

## Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017

1. **Welcome**

John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were a few 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 Claire Asplin, Lynn Mansfield and Moira Pollington.

3. **Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 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 first guest speaker was Laura from Ategi – **Shared Lives Scheme**. New to Thurrock, The Shared Lives Scheme arranges alternative accommodation and support for vulnerable adults in the homes of people living in the community. If people have a spare room they can be paid, after checks, to take in vulnerable adults. They are people with either learning or physical disabilities, mental health issues, someone transitioning from the care sector or someone leaving hospital that requires extra help. It may be short term or long term – a type of adult fostering.

A question was asked regarding how people and carers are matched. Laura explained people are referred to them by Social Services. Carers have assessments and training over a three month period including DBS checks. [www.ategi.org.uk](http://www.ategi.org.uk) tel: 01375 802050.

**Guest Speaker**

Our second guest speaker was Roger Passfield from **Thurrock Neighbourhood Watch** (NHW). Roger is the Chair and covers the whole of Thurrock and Essex. He was asked to start an NHW on the Mardyke, due to a number of burglaries in the area. The Mardyke and Garrison Estate are currently hot spot areas and there is now a greater police presence in the area. Roger will give advice on household crime prevention, once an NHW group has been set up. He will give a talk and give out crime prevention packs. Volunteers are also wanted to join NHW. Information sheets and membership forms were available for interested persons. Roger can be contacted for further information by emailing [Roger.Passfield@gmail.com](mailto:Roger.Passfield@gmail.com) or tel: 07806 899640.

### **Guest Speaker**

Oliver Gerrish – Purfleet Councillor (in purdah) said he and Cllr Victoria Holloway attended the official Launch of The Purfleet Hub on 12<sup>th</sup> April and praised the work of the Hub and its volunteers.

### **Litter**

Littering in the Borough was being looked at and a pilot scheme (The Environmental Enforcement Contract) has worked well so far. A third party company is paid to help clear litter from the Borough, focused on Grays Town Centre, whereby a fixed penalty notice (FPN) will be given for dropping litter. It will be made sure that this is done properly and FPN's are not handed out over-zealously and should not put Thurrock Council at any financial risk. This scheme needs to be extended to Purfleet.

### **Sheltered Housing**

At the March Council Meeting, several Councillors across parties argued against planned sheltered housing charges saying they were unfair. Charges will be £900 in the next three years, previously not charged. There is sheltered housing on the Garrison Estate and in West Thurrock.

### **Roundabouts and Signs**

A report has been put in and Oliver is waiting to hear back.

### **School Parking**

Oliver told us that 15<sup>th</sup> June is National Clean Air Day run by the Council and they will be encouraging waiting parents by the school to switch off their engines.

### **Floor:**

#### **Litter**

Asked if something could be done about the litter collecting in hedges. The hedges are not on Council property and therefore not the responsibility of the Council to clear it.

It was also mentioned that items were being dumped on private land. Again this is not the responsibility of the council, unless it poses a health risk, if so, the land owner will be billed for its removal. This is very unfair to the land owner. Oliver acknowledged that it is a big issue and is unfair.

Regarding two separate items of rubbish being set alight. Oliver asked to speak to the two residents and took details after the Forum meeting.

It was mentioned that cameras would also be useful. Oliver said he would take notes and possibly arrange a meeting with Mardyke residents to include NHW.

### **Recycling Centre for Purfleet**

This is at Linford and has been improved latterly, although at quite a distance. John Rowles pointed out that Gerpins Lane dump is nearer, it would incur a cost of about £5, but may be quicker.

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

No matters arising.

### **Regeneration**

A question was raised as to why the CRO Ports scheme was given planning permission ahead of the regeneration scheme. John said he went to the Planning Committee Meeting where there are strict rules that Planning Officers have to abide by. The Regeneration Plans had not been submitted and as a result, the Planning Officers had nothing to object to. The Plans for a new roundabout (just before Stonehouse roundabout), multi-storey car storage deck for up to 8,500 cars (on the old Board Mills site) and an application for a new internal bridge on the CRO Ports site were agreed. The agreed plans will only be implemented as needed. It could be ten years or never.

### **Floor**

Further discussion was made re the car deck near Esso and the movement of cars out onto London Road. John said there is a possibility that traffic lights will be installed at the new roundabout

### **Regeneration Update**

An update from John saying that Ken Dytor says all plans are still in place, but delayed. Everything is due to go ahead as per the High House Presentation last December. First stage of the regeneration will be in the Hollow Woods area and river front as shown at the December presentation. There will be another presentation with more accurate times. Date to be arranged.

Plans for the Regeneration will be presented to Cabinet in July or September, who have the final say on requirements, it will then go to planning in October/November. Once we can access plans you will have the opportunity to make comments on line.

### **Senior School**

The school will be sited opposite Beacon Hill on the old Kappa site and they will be submitting their application in June/July 2017. The contractor will be Kier. Once plans are through, the Forum will facilitate a meeting for residents to view them. Another company will rent the site on a short term let as a means to secure the site.

### **High House Tour**

John had three tickets left for the High House Tour on Friday, two of which were taken up.

### **Thames Barrier**

The Environment Agency may need a second barrier and will possibly look at Purfleet. John reassured the meeting that this will have no impact on the regeneration programme as unlikely to happen until 2050-2070.

**Proposed New Tunnel**

Plans are at the consultation stage. It will be emerging between Tilbury and East Tilbury with a new road between Chadwell and Orsett passing South Ockendon and onto the M25.

**7. Date of next meeting**

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

*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 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.*