon!





## **Baffins Pond Association Diary of Events 2021- Covid Rules Permitting**

For more information email [talktobpa@gmail.com](mailto:talktobpa@gmail.com) or call 07554172784  
[baffinspondassociation.co.uk](http://baffinspondassociation.co.uk)

### **Saturday 5 June Car Boot Sale**

Sellers from 11, buyers from 12 noon  
£8 per car, £12 car and trailer or van

Car Boot vehicle access via Car Park on Tangier Rd



### **Saturday 3 July, Car Boot Sale - As for May**



### **Saturday 17 July Community Fun Day**

12 noon to 4pm. Stalls, Arena Displays, Fun Dog Show,  
Bouncy Castle, refreshments and more.  
Please contact us if you would like to take part.

### **Saturday 7 August Car Boot Sale As for May**

### **Saturday 7 August Teddy Bears Picnic**

12 to 4pm free

Bring your Teddy for a play and story time



### **Saturday 4 September Car Boot Sale As for May**

### **Saturday 18 September Litter Pick**

12 to 2pm, meet at the Community Garden.

### **Saturday 9 October Conker Bash**

£2 per entrant, all ages welcome!



### **Saturday 11 December Grotto**

12 to 2pm and 3 to 5pm



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### **Santa in his**

£2 per child



Larry Nicholas and his wife Margaret have been familiar faces at our Picnic on the Green each year where they ran children's games and a lucky dip on the day. But there was a great deal more that this couple contributed to the Neighbourhood Forum. They were instrumental, with other committee members in planning the day. Larry was key to the hard work of setting up the marquees on site and clearing them away – it all has to be done on the one day.

Larry was the Link Officer for our Forum when he worked for Portsmouth Council in the early days when forums were created across the city. It was his job to advise us through the processes of working with the Council within the guidelines they set for forums. This meant attending every meeting and liaising with officers so each time we had a speaker at our Open Forum meetings, Larry was the one who encouraged them to attend and set up the sessions. He was so expert at this, and other aspects of forum administration, he became a Link Officer for more than just Milton and had to spread his expertise across other areas of the city.

When Larry retired, he joined our Committee as a co-opted member together with Margaret who very kindly agreed to act as our Secretary, producing the minutes of the open forums – not an easy job – and all committee meetings. The post of Secretary is always very difficult to fill and Margaret has been a great help to the forum for more years than she would wish to admit to! Our Forum has been in operation since the early 1990's and has held frequent meetings, usually on a monthly basis so there has been a lot of detail to record. We have been very grateful to this energetic and dedicated couple who have now decided to reduce their commitments for the sake of their health and sanity. At times, it is difficult to keep up the momentum when the policies and plans for the city do at times seem to be in conflict. Larry and Margaret are retiring from Milton Neighbourhood Forum but we do hope they will continue to take an interest in our activities and to keep in touch. We could not have completed the work that the committee has achieved over the years without you both. Please stay safe and accept our very, very grateful thanks for so many hours of work on behalf of the people of Milton. We have enjoyed having you on side. *Janice Burkinshaw, Chair*

**. MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE**

[MiltonNForum@aol.com](mailto:MiltonNForum@aol.com)

Janice Burkinshaw – Chair                      Rajah Ghosh  
Dave Willcox – Vice Chair  
Pam Pritchard – Treasurer                      Martin Lock  
Rod Bailey - Milton Neighbourhood Plan Chair

Kimberly Barrett                                      Lyn Mills  
Dan Brooks    Peter Mills  
Ian Clark     Reg Puntis  
Paul Docking     Martin Silman  
Dominic Goodyear

**Councillors will be subject to change from 6 May**

**Ward Councillors – Milton**

**Cllr Will Purvis**

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(07590 282135)  
[wapurvis@me.com](mailto:wapurvis@me.com)

**Cllr. Ben Dowling**

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**Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson**

39 Lindley Ave., Southsea  
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**Ward Councillors - Baffins**

**Cllr. Darren Sanders**

Flat 6, 92 Victoria Road North  
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**Cllr. Jeanette Smith**

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

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