

Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016

1. John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes from the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July were agreed and signed off by Chair, John Rowles and Vice-Chair, Gareth Davies.
3. Matters arising – deferred to AOB.
4. **Presentation by Matt Lane, Head of ROH Thurrock (Learning & Participation).**  
Matt introduced himself as the first member deployed to work at ROH Thurrock Production Park. On site there is also the UK's first ever national centre of excellence for technical skills, craft and production for the performing arts. An interesting potted history of how ROH came to be at Purfleet was given and slides showing how the ROH are engaging with local schools, trying to inspire and help children develop skills, as well as informing the community about craft and production for the performing arts. Apprenticeships are available, and a new national college is being proposed as are additional artist studios. The Costume Centre was built in 2015 and can store 23,000 costumes, including archive items. A volunteer programme is open to local people; various tours are available at the site, some of which also include workshops - if you would like to go on a tour, maximum 20, please email John Rowles.

Questions from the floor:

How do you keep the site safe as it is quite open?

It was designed to be accessible, rather than hidden away, and there is 24 hour security, CCTV.

Are the large backdrops produced on site?

90% of ROH requirements are now made on site and have a Thurrock logo, designed by school children, on each piece.

When using the website it keeps redirecting you to the London site, is it possible for something to be done to change this?

Matt acknowledged it is not ideal and has been raised before, but as ROH's income is generated from ticket sales the main priority of the website is to enable people to book tickets on-line and check upcoming events.

Is the site going to open for costume viewings?

Costumes can be seen during tours and at certain events, such as the Big Draw on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. The ROH run a degree in costume making and people come from abroad to look at their archive and research costumes.

Please can you make Purfleet residents aware of what takes place?

Various leaflets are available tonight. If the Forum liaises with the ROH electronic mail shots could then be sent to members.

Why not put a bill board up so when going past the centre you can see what is advertised?

The site is run by a charity and it would need their agreement.

Twitter comment – There is a café on site but due to work a lot of people are unable to use it Monday-Friday, could this be open on a weekend?

The café is run by the charity, but when the national college is built it may well include such facilities that could be used by the public.

5. **Healthwatch NHS – Andrea and Samson**

Healthwatch is the consumer champion for health and social care, to ensure care is as good as it should be. The aim is for patients to be treated locally and receive care local to home. Healthwatch can take issues to boards and stakeholders who make decisions regarding health and social care and they are therefore encouraging everyone to contact them with comments/issues.

Thurrock is short of 39 doctors and it is hoped the planned health and wellbeing centres, first of which is to be built in Purfleet, will encourage doctors into the area. A Frailty Unit at Basildon is now operational with a maximum stay of 24 hours. Patients needing a care package etc. to be arranged before being discharged can be transferred to Thurrock Hospital, who have 39 beds for immediate care before transfer home.

Question from the floor:

Consultants need to be involved, are they?

No, not at the moment.

6. **AOB**

**Port:**

Potential expansion of the port – see minutes from last meeting and the port presentation is available by contacting John.

**Mill Site:**

The mill site does not belong to the council or CPRL. The Kappa site is owned by the council. The Education Authority have purchased 4 acres from the wood yard for the new school. The wood mill operating on the mill site is part of the original company

who owned the board mills. 8 acres next to the storage tanks at the back of the board mills had a planning application for surface parking for 1,500 cars granted but this surface parking is now to be a six storey car deck. Planning look at worst scenario, so if no access is allowed through the Esso site they are aware that this means all the vehicles will travel down London Road. The wood mill have a planning application to build 20,000 square metre warehouse on the north-east corner, opposite Windermere Avenue, access still through the main entrance to the old mill site. By way of compensation they are donating £60,000 so lorries only turn right out of the site, thereby Jarrah Cottages will still suffer from major traffic movement, but now both at front and rear of the cottages.

Please look at planning applications sent out by the forum and take time to respond/object.

### **Master Plan:**

The latest presentation to the Community Design Panel was not inspiring, however PCRL worked hard to make amendments and a much better presentation, to check that the plans are a fair representation of the council's vision, has been made to the council. John was able to speak at the meeting and said the Panel were mainly in agreement but some aspects were not liked, which hopefully would be sorted as the scheme progresses. The next application will be a hybrid application – part outline and part full. Another Panel meeting is due to take place shortly, date yet to be announced.

Question from the floor – is work starting next year?

Yes. Phase 1 = station area and film studios, including a big proportion of the town centre. This phase is anticipated to be completed by 2020.

### **Hub:**

Initially to be open 10:00-12:00 two days a week, opening date yet to be finalised. More volunteers are needed. It was pointed out from the floor that although people may wish to get involved, if you are working you can only volunteer evenings and weekends.

### **Road Users Group:**

Gareth and John attended this group seeking ideas as to how to relieve local traffic issues when there are problems on the bridge. This was met with some amusement. One of the ideas put forward was to shut the M25 at the A12 junction. The new car park/traffic restrictions were also mentioned, all comments being minuted including the fact that the forum had previously advised the council of the need to make parking cheap/£1 day/not construct a proper car park but rather use a rough piece of ground as otherwise it will not be used; in addition to which it will only be temporary due to the development. As everyone is aware, this car park is not

currently used and due to cost is not likely to be. A third crossing was mentioned, if a bridge it will have to be 84 metres high to accommodate shipping. The bridge owners, along with the Police, are being invited to the Road Users Group and will be asked their policies, e.g. why close 4 lanes and not 2?

From the floor there was a suggestion of a special 3D camera which makes forensic investigation work much quicker, and that part of the issue with traffic congestion is blocked roundabouts, but unless yellow boxes on roundabouts are enforced, e.g. with CCTV, yellow boxes will not help.

#### **Local Residents Planning Forum:**

John, Claire and Lynn attended their first meeting, it will be a long process but the idea is to become more knowledgeable about planning so any planning objections we may raise can be accompanied with sound reasons, e.g. air quality. The next meeting is in November and spaces are available if anyone is interested.

#### **Council Web Site:**

Information on the last presentation and a document produced by Matthew Essex presenting the plan and vision can be viewed on the council website – Committees – Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

If you create an account on the web site you are able to object to consultations and also opt to receive updates from other areas, e.g. highways. A useful Havering Council update: if you experience a power cut call 105, provide your post code and they can tell you who your power supply company is.

#### **Christmas Lights:**

Cost approx. £3,000 – no decision made as yet.

PCRL have been approached and John is going to write to the Port.

#### **Agendas/Minutes:**

Minutes are going to be sent out electronically before the next meeting. Please read the minutes before attending. To reduce wastage around 6 hard copies of the minutes and agenda will be made available at the meeting - primarily for anyone attending who did not receive the electronic version - so if you want a copy to refer to at the meeting please help by printing your own and bringing it with you.

#### **Twitter:**

The Council has not mowed the Spider Field.

#### **Senior School:**

There is a meeting with the Harris Academy regarding the new school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm-9pm, at St Stephens.

7. Next meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, St Stephen's Church, 19:30.