

The threat and our campaign

The former MoD establishment at Eastney, now owned by QinetiQ, is about to be sold to developers. Portsmouth City Council, whilst being supportive of our views, have given outline planning permission (subject to a section 106 agreement) for the construction of 131 apartments on the site which will directly overlook the nudist beach.

Our concern is that once the apartments are built the developers or buyers will object to the presence of nudists on the beach in front of their properties. Pressure may be brought to bear on the local authority or the police to ban nudity on the beach. We have evidence (sworn affidavits) that this beach has been used by naturists for more than 60 years and so we naturally object to the possibility that nude swimming and sunbathing could be stopped there due to the prejudices of Not-In-My-Back-Yard types.

Our campaign is backed by British Naturism which is the national organisation that represents naturists' interests in this country. Together with, and supporting, local campaigners they have attended council hearings and been in contact with the local councillors and MPs concerning this issue.

We continue to represent the interests of naturists, as well as others who use this beach, by holding regular meetings to discuss the latest news and formulate plans of action to peacefully counter the on-going threat.

What you can do to help

If you are already a naturist then please visit and use Eastney beach as often as you can. If there is a common and numerous presence we will be seen as a more difficult group to move on.

Join our group and become involved in our campaign. You can be as public or private as you wish in any involvement.

If you feel confident enough to be open about your naturist lifestyle then please promote the beach and its naturist use. There are leaflets you can download from the website.

Speak to or write to your local councillor or MP and ask them to positively represent your interests in keeping the beach for future use by naturists.

If you have not tried this lifestyle but feel that you would like to, then don't be shy -come forward. You can get in touch with the Eastney Naturists and support our campaign by visiting the website at www.eastneybeach.org.uk

Try visiting the beach, we're a friendly lot & you'll only be noticed if you're still dressed!

If you're not a naturist, and don't wish to become one, we would ask you to be sympathetic to our attempt to secure continued public use of this short stretch of Portsmouth's extensive coastline. Our experience is that people who would never strip off on a beach are usually very accepting of those who do.



**THE BEACH
BEYOND THIS
POINT IS
USED BY
EASTNEY
NATURISTS**

**Eastney Naturists'
Campaign
Summary
2006 to 2007**

The Eastney Naturists Campaign Group was formed as a result of a public meeting in March 2006. The Group's express purpose is to campaign for the continued naturist use of the beach at Eastney. In April 2007 we reported back to a further public meeting as to our progress, actions and achievements in our first year.

We were asked to continue for a further year. The following points briefly describe what we did.

We continue to represent the interests of naturists and others who use this beach by holding regular meetings to discuss the latest news and formulate plans of action to peacefully counter the on-going threat.

Local campaigners and BN have attended council hearings and been in contact with the local councillors and MPs concerning this issue

We meet regularly to discuss the latest situation and to take actions as appropriate.

We maintain a website to inform the public of the latest news of the beach and to provide an active, and sometimes lively, forum to which people may contribute their views—29,000 hits on the website - 70 members, 1300 posts in over 200 topics.

We are in regular contact with the Planning Department about the progress of the planning application.

Over the last year the Portsmouth News has published 13 articles and letters about naturists at Eastney Beach. This has been very positive reporting of our plight and sympathetic to our lifestyle. These news items can be viewed on our website in the "In The Press" section.

www.eastneybeach.org.uk

We met with the local MP, Mike Hancock, to discuss the campaign and our concerns. He listened to us sympathetically and gave us some very helpful advice.

We addressed Eastney Neighbourhood Forum (Nov 2006) – and were well received by the forum – they listened to our concerns and were very sympathetic.

We had a very positive meeting with the Police, which prompted them to carry out research in the laws about public nudity, and ended with support for naturists to go about their "lawful pursuits".

We've gathered affidavits testifying to unhindered, unrestricted use of the beach for 60+ years.

We have met with and corresponded with the City Council's Seafront Management team on the continued access to Eastney beach for naturists and all other users. As this part of the beach has now been privatised we are ALL in danger of losing access to it.

We wrote to all 85 candidates, in the recent local elections in Portsmouth, to ask for their views and support. Around 40% replied with explicit support for our campaign. Not a single reply opposed either our campaign or continued use of the beach.

We have been interviewed on local radio (both commercial and the BBC) concerning our campaign, giving more sympathetic publicity to our cause.

We took part in the PowerFM Skinny Dip in October 2006 to raise money for the Help A Local Child charity. The video of the event is available at www.powerfm.com.

www.eastneybeach.org.uk

We held a beach Open Day (30th July 2006) with the support of British Naturism—the national representative organisation for Naturists.



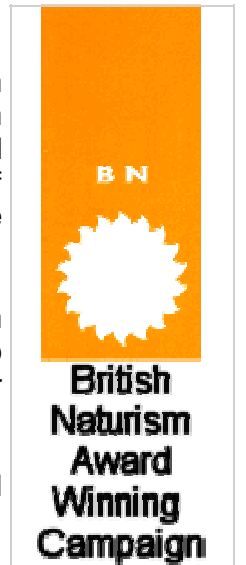
That was a very successful day where the Portsmouth Lifeguards entertained us with a lifesaving display just off-shore. In turn we raised money for their valuable service which relies upon charitable donations.

We have been active in raising awareness of the danger of irresponsible use of jet skis close to the shore at Eastney beach, which can endanger swimmers.

We have represented beach users with regard to beach cleanliness and requested more frequent emptying of bins and the provision of more of them.

Our actions and our campaign prompted British Naturism to present us with an award for our services to naturism.

We are now an established and credible organisation.



www.eastneybeach.org.uk