



Milton Conservation Society

Representing Milton and Shorefields Conservation Areas

Newsletter

Spring 2010

www.miltonconservationsociety.com

Notice of Annual General Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Milton Conservation Society to be held at 8 pm on Wednesday 12th May 2010 at Barons Court School, Avenue Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. If you have never been before please do try to come. It is your opportunity to hear how we are working and voice your local conservation concerns.

Your Ward Councillors will be in attendance to answer questions

We will be serving cheese, wine and soft drinks etc and there will be a raffle so we hope that you can spare an hour or so to come along to socialise with your neighbours and fellow residents and meet up with Conservation Committee members

Nominations are invited for officers and members of the Executive Committee and should be submitted in writing to:- The Secretary, 1 Park Crescent, Westcliff-on-Sea

Notice of proposed changes to Constitution: The Society Committee is proposing two changes as follows:

- In Section 3 Objects - the area of benefit to include Shorefields Conservation Area where we are also now working to support conservation
- In Section 4 Membership - the membership to be recorded firstly as member dwellings and secondly, the number of adult occupants of those dwellings. This is to help minimise the cost of membership but to maximise the number of adults represented.

A full text of the changes will be issued at the AGM.

An Important Reminder: As we live in a Conservation area there are restrictions on the sort of changes we can make to our property and the materials which must be used to do so.



Changes which affect the appearance of the property which fronts the highway including replacement windows and doors, cladding, rendering and painting of brickwork, the creation of hard-standing for vehicles, satellite dishes and work to trees to name a few require permission to ensure the proposed changes preserve the area's character and heritage.

Where changes are made without permission the Council can legally oblige owners to correct work at their own expense. So please think very carefully before you carry out any work to the outside of your property - If in doubt please ask!

Secretary's Report: First of all, a big thank you to all our Members for their continued support and interest during this current year.

The Committee has been busy dealing with planning applications relating to proposals in this area and following up resident complaints to the Council. In particular I want to mention the dedication and expertise of the Chairman (Andy Atkinson) and Vice Chairman (Tony Brown). They not only attend our own Committee meetings but also represent the Society at the Southend Conservation Forum and the Council's Conservation Working Party which gives us an opportunity to influence local policy on Conservation and have an input into the Council's Design Guidance.

Although we do our best to resolve any issues raised by Members and have a fair level of success it is not always possible to satisfactorily resolve every case as you will see in the report of the Chairman below. A full list of the past year's work will be in the next newsletter to members.

If you are a member I hope you will come to our AGM and renew your subscription. Your membership is very important - it really does matter because it supports the Society so that it can work to protect the character and amenities of the Conservation area which is to your advantage because it safeguards the value of your property. We want the area to improve not just be allowed to deteriorate. New members are very welcome so please encourage other residents to come and join. If you are not yet a member please come and join at our meeting or alternatively complete the tear off slip at the bottom of the newsletter.

Well that's all from me for now. See you at the AGM! Jill Freeth Hon Secretary

Chairman's Report: I must start by paying tribute to our Ward Councillor Ann Robertson who sadly died in January. Ann had been a tireless supporter of our Society and the residents concerns and issues that she took up in the Council. We were often in contact with her and she spoke up strongly for local conservation and against many excessive or poor quality planning applications. She regularly attended our AGMs and always had plenty to say and to take back to the Council on our behalf. She was also a delightful person, an exceptional public representative and will be very sadly missed.

I'll be reporting on our general activities and achievements at the AGM but will just report here on our most significant work this last year. Many of you will know of the fight we have put up against the development at the rear of 14-16 St Vincent's Road where 3 houses have been built, on the back land, far larger than approved. Although this case only directly affects neighbouring residents it is an important case for development anywhere in the town. Our battle has involved many hours of representations, site meetings, telephone calls, a petition and endless emails arguing against the development. We were firstly successful in stopping 6 houses being built on the site and then brought enough influence to bear to result in a development limited to 3 relatively low houses, planted with what are supposed to be 'green' ecologically friendly roofs, being approved by a Planning Inspector (not the Council).

Unfortunately the developer then greatly exceeded his planning approval with the houses he built and we took up the fight once again. We were advised by Council officers that enforcement action against the developer would be taken but then Members at the Council Development Control Committee reversed this position, voting 13 to 1 for no further action. This was despite a very strong speech against the excessive development at the Council meeting by Councillor Jonathan Garston for which we were very grateful. But we were totally dismayed at this lack of support for local residents by these 13 Councillors and we spoke out in the Evening Echo that week. We have now launched an official complaint on very strong grounds, which we may end up taking to the Local Government Ombudsman. So the tale is not over yet and more will be reported at the AGM.

However, it does show that we are successful in helping to restrain development in our area at planning stage but that there is still a long way to go in influencing good town planning enforcement practice at the Council.

Perhaps as this is election time we should all push our prospective Council representatives to truly represent local people in Council decision making

Contact Us

Chairman Mr Andrew Atkinson - 28 Park Road
01702 437722
Vice-Chairman Mr Tony Brown - 15 Park Crescent
01702 394094
Secretary Mrs Jill Freeth - 1 Park Crescent
01702 340498
Treasurer. Mr Paul Cavanagh - 1 Park Crescent

Other Executive Members:

Peter Fitzgerald, Phillip Giles, Sally Harrup (Park Rd) Neil Lands, (Avenue Terrace) Matt Norfolk (Avenue Rd),

Email info@miltonconservationsociety.com

MEMBERSHIP – 2010 - 2011

Please renew your Membership for this year at the AGM or fill in the form below and drop it with your subs in a sealed envelope to 1 Park Crescent. Your membership really does matter!

Thanks to **MGA Printing at 52-54 Milton Road** for kindly donating our membership cards again this year.

Paul Cavanagh (Treasurer)

Name/s _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

I/we enclose £5 for membership for__adults residing at the above address.