

# MILTON

# MATTERS



Issue No. 78

MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM May 2024



***Sunset Over Milton Common – Rod Bailey***

**Picnic On The Green, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 1-5pm**

**St James Green off Locksway Road**

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## Recent News & Events

**New Website** We have a new website – find it here: [miltonforum.org.uk](http://miltonforum.org.uk)  
If you are a resident, enter your email and (just once a month) we will update you on what is happening here.  
If you are a local group, organisation or business and you want to let people know about a local event or activity, let us know and it will be shared with local residents.

**Picnic on the Green** Join us in Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 1pm on the Green. Bring a picnic (if the weather is bad we will be in the Village Hall).

1.00pm	Picnic starts
2.00	Punch & Judy
2.30	Dog Show
3.30	Childrens Races
4.00	Punch & Judy

Plus Drum Nation Tribe, the Climate Choir and other displays, bouncy castles, face painting, climbing wall, stalls and other activities  
If you can spare an hour on the day, to help setup or run the event, we would really appreciate it.

**Bransbury Park Pool & GP Surgery** With many questions answered at the Open Forum (page 11), opinions seem to be divided. Many want to see the investment in the area and welcome the prospect of a new pool with adjacent learner pool, leisure area and new GP surgery to replace the inaccessible one in Devonshire Avenue and the new kiddies play area. Others argue the design could be better, prefer the antiquated Eastney Pool be restored or worry about the impact on local greenery or traffic. What do you think? The Planning Application is live and if you have a view – you should share it on the planning portal or tell a local councillor (sharing on Facebook does not count!).

**Next Forum Meeting** Do make time to attend our next Forum – everyone is busy but this is important. We plan to talk about the local traffic and transport. Put Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> in your diary.

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## FUN & ENTERTAINMENT AT EASTNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

With its close friend, Milton Village Hall, now overseeing Eastney Community Centre, we're looking forward to making the best use of Eastney's lovely large hall! Milton already offers a year round programme of trips and events, so for this summer, we introduced 3 new events to be held at Eastney CC and we've had a great response from members from both centres and local residents!



The first event was on a Wednesday afternoon at the end of March and the hall was packed to the brim for the **Portsmouth Shanty Men** with the onsite coffee shop, **Pure Ground**, providing tea/coffee & delicious home made cakes! It was such a great

afternoon, but don't worry if you missed them, the Porsmouth Shanty Men will definitely be invited back!

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, we've got our fun '**Skittles & Scampi**' evening! Again, with the refreshments provided by the fabulous **Pure Ground** coffee shop! This event is sold out but, if interested, please do add your name to the Reserve List in case of any cancellations! (Tickets £5 including scampi & chips!)



Finally, we have an **Evening with Elvis** on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August! This brilliant tribute act brought the house down at our Coronation Tea event so we're really looking forward to welcoming him back! At the time of printing, there is just a handful of places left (Tickets £5 - bring your own drinks & nibbles).

We're already planning our winter events with a possible **Ceilidh Shindig**, **WW2 Blitz Talk** and **Jazz Duo Cabaret** so far! So, for more info on the events or if you wish to know more about the centres, please call Milton on 02392 873788 or Eastney on 02392 864306 or please email

[allisonmvca@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonmvca@hotmail.com)

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## **Open Meeting of the Milton Neighbourhood Forum 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Martin Silman welcomed a capacity crowd to the Community Centre in Eastney and introduced WPC Rachel Teal and her colleague who will speak at a future meeting. He went on to explain something of the history of the Forum and the role it plays in helping to make the community a better place to live. Paddy O'Hara appealed to the audience for volunteers to help with the upcoming Picnic on the Green on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Forty for Frankie      Lynn Timms**

Martin introduced Lynn who explained that 'Forty for Frankie' was a campaign she has launched to get 40 more defibrillators installed in Portsmouth. She said, "Being from Milton, initially my interest was just in this area. I took a two-day 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course and came away wondering where the defibrillators are that, in an emergency, we could use and for us they were at Meon Infants or the allotments if you have a key to get in. So, I thought how difficult would it be to buy one and stick it on the side of the house? Then I thought it is forty years since my mum died of a cardiac attack and there was no nearby defibrillator and although she was treated in the ambulance, she died at the age of 46 so that is how we decided to go for forty."

Lynn stressed the importance of restarting the heart and putting it into a regular rhythm. A defibrillator is an important part of making sure that you give someone the best survival option. Time is of the essence, and the recommended level of coverage is one within 300 metres of an incident. Giving time to call emergency services for the code whilst delegating someone to get the defibrillator back to the casualty. A city the size of Portsmouth would expect to have 120 to 150 incidents per year. A lack of confidence/knowledge means that only one in ten incidents are treated with a defibrillator by a member of the public.

Speaking about the 'find a defib' map Lynn pointed out that green flags were operational 24 hours a day the red ones are restricted use being in buildings. Looking more closely she highlighted the ones in the Milton area and there are plenty of gaps here.

They cost around £2,000 so she aims to raise a total of £80k which sounds a lot but there are 93,000 households in Portsmouth and 86p per household would hit the target. She added, "We are looking to get match funding I have had meetings with council and with the Milton Forum. We have set up a crowdfunder page which only opened last Monday and has already raised over £2,000. We are mindful of the need to keep up the momentum and we have had some coverage on local TV."

In addition to the purchase there are installation costs so if there are any electricians who could donate their time that would be great. Each



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defibrillator also needs to have its own guardian who will take responsibility for a regular check on the defibrillator unit.

It is not just about the defibrillators themselves it is about getting people to know where they are and to have the confidence to use them. The machines are easy to operate, and the screen prompts what to do. Once we have some machines in place, we will do awareness training which will be free but could also be a source of funding.

The crowd-funder will be up for another seven weeks although we expect the campaign will go on beyond that. If there any businesses out there that would like to purchase a machine outright, then their company name can be engraved on it a form of advertising.

If you cannot donate but feel you can help in any way or know a location, you think would be good please let us know.

Finally, the other way you can help is to look after yourselves because prevention is better than cure.

For more information (And see stop press on page 21)



Contact: Lynn Timms [timmslynn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timmslynn@yahoo.co.uk) 07851 069146

For more details & to donate: [www.forty-4-frankie.co.uk](http://www.forty-4-frankie.co.uk)

Come and visit us at the Forty-4-Frankie stand at St James' Picnic On The Green.

**Traffic & Parking**

**Gerald Vernon Jackson**

Gerald opened by congratulating Viola on the tremendous work that she and Paula had done on the Stop Aquind Campaign. It was a campaign that had the cross-party support at Portsmouth City Council.

**Eastern Road closures** have been due to Southern Water replacing the whole of the main sewerage system on the east of the island. Lack of investment has led to a series of pipe explosions. 200m lengths of plastic sleeve are inserted into the existing pipe and then at high temperature are bonded to form a new skin sealing the inside of the pipe. This work must be synchronised as Scotia Gas Networks replacing their mains pipe on London Road threatened to close two of the three routes into and out of the city.

**Parking Permits** between 2011 and 2021 an extra 17,000 cars have been registered in Portsmouth. The council is rolling out a preliminary survey in Milton north of the line of the canal. It is your choice. The area south of the canal voted not to introduce parking permits several years ago but that could be revisited if residents request it. We have learnt from London's experience and are using two-hour exclusion time periods to remove long stay parking.



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At **Bransbury Junction**, because Devonshire Avenue and Bransbury Road are offset, there needs to be two phases of the traffic lights to allow E-W flow. This slows the main N-S flow which is the root of many issues there. This led to a general discussion on the disconnect between local and central government. Many questioned why we had to keep building in Portsmouth. Gerald explained that developer's applications are always favoured by the planning inspector even when they were objected to by the local planning authority.

**Sustainable Travel** government funding has seen an improved bus service with a return of night buses, ½ fares for under 19s, and the re-introduction of 'Dial a Ride'. The International Port will soon have its three busiest berths supplying 'shore power' so ships can be charged quayside resulting in the saving of 20,000t of CO<sup>2</sup> p.a.

### **Bransbury Park Leisure and GP Surgery**

Kelly Nash (KN) of PCC deputised for David Moorman who was unable to attend. Kelly stated that this being a live application, officers must remain neutral. The Leader of the Council Steve Pitt (SP) could be called upon to answer questions.

This centre will replace Eastney Pool which was built in 1904 for the Royal Marines. The roof of that building has been condemned and there is no shallow end. 1950's built Wimbledon Park is also coming to the end of its useful life. Currently 85% of its use is for Badminton. And finally, a 1920's GP surgery in Devonshire Avenue has serious accessibility problems (upstairs) and there is no parking.

Standalone swimming pools are not viable without taxpayer subsidy, whereas multi-use buildings have been successful elsewhere. To offset the cost of maintaining the pool a dry facility studio/gym/sports hall will sit alongside pool. It is well documented that many miss out on the health benefits that exercise provides. Providing a wet/dry facility in an accessible location can help address this. These additional services which are required for financial sustainability would not fit on the Eastney Pool footprint.

The rationale for the development is based on a 2017 city wide audit of sports and leisure facilities. This was followed up by a Sport England funded options appraisal in 2019 looking at provision for this area of the city. Various surveys of the locality have shown there is clear demand in the area and that many people would walk to the facility. The learner pool was seen as an important part of the deal as city-wide there is a lack such facilities. Additional to local consultations, national groups including Sport England, Badminton England, Swim England, and the Football Foundation were also consulted along with the Hants and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (previously the CCG) who were consulted on the project's health impacts.

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Everything discussed is on the PCC website [https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Bransbury-Park-Portsmouth-Consultation-Boards\\_Final-Print\\_240314.pdf](https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Bransbury-Park-Portsmouth-Consultation-Boards_Final-Print_240314.pdf).

Using the presentation boards Kelly explained the proposal.



1-Retained Garden. 2-Community Centre. 3-e-scooter cycle store. 4-Leisure Centre. 5-Sports Courts 6-Miniature Railway 8-Play Park 11-3hr max parking. 12-Service access road. (Not shown grasscrete overflow parking at the East Car Park)

How much of the current green space will be retained? KN All of it

Will there be solar panels? KN Yes.

Will there be toilets? KN Yes, accessible to non-participants.

Will there be badminton courts? KN No, it was part of original plans, but it is not now a practicable option. We will not close Wimbledon Park until we have located an alternative venue.

How many can use the pool? Cllr Steve Pitt (SP) the Eastney Pool was 20m x 4 lane, this pool will be Sport England standard 25m x 4 lane plus the learner pool which was estimated at 8m long.

What makes you think this will be a success? SP 4 years ago, the council contract to run the Pyramids was coming to an end. When BH Live the operators opened their books, they revealed an ongoing subsidy of £750,000 a year was needed to fund the facility going forward. In the ensuing four years there has been a cost-of-living crisis and rocketing energy prices, today best estimates are that it would now require a £1.2m p.a. subsidy.

The survey showed that the building probably had ten years life left in it. To maintain the Pyramids pool would have meant cutting other council services. Additionally, use of the Pyramids pool was declining over time exactly mirroring the usage of the Eastney pool. The Pyramids has been refurbished and the floor area taken over with a techno-gym and we are now



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able to break even. The money to subsidise the Pyramids can now be used to put capital funding into this project.

At the same time Stephen Morgan MP and the Director of Culture and Leisure visited Eastney pool and the roof was moving and lifting. Before it closed netting was placed over the pool to stop debris falling into the pool. We had hoped to build this replacement before closing Eastney, but the dangerous state of the Eastney pool removed that option.

Will you guarantee underwater hockey can be played here? SP No, we cannot make that guarantee.

Anti-social behaviour is there a proposal to have a police hub? SP Last year there were several incidents and Kimberley Barrett who works at the centre and I know first-hand what it has been like. The police do not have the resources to open separate hubs. We lobbied hard for this and are pleased to have got direct contact via email and mobile to our community police officers. Kimberley has been monitoring this and the community warden presence has increased substantially, at the same time incidents have dramatically reduced.

Another benefit is there will be improved lighting from the car park to the centre and added CCTV which makes it safer walking to the centre.

Having BH Live staff on site, we will be able develop a programme as we used to when Portsmouth in the Community ran programmes here. Portsmouth is one of the few cities with free swimming for U-12s.

If BH Live get this contract, you are going to have to be so tight on service level agreements because they are not very good. SP I understand the criticism, but it is true that almost all leisure operators come in for criticism. BH Live are a charity and that is benefit to us because we can encourage them to re-invest. We are in the process of a full re-negotiation for a better set of Key Performance Indicators.

Why are you continuing with BH Live when they ran the Pyramids down? SP BH Live were not responsible for what happened at that site.

Are going to put three-hour parking down Bransbury Road? SP We already have.

When you put this in here, we won't be able to park in our own street who is going to walk from the car park to the doctor's surgery and the centre? SP It's a four-minute walk and there is no parking available at the Devonshire Ave surgery.

Locally we have Milton Park Primary, Meon Infant and Junior, Cumberland, Wimbledon, Fernhurst Junior and Devonshire Infant. All those kids are within walking distance of being able to come here and learn to swim. That is one reason why we are doing this.

This land is protected how can you build on it? SP The planning inspector examining our Neighbourhood Plan knew of this proposal and was happy to allow the green space designation to go ahead as it would not be encroached upon by this development.

How can you take away the playing spaces that we need in this time of economic crisis? SP I live just across the road and visit the park almost

# 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)

Office: 9.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri Website: [www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.miltonvillagehall.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

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'll receive discounts and advance notification of trips and events & more! Please ask for details.

## TRIPS & HOLIDAYS

We have a year round programme of trips & events. The following holidays have a few spaces left!

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Curling	Adult Ballet	Bingo n Brunch (m)	Teeny Dreamers Messy Play	Cribbage (All levels)	Private Hire	12 Step
Seated Keep Fit	Cribbage (Experienced)	50+ Keep Fit	Home Ed Art Group		Comedy Club	Private Hire
Vinyasa Yoga	Beetle Drive (m)	Weight Watchers	Folk Band (m)	Line Dancing		
Dog/Puppy Training	Iyenga Yoga	Sisters in Song (m)	Bereavement Support (m)	Iyenga Yoga		
	Tap Dancing	Dog/Puppy Training	Pilates			
		Circle Dancing	Line Dancing			

**For more info or contact details for any group or class, please contact the office on 02392 873788 / [miltonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:miltonvillagehall@gmail.com)**

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daily. The green carpeted area is heavily used but the courts next to them are not. Those to the rear are only used twice a week by the disability cycling team and we are looking for a suitable alternative. The netballers used to use those courts but moved to Crookhorn because of the anti-social behaviour. We want them back and have invested in a new floodlit court at Mountbatten.

It's not just the centre it is also about the surrounding area. There will be improved lighting to the northern pathway and a new improved play park will be open first so young children can play while the pool is being built.

Asking for a friend - Will there be naked swimming? SP No there won't be but we have already fixed that and when Eastney closed Naturist swimming was relocated to another location in the city.

It is going to cost £22m, do you have a breakdown of the costs? SP £1.5m will pay for the doctor's surgery and that will be recouped over time by renting back to them. Four years ago, Sports England estimated the cost to build a centre like this at £12.5m. In the last 4 years building costs have spiralled so now it is £20.5m. Portsmouth is not immune to – Brexit & Ukraine have affected supply chains and inflationary pressure has done the rest. Construction costs rose 24.5% in a single year.

How is it being paid? SP We have the money that we put aside after the desktop exercise that we did in Feb 2021. In 2022 inflation took the figure to £15m and inflation since has taken us to £22m. The council added to the pot in 2022 and again this year. Borrowing against projected revenue generation has had to be scaled back after interest rates became too high. There are whole host of ambitious leisure projects over the country that have had to be cancelled the bigger the project the greater the inflationary costs.

How much would the centre bring? SP We won't divulge that as it would seriously impact our negotiations with BH Live. We want them to tell us what they think the centre will bring in.

Let us be clear there is no world where we are going to refurbish the Eastney building it is in far too poor a condition. If we were to build on the land that is available, we would only be able to build a pool, changing rooms, and a reception area. Yes, we could put a gym above the pool but then we would be looking at the same level of costs as we have here. Gerald had asked if we could put this layout on the Eastney site? The site is constrained by the listed WW2 anti-invasion pill box and that cannot be touched. The Eastney site is in the Seafront Master Plan as a water sports hub and that is still very much the plan. We categorically will not sell the site for housing and Eastney will not come down until we have built this.

Asked about tree loss SP stated the project will necessitate the loss of just three trees at the same time we will plant 47 new 6-9yo trees.

The final comment came from someone who has lived here for 40 years and previously used the Eastney pool. "What I want now is a pool that I can get to and get in and a doctor's that I can get to unlike Devonshire Avenue. To me this is the answer that this area needs and it will make people want to come and live here.

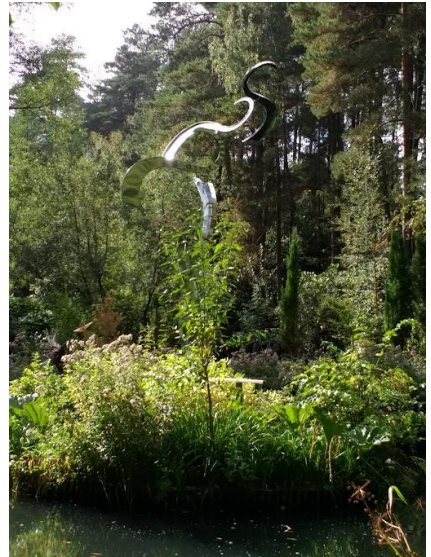
## Suggestions for Sculptures in Milton

I wonder if it would be good to get away from history and particularly maritime history. I would like to see a natural theme; to stimulate the interest shown a few years ago, which sadly seems to be waning. Put the environment back on the agenda. No plastic!

Some suggestions:

1. Bransbury Park Garden. Something forward looking with a natural energy theme. Perhaps the Uni or someone could come up with a design for something that will move; driven by the wind and sun. Taking inspiration from birds, fish or leaves, swimming, circulating, diving - casting shadows.

2. A real statement tree would be lovely in the middle there. I imagine something sculptural could go around it to mark its growth. Maybe rings for it to grow up to. Everyone could celebrate every 10 years and a ring removed



to stand at the side of the garden. In 300 years the rings of it's growing would be overlapping around the edge of the park.



3. Panels of stained glass or glass, can look lovely. Maybe in Milton Park.

4. Then there's maybe a variation on the theme of the fish with plastic bottles in. A brent goose or swan maybe.

5. Another suggestion, which could be a community project; to source materials and we have metal and glass workers locally (see picture opposite).

Other than glass (as the light goes through) I don't think too much colour suits this area and an ethos of green space, I see it as something for inner city areas and concrete. Lots of people

seem to want strong primary colours everywhere and I think we all, children included, can get sensory overload. I think that rusty metal and natural wood, even the wall up the side of the Eastern Road, look great and so in keeping.

Unfortunately, I am less keen on the people's memorial. I understand the sentiment and why it has remained there. I don't think it fits in with it's surroundings though and it should be stopped from getting any bigger! Controversial I know!

I selected some photos for ideas.

Vron (Veronica Knight)

Do you agree? Let us know what you would like to see....



# GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON



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## First New Defib Installed! 🎉



The 'Old House at Home' pub on Locksway Road is the proud owner of a brand-new defibrillator. When Lynn Timms started her 'Forty 4 Frankie' campaign to get 40 additional defibrillators in the city, she was looking for possible locations for them near her home and asked several of the businesses in Locksway Road.

The Old House was keen to help, and their customers all played their part. Landlady Heather Smith said, "we ran quite a few blackouts and put a bottle on the bar to raise funds to help pay for the machine". It was installed by one of their customers, an electrician by trade, free of charge.

A great example of members of the community, working together, to make Milton a better place to live. Thanks to all involved.

Stop Press!

Over £5,000 has been raised via Crowdfunding and direct donations

- Five defibrillators and cabinets have been delivered
- In our area
  - the first one at The Old House pub is a true community initiative as customers not only raised almost £400 but also provided an electrician and a first aid trainer.
  - Conversations are underway for a defib unit at the Good Companion.
  - independently, the Thatched House also had one installed in recent weeks.
- NB we are looking at other locations not just pubs!



To donate or get involved – see contact details on Page 9.

# GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES IN MILTON

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## What Makes Milton A Community?

Historically, a community was a group of people who lived together in a larger society but as we all become busier, and the world globalises – many of us are far more connected to friends and associations connected by interest or social media regardless of physical location than we are with those in our street.

Is Milton different? The perception from those who live in other neighbourhoods is that Milton has more of a community feel than where they live – but why is that?

Obviously, we have some positive attributes – Milton Market definitely has a village feel and however you define Milton it is mostly bounded by greenery or sea.

But to be a community we must do more than live in the same place – first we need to communicate, Milton Matters, Keep Milton Green, saying ‘good morning’ as you pass in the street is a good start – but if we each communicate with those around us just a little bit more imagine how much better Milton might be.

Let us know what you think...

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## MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Martin Silman – Chair

Dave Willcox – Vice Chair

Martin Lock – Treasurer

Rod Bailey – Neighbourhood  
Plan Chair

Patrick O'Hara – Secretary

Dan Brooks

Ian Clark

Peter Crockett

Paul Hinchliffe

Viola Langley

Lyn Mills

Peter Mills

Pam Pritchard

Reg Puntis

Paula Savage

You? ....

### **Ward Councillors – Milton**

#### **Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson**

39 Lindley Ave.,

Southsea

(02302 834551)

[geraldvj@gmail.com](mailto:geraldvj@gmail.com)

#### **Cllr Kimberly Barratt**

C/o Members' Services Floor 3

Civic Offices, Guildhall Sq.,

PO1 2AL (07447904224)

[cllr.kimberly.barrett@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kimberly.barrett@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

#### **Cllr. Steve Pitt**

C/o Members' Services as above

(023 9283 4936/ 07966 763635)

[Cllr.Steve.Pitt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Steve.Pitt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

### **Ward Councillors - Baffins**

#### **Cllr Leonie Oliver**

C/o Members' Services Floor 3,

Civic Offices, Guildhall Sq.,

PO1 2AL (07823 804896)

[cllr.leonie.oliver@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.leonie.oliver@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

#### **Cllr. Darren Sanders**

Flat 6, 92 Victoria Road North

Southsea, PO5 1QE

(07740 680612)

[darrensanders59@gmail.com](mailto:darrensanders59@gmail.com)

#### **Cllr. Abdul Kadir**

c/o Members Services as above

(07826 534614)

[Cllr.Abdul.Kadir@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Abdul.Kadir@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**Neighbourhood Forum website** <http://miltonforum.org.uk>

**Contact Us:** [miltonneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:miltonneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

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