



Milton Conservation Society

Representing Milton and Shorefields Conservation Areas



Newsletter - Winter 2017/18

www.miltonconservationsociety.com

Welcome to this winter edition of our newsletter - later than normal but that is due to pressures of time rather than by choice. We have now launched our Facebook page which should allow us to deliver news and notices in a more timely and perhaps colourful way than is possible in the printed newsletter.

Our Quiz Night Returns!

As the days of winter drag on it is time for another outing for the QUIZ NIGHT! Previous years have been successful and fun and with fish & chips included it's a night to enjoy. This will take place on Friday 2nd February at Barons Court School from 7.00 onwards - the quiz to start at 7:30.

Why not get some friends together to make up a table or come alone as we can match you up on the night.

As last year, tickets cost £10 (£5 for children) which includes Fish and Chips or a vegetarian alternative and are available now from Tony at 15 Park Crescent or Julia at 15 Park Terrace - contact details below.

Conservation Area Responsibilities - A Regular Reminder.

Do not fit UPVC windows or doors to your property where they can be seen from the road or side road. As this is a Conservation Area any new windows or doors fitted should be in the style and material as originally fitted when the property was built. In nearly all cases that means timber.



There are many other types of work where additional planning controls apply and permission is normally only given if proposed development preserves or enhances the property's character. Demolition of buildings and work to trees are also controlled.

If in doubt, ask before you commit yourself so you don't have to pay twice. The council offers a simple guide available on its website www.southend.gov.uk - a link is also available from our website.

Gavin

In our previous newsletter we marked the closure of Gavin's shop and wished him well for his retirement. I am sorry to have to report that this was not to be as Gavin passed away peacefully on 22nd September 2017.

AGM Report

This years AGM took place on Sat 15th July with some 40 members in attendance with Councillors Garston and Nevin joining us (with apologies from Councillor Ware-Lane due to ill-health).

The Vice Chairman summarised the day to day activities of the Executive Committee as it had been a busy one but felt that the area was looking the best it had done in many year with many improvements noted. including installation of railings, clearing of rubbish etc., hopefully some of this was due to the influence of Milton Conservation Society.

- Car parking was still an issue, one example was an application to create hard standing on a front garden. Advice was given, and objections were raised because of parking already available to the rear of the property. The application was refused.
- Windows, installation of UPVC windows to the front of buildings is still an issue though the council is taking action against households where this happens.
- 62 Avenue Road - the Marigold Centre. Use as a day centre by the council has stopped and the building was occupied temporarily by "guardians". This appeared to be unregulated and Freedom of Information requests were made to clarify the use of the building and demonstrate that we were interested in the future use of the building. A planning application has been submitted to use the premises for respite care.
- Shorefields - an application had been made to change a dwelling into a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) with dormer windows etc., objections were raised and the application was refused.
- Barons Court School - following an application to work on the cladding and rendering of the façade concerns were raised by

residents. Clarification was sought and residents' fears were allayed.

- Skip parking - concerns had been raised by a member about what appeared to be the parking and continual use of a skip in Avenue Road, this has been raised with the council and will be pursued.
- Britannia Hotel - although this is outside of our area objections were raised to the proposed changes to this late 18th Century building on the seafront. However planning permission was approved.
- Discussions continued about the telephone box from Milton Road Bridge / Milton Gardens site.

The Chairman also reported that the committee had decided that two Conservation Awards were to be made this year to recognise the conservation enhancement of properties in the area was pleased to present plaques to the owners of Nos. 42 and 13 Park Road - well done!

Questions asked by members comprised

- the state of the area's roads. Councillor Garston offered to organise a meeting with Highways so that a walk of the area could highlight the problem spots. This took place in September where we raised the points made by members. We were informed that each road is inspected at least once (some busier roads such as Park Road twice) annually so any defects can be identified.
- Phone boxes - Councillor Nevin noted there were two other red phone boxes in the area. Crowd funding had been used to fund repairs for one. Councillor Garston explained he had visited other areas where alternative uses had been found.
- Concern was raised at the state of the local roads. Councillors offered to walk around the area with members to see areas of concern.
- Park Road Church, concerns about the state of the building are regularly raised but no action has been taken.
- HMO's, Councillor Nevin explained that Labour councillors had suggested there should be no more than 5% HMO's, but currently the council does not have a policy

Anniversaries 2017

As many will be aware last year saw the 125th anniversary of Southend receiving its Royal Charter as a Borough in 1892 which has been marked by

events across the town. It was also 100 years since one of the town's greatest benefactors, Mr R A Jones gave Priory Park to the people of Southend for their use and enjoyment. It was particularly fitting therefore that last year saw the restoration of the iconic clock that for many years graced the High Street a crowd funded project that the Society was happy to support.

2017 also saw the 30th year of our Conservation Area which in many respects is better shape than for many years

Anniversary 2018

2018 marks 50 years since Baron's Court School opened and they are planning some events in February to mark this milestone. The Society is helping with a history of the site prior to the schools establishment but the school would really like to hear from anyone who has memories or pictures of the school since its opening in 1968 that they would be willing to share. You can contact them directly or let us know and we will be pleased to pass them on.

Window Wanderland

Imagine the ordinary windows in our streets transformed into something you've never seen before, a magical mystery tour where our streets become an outdoor gallery. Take a wander amongst these displays, see our community in a new light as all generations come together in a fun, creative way. Would you like to bring a smile to our community? Why not [start our own event](#) and share our windows with the world, it's easier than you think!

"A fantastic opportunity for everyone to get involved." Urfan, Bristol

Would you like to see a Window Wanderland in our area?

Would you like to join in?

Could you help organise it?

For more information have a look at the windows below and the Window Wonderland website <http://www.windowwanderland.com/>

Contact: Info@miltonconservationsociety.com or
Michael Mann 01702 333551

Events at Avenue Baptist Church

One of the aims of the recent improvements at Avenue Baptist Church was to enable it to host more events for the benefit of the community. Over the last year the church has hosted two events held by BBC Radio 4 - recordings of Question Time and Gardener's Question Time. Tickets were easily available to all residents and the evenings were very enjoyable and informative. It is fantastic that a local venue is able to host such fabulous events as these.

Avenue Baptist Church is also the venue for Southend Council's Walk This Way Scheme. Every Thursday morning at 11am a group of trained leaders and anyone who wishes to enjoy a walk from the Church to Prittlewell Square and back, along the beautiful seafront, meet and walk and chat and then can enjoy a coffee together. It would be lovely if any local residents would like to join this walk - just meet at the Church at 11am on any Thursday.

Conservation Working Party (CWP) now meeting again

The CWP (where the Council meets with local conservation groups) has now met twice in the last six months and is due to meet again this month. This is very welcome and an important opportunity for us to present our concerns. Chaired by Councillor Flewitt the group now appears to have new impetus and we are actively pursuing outstanding controls on things like front doors, porch enclosures, chimneys and removal of front boundary walls - identified in the 2014 Conservation Area Appraisal but yet to become officially adopted. This year the CWP hopes to make progress on the updating of the local list, where significant local buildings are identified for greater protection.

Hamlet Court Conservation

Last year we were instrumental in acting as catalyst for the formation of Hamlet Court Conservation Forum - a new local group aiming to protect the Hamlet Court area and initiate heritage led regeneration in Hamlet Court Road. Already a lot of work has been carried out with presentations to the Council, discussions with local residents and businesses, and plans for further publicity and events later this year. If you would like to find out more or add your support by joining up, please visit www.hamletcourt.org

Help and Advice

We are often asked to help residents with their queries over fences, parking or their properties. We are happy to do this but we have one qualification - you must be a member of the Society. If you have a query, make sure you are signed up and we will try to help you.

Contact Us

Chairman	Mr Tony Brown	15 Park Crescent	394094
Vice-Chairman	Mr Andrew Atkinson	28 Park Road	437722
Secretary	Mrs Julia Cannon	15 Park Terrace	340498
Treasurer	Mr Paul Cavanagh	1 Park Crescent	340498

Other Executive Members:

Jill Freeth (Park Crescent)

Neil Lands (Avenue Terrace)

Julia Lowe (Park Road).

Michael Mann, Eddie Cannon (Park Terrace)

Email info@miltonconservationsociety.com

Join us

We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and will want to help us continue the work.

We would like to thank previous members for their past support and invite all residents to support us for the coming year by taking out membership today. Your support is important if the society is to continue to help protect and improve our Conservation areas so they continue to be desirable places to live.

We do this by:-

- monitoring changes in the area,
- responding to all council consultations including planning
- keeping the council informed about members' concerns
- awarding plaques for good conservation practice for buildings and gardens and most recently for historic commemoration.
- funding the creation and maintenance of the flower bed at the junction of Park Road and Avenue Road

As a member you can (on production of your membership card) benefit from discounts at Celco Lighting and The Frame Shop, both on London Road. You can also apply for a free English Heritage day pass.

Please complete the application form overleaf and return it in an envelope with your subscription to The Hon Treasurer, No 1 Park Crescent.

Application for Membership

Name(s) of Adults	
Address	
Email (optional)	
Phone No	

I apply for membership of Milton Conservation Society and enclose £8.00 annual subscription for my household

Signed.....