

Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 29th November 2016

1. John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes from the meeting on 27th September were agreed and signed off by Chair John Rowles, and Vice-Chair Gareth Davies.
3. Matters arising – deferred to AOB.
4. Garrett Doran, PCRL, reminded the meeting that the regeneration open day/3rd round public consultation will be on 7th December and encouraged everyone to attend. PDFs will be available to download from the website the following day. Planning permission is anticipated in May.

5. **Presentation by Andrew Gouldstone, Site Manager RSPB.**

The site, which incorporates Rainham, Wennington and Aveley marshes, is the biggest and best site the RSPB have because of the benefit to people as well as wildlife, and it employs 18 staff and has 120 volunteers. Lapwings are in huge decline elsewhere so this is an important site as breeding lapwing pairs have increased from around 6 in the 1990s to 68 today. Redshanks are also doing very well, as are water voles, grass snakes and insects. The Active in Nature project encourages activities such as bike hire and children's boulder climbing. In the past year the site has seen 80,000 visitors and 4,000 school children have attended the education centre with their learning linked to national curriculum requirements. The RSPB, along with Bug Life, have had ecologically friendly discussions with PCRL regarding building design to enable wildlife such as bats, sand martins, swallows, swifts etc. to thrive within the regeneration of this area.

Questions from the floor:

Is there any possibility of the name being changed to Purfleet - the entrance is in Purfleet and the RSPB may want to benefit from the regeneration and be associated by name?

This is unlikely and the name is already used - the first hide is named Purfleet Hide, there is the Purfleet Scrape and the Purfleet Education Centre. The Forum could write and ask the RSPB consider a change of name to Rainham and Purfleet.

What are the bike hire rates and is there a discount for residents?

Believed to be £10 per day/£5 per half day. Initially there was funding which meant residents did not have to pay but this has now come to an end.

6. **Presentation by Emma, Thames 21.**

There is no statutory obligation to clear up rivers. Thames 21 has been established for 20 years and is involved in education, campaigning and cleaning up of rivers and river banks. Thurrock Council and the Environment Agency have asked Thames 21 to improve the Mardyke river and they are looking to hold an event during February 2017 half term with the intent to clean, improve access and visibility of the Mardyke. Essex Wildlife Trust will be

providing guided walks and the RSPB will be holding craft and activity events for children. Emma will provide updated information so that this can be announced in the Forum's January meeting and asked for support for this initiative from local residents.

Questions from the floor:

Does Thames 21 provide equipment?

Yes, they provide waders, gloves, litter sticks, rubbish bags etc and will have an agreement in place for the Council to remove the rubbish collected.

Can children come if unaccompanied?

No.

7. AOB

Resident Parking:

Oliver Gerrish was unable to attend the meeting and was represented by Labour Councillor Cliff Holloway. It was reported to the councillor that the first consultation resulted in a poor response, the second was not much better. The Council then made changes to the proposals but despite local residents having received two sets of paperwork about the scheme nothing further was issued to residents informing them that the scheme was being amended. The Council only undertook their statutory duty of putting signs on lamp posts and fed into council members, meaning the majority of residents were unaware of any changes. Now that residents who are entitled to apply for parking permits have received their paperwork it has come to light should their vehicles be over 5m in length or 2.2m high no permit will be granted. This important information was not provided in the consultation. Only two weeks have been given for residents to obtain permits by taking paperwork to the council offices during work hours and this is not sufficient time. Cllr Holloway responded he would take up the consultation issues with Highways, and due to the failure of the consultation suggested they attend a forum meeting. Cllr Holloway was informed that Highways had not listened to input provided and the temporary car park was also cited as another example of local residents' knowledge and input not being taken into account. A special meeting with Highways is to be convened - it was made very clear that the forum requests the meeting be held with the Director for Highways.

Questions from the floor:

Can the start date of the scheme be delayed due to the issues and not having enough time to obtain permits? – No.

Botany Terrace now have double yellow lines outside their properties, no off street parking available and are not entitled to resident parking permits. The council officers had been made aware of the potential issues if the scheme went ahead, so the question is what are they to do? – Cllr Holloway will express these concerns and make representations. It was pointed out that a quick response was needed and he stated he would raise it in a meeting the very next day.

There are now double yellow lines outside half of Riverview Terrace yet no permit parking application letters have been received by residents of this terrace. Why did the Council not listen and simply put a single yellow line through the area and enforce it and would cost far

less than a resident parking scheme? – Will try and find out why no letters were received and has taken resident's contact details to reply.

A resident had tried calling Highways regarding resident parking but was told it was not to do with their department, and was unable to ascertain from the council who was in charge of the parking scheme.

Suggestions were made that this issue go to an Overview Scrutiny meeting so residents can have a representative speak on their behalf to address this issue, or seek a formal petition at a full council meeting.

Cobelfret

Three planning applications have been submitted, one for a new internal bridge, one to knock down existing jetties and rebuild, one for an additional roundabout by Stonehouse Lane on land known as Purfleet Farm, located by the CTRL bridge over London Road. The next application to be submitted will be for a multi-storey car deck further along London Road. If Esso do not agree to allow port traffic to travel through their site their vehicles will have to travel along London Road to access the car deck. Residents were encouraged to register any concerns with the planning department and informed that there is only a short window to do this.

Purfleet Community Hub, 53 River Court

Open Tue and Thur 09:00-12:00, lending library, computers, wi-fi, printing facilities available. The aim is to open 5 days a week 09:00-17:00, possibly on a Saturday and evenings, but will need more volunteers to be able to achieve this.

Christmas Lights

Lynn and friends fundraised an amazing £530, Ensign have made a very generous donation, and along with another donation and top up from the Forum there is enough funding to have the lights on from approx. 12 December to 9 January.

Comment from the floor:

Whilst on the subject of lights, the new lights on Mardyke give poor coverage and there are areas which are in darkness.

Village/town

A question was asked as to when Purfleet lost the status of village and started to be referred to as a town. Gareth Davies responded that due to the upcoming development Purfleet will no longer be able to be classed as a village.

Notices

Purfleet Regeneration meeting 7 December – tell everyone and come along.

St Stephen's Christmas Fayre this Saturday at 11:00, all invited.

Happy Christmas and New Year wishes were extended to everyone.

8. Next meeting Tuesday 31st January 2017, St Stephen's Church, 19:30. It will be the Forum's AGM. The committee will be up for re-election, nominations welcome. Harris Academy, due to open September 2019, will be giving a presentation.