

## Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

### Meeting Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

#### 1. **Welcome**

John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were four new faces John mentioned the work of the forum – issues affecting the community are discussed and the forum help if they can/contact the relevant department at the Council – and that if an email address was added to the sign in sheet various communications would be forwarded, e.g. consultations, volunteering, events.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Lynn Mansfield and Adrian Hilsum.

#### 3. **Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 were agreed and signed off by Chair John Rowles and Vice-Chair Trevor Batchelor.

#### 4. **Matters arising** – deferred to AOB.

#### 5. **Guest Speaker**

The guest speaker was intended to be the practice manager of the local health centre but as she was not present Cllr Victoria Holloway kindly agreed to address the meeting, giving updates from Oliver Gerrish's input from the meeting at the end of January.

#### **Litter/Rubbish**

A question had been raised with the cabinet member at the full Council meeting, asking if the new regime covered all of Thurrock as Purfleet had not benefited. It was confirmed that Purfleet was included but that work remains to be carried out in some areas.

#### **C2C**

No more carriages until 2019 but the company will continue to look at arrangements.

#### **HGV Enforcement**

No plan for Purfleet, but the council will look to see if the area can be included within the next phase.

#### **Council Budget**

Set last month with a 4.89% rise, 3% of which is due to adult social care. Cllr Holloway said that it has been highlighted that it is not right that the social care budget be accommodated for within the council budget and that this needs to be addressed by central government.

#### **From the floor:**

Update requested concerning the road island.

There has been no resolve and the meeting was asked what was wanted in place of the roundabout - just a flat roundabout? One view was that if nothing was being done regarding HGV enforcement then a flat roundabout would be suitable as it would not need repair. Another view was that anything which made lorry movements awkward should be left in place as a deterrent and as it was visually poor perhaps a tidy up was required.

It was mentioned again that the sign for the MOT testing station still needs to be removed/covered over so that lorries do not think the road is suitable for their use, and also that the 7.5 tonne weight limit from the MOT testing centre to the entrance at Botany Quarry is ignored. Cllr Holloway suggested that photos of offending vehicles should be taken and reported to the police to make it become a hot issue which would then receive attention. In response photos were handed to Cllr Holloway and she was informed that they had also been sent electronically to Steve Lilnes. Again signage for Cobelfret was mentioned which is needed to redirect lorries away from Tank Hill Road/London Road. The response was that a large amount of signage has been requested.

Anti-social behaviour outside the shops on the Garrison Estate is a concern. This was raised electronically back in November but the issue continues. Cllr Holloway advised that other people had also complained and the area was now patrolled regularly by police who had not found there to be any issues. It was mentioned that the problem was continuing and appeared to be a core group/right of passage for youth on the estate and that some residents find it intimidating to walk past this group nor is it pleasant to walk through their smoke especially for children on the way to/from school.

School parking was discussed and Cllr Holloway reported that there has been an increase in the ticket officers patrolling outside schools. It was pointed out that not many people are illegally parked but parking on both sides of the road on the bend and close to the crossing makes it very dangerous and that some cars remain there all day. It was felt that double yellow lines by the school, enforced, would be a better option than ticketing. School parking had been raised back in November with Steve Lines but to date he had not provided an update.

Members of the Church Hollow Management Committee were in attendance and fed back that a site inspection had been conducted that day and all was not up to standard with issues including weeds, litter and moss, along with the fact that when bollards are knocked down they are not replaced, the holes simply filled which enables cars to park in these spots and cause traffic flow issues.

#### **6. AOB/Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

It was asked whether the car park charges had been lowered as previously stated - when checked yesterday the noticeboard still said £5.80 per day.

The last phase of the parking restrictions including resident parking have been signed off by the council and should be up and running by the end of April.

John Rowles and Lynn Mansfield attended a CCG meeting where Ian Wake, Director of Public Health gave an inspiring presentation and he has been invited to the May meeting. He will be asked to shorten his presentation in order to facilitate a Q+A session. An interesting statistic is that 88% of A+E attendees could be seen by their GP, indicating that the service would work well if only those with a valid reason for attending A+E presented themselves, and that an out of hours doctors service is available in the borough. It was mentioned that 111's response is frequently to direct people to A+E. The CCG no longer have funding for weekday Healthcare Hubs but this service is available on a Saturday and Sunday and it was explained that the evening service was only ever an additional service for one month, funding only being provided for that period of time. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest area in the UK lacking doctors, needing an additional 45 GPs.

John Rowles and Trevor Batchelor attended a meeting regarding forum funding. This forum receives £365 pa towards running costs. The biggest expense is the cost of insurance, currently £4,800 for all of Thurrock's forums of which there are now approximately 18 left out of 22.

John Rowles, Lynn Mansfield, Moira Pollington and Claire Asplin attended another very interesting planning workshop run by planner Kirsty Paul and if anyone else is interested in coming along they would be most welcome. One of the items discussed concerns government new home targets - if the council do not meet these targets developers can submit plans for green sites which are then very likely to be passed.

The official launch of the Purfleet Community Hub is on 12<sup>th</sup> April. It is planned for the CAB to have a presence here in the future, currently they are at the Children's Centre on the green, by appointment only. Free CAB legal services will be available at the Hub once a month on a Tuesday between 9am and 12pm. Dates available at the Hub. Next surgery to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The litter picks were very successful, but due to the large amount of litter only the area from the station bus turnaround up to Linnet Way was cleared, totalling 22 bags, 7 bags of which were cleared from Beacon Hill alone. At the RSPB there were over 50 volunteers and a 12yd skip/.76 tonne was filled. Along the Thames foreshore 52 bags of rubbish were picked up, and another 113 bags at Grays Beach. It was asked what was happening with street cleaning if residents had picked up so much rubbish. It was thought that 75% collected was removed from hedgerows. It was suggested to Cllr Holloway that extra street bins may help, one in either direction from the station sited half way towards the housing estates. It was also noted that the bin on the Garrison was no longer of use, having been burnt down. Caspian Way contractors look after the car parks but as soon as they are cleared litter reappears. There are no bins on the street in this area. Praise was given to the street cleaner who works on the Garrison and Beacon Hill. It was felt that litter education was needed but the suggestion of getting schoolchildren involved was thought to be inadvisable due to health

and safety. Linnet Way resident mentioned that there are no recycling bins for their flats and was informed that it is not the council's jurisdiction but comes under the management company.

The new forum website is being worked on and ideas for content were requested. It needs to be useful and up-to-date with contact numbers, local amenities, local groups, link to refuse collection, PCO/Neighbourhood Watch. This will be a new website based on Wordpress and is simple to use and will have a link from the old website. A concern was raised about moving away from the council's forum website. It was also thought that the council wanted all forum websites to be uniform. A number of other forums have already branched out with their own websites. If the forum experience issues by using a new website Cllr Holloway will be contacted.

With regard to the regeneration, plans should have been presented before Christmas, the latest news is that they will be presented by June and gone over to make sure that they meet the criteria laid down by the council. The council is very mindful of the Port having massive expansion plans covered by three separate applications. One for a roundabout, one for a bridge and jetties, and the third which contains the first two applications plus a 6 storey car deck for 8,000 cars on an 8 acre site and a further two car decks. As the regeneration plans are not complete the council will not be able to consider both projects side by side due to submission timeframes. It was thought that long term the Port may be considering cutting out the middleman with car sales as they will have the facilities to produce custom order cars on the site. This could have a knock on effect on road conditions if a large proportion of cars leave the site individually rather than by bulk on transporters.

Cobelfret have two pieces of land within the outline regeneration area, one being in the far southeast corner of the mill site where they have planning for surface parking of 1,400 cars, and one in the front northeast corner with a 22,000 square metre warehouse which is for the relocation of a company currently situated near Charlie Browns on the A12. A vast portion of the land to the west belongs to the board mills and only a very small part of that includes the regeneration. The regeneration site is 143 acres, generating 2,000 jobs, and the Port site is 148 acres, generating less than 1,000 jobs.

It was asked if Garrett could send round an update as there has been no communication in a long time. John said he had already requested this but as nothing was forthcoming he would send an email round with most recent information he was aware of.

Various meetings and support groups were referred to with posters available containing the information.

#### **7. Date of next meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 19:30 start at St Stephen's Church.

Guest speaker Ian Wake, Director of Public Health.

***Please remember to print your own copy of these minutes and bring them with you if you want a copy available at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May.***