

Subject: New Milton Arts Trail - Artists of the Year Competition - Land Use Request 8th August 2026

Hi Joanna and Graham

We'd like to run a few events over the Arts Trail period. One idea we have had is to run a 'New Milton Artists of the Year' competition. We had thought about holding it in the station master's garden, but the ground is still too rough and uneven!

Could we hold this on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 8th August from midday to 5pm?

We would like to erect one small gazebo and are looking at asking a coffee van and an ice van to attend. We hold public liability insurance - copy attached - this will be renewed before the event date.

The idea is to invite artists of all ages and abilities to bring their easels, paints, pencils etc to create a piece of artwork depicting New Milton. (Think Landscape Artist of the Year!) There will be prizes for children, amateurs and professionals with the winners being chosen by the audience and passers-by.

The event will be free to enter. We don't anticipate any more than 100 people at the most to attend.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Mandy Hayes and the Arts Trail Team

Friends of New Milton Station

Subject: New Forest Community Rail Partnership / Friends of New Milton Station

Dear Geoff and Graham

As you know, the Friends of New Milton Station are the official station adopters for New Milton. We have now been invited to join the New Forest Community Rail Partnership which is currently going through accreditation with a view to achieving accreditation in August. This would bring together the other New Forest stations, namely: Sway, Brockenhurst, Lymington Town, Lymington Pier, Ashurst and Beaulieu Road.

Many stations belong to these Community Rail Partnerships which bring together, not only the station adopter groups, but other transport providers such as buses, ferries etc along with businesses and local organisations such as NPA and HCC. These Community Rail Partnerships have access to much larger funding from the DfT and provides opportunities for partnership projects such as improving sustainable travel opportunities, station enhancements and encouraging business and tourism. Here's an example of an active CRP:

<https://hillstoharbourcrp.co.uk/>

We can see all sorts of benefits from becoming a member, not just for the station but for New Milton as a whole. The Friends would still be an independent group but would work with the NFCRP on joint projects.

We know that other CRP's include representatives from local Councils and it may be that NMTC might like to become involved in some way. The New Forest Community Rail Partnership are holding a 'Stakeholders' Event on Wednesday 23rd September from 12:30 to 5:00pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall. The idea is to bring all the interested parties together and they state what their expected outcome from this event would be:

'A stronger, more connected network of volunteers and stakeholders, increased awareness of the social and environmental value of community rail, and enhanced capacity to deliver future projects that benefit local communities and stations.'

Is there a Councillor who might like to get involved in this project? If so, please do let us know and we will ask [REDACTED] from the NFCRP to send an invite.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Mandy Hayes and Val Sargeson

Friends of New Milton Station