

Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 31st January 2017

1. John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes from the meeting on 29th November 2016 were agreed and signed off by Chair John Rowles, and Vice-Chair Gareth Davies.
3. Matters arising – deferred to AOB.

4. Update and Statement by Chair

Regeneration/Consultations

The Forum has worked hard on the regeneration plans as well as additional consultations.

Finance

£1,268.90 in the bank; £1,900.00 was spent on Christmas lights.

A copy of the formal accounts can be requested by emailing John Rowles.

5. AGM – see separate minutes.
6. Meeting reconvened.

7. Presentation by Harris Academy Riverside

The academy is opening September 2017, with initial attendance at the Harris Chafford Hundred site and run by their Vice Principal. Harris Academy Riverside will be built by autumn 2019 and accommodate 900 students/180 per year group. Initial intake will be from the Purfleet and South Stifford areas, but the yearly intake is expected to be filled solely from Purfleet once the regeneration is finished. The academy will be a full secondary school with sports hall and facilities, consisting of ground floor and three upper floors for science, English and maths, and staff only on-site parking. Contamination has already been removed from the site and the planning application is due to be submitted in July 2018. The facilities will be available for community use, e.g. evening classes.

Question from the floor:

A report has been published saying that to keep levels of achievement high Harris Academy remove non-achievers. Will certain of our children have to go to other schools?

In some areas Harris take a percentage of various bands of ability but at Purfleet they will be taking all abilities, in the first instance it will be the 60 children who live closest to Purfleet Station. This figure will increase over time and in the future there will also be a Sixth Form.

Harris Academy will be happy to return in the summer with more plans to show the forum.

8. Purfleet Community Hub Update by Jo Lamb, Volunteer Co-Ordinator

The Hub opened in October and is a local resource/sign posting facility along with offering a proper library, use of computers and printing/scanning/copying is available. It is currently open on Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm and Wednesday 3pm-5pm. Volunteers are needed to increase opening hours - training and support would be given. Knit and Natter takes place on a Thursday morning and a children's Art and Craft Club is held on a Wednesday after school. The Hub has space available to be used for activities.

Questions from the floor:

Where is the Hub advertised?

Posters, twitter, facebook.

Where is the Hub located?

53 River Court, Centurion Way and when the Healthy Living Centre is built it is planned for the Hub to relocate there.

How is the Hub funded?

Council, Voluntary Sector, CVS contributions from various organisations but mainly Council. The Hub will have to become self-supporting and is like the South Ockendon Community Centre in that it is community driven, not agency driven.

9. AOB/Matters Arising

Bollards at Caspian Way have not been replaced – this cannot be answered by Steve Lines from Highways who was at the meeting as it comes under maintenance, not transport .

Issue with parked cars by the school – Steve Lines advised that this is being looked at by another engineer and he will update John.

10. General Chat

Oliver Gerrish addressed the meeting:

1. **Litter / Rubbish – Street Cleaning performance.** Council Running a “clean it” campaign which we support. Data shows the amount of street litter and detritus has been getting worse recently. Some progress is now being made. However, it seems that it is still uneven progress. The August data showed that West Thurrock & South Stifford was in the worst condition of all the wards surveyed. I have asked the Portfolio Holder to ensure that action is taken across the entire borough not just selected wards and to target where the problem is the worst.
2. **Litter / Rubbish – Environmental enforcement.** Cleaner, Greener Safer O&S committee discussed and recommended bringing in additional resources to beef up enforcement. 12 month Pilot underway to enforce littering and fly-tipping and fine offenders. Appointment of external company to enforce this, called Kingdom Ltd. There will be two teams working around Thurrock, one in the high street, Grays, and the other patrolling around other areas in Thurrock.
3. **Litter / Rubbish – Flytipping.** There continue to be issues with flytipping in the ward. For example, in Sandy lane. The team have been relatively responsive – when I reported that one, it was reported on a Tuesday and cleared by Friday (only delayed because they needed to get specific hazardous materials equipment to clear). However, number of times things are tipped continues to be a big problem. This is clearly one of the things there needs to be environmental enforcement work on to ensure we’re catching the perpetrators or anyone that is not disposing of their commercial waste through the correct channels.
4. **Litter / Rubbish – Alleyways.** Council has confirmed that they will not put any resource into clearing alleys where they are private. Obviously big implication for South Stifford and West Thurrock.
5. **C2C** – some carriages and timetable tweaks coming through. I have challenged C2C to ensure that they are increasing the number of ordered carriages, not just bringing forward delivery from those they were going to get by 2020.

The roundabout by St Stephen’s, put in by Bellway, is deteriorating badly but the Council say there is no money available therefore better HGV

enforcement in the **From the floor:**

borough is needed with camera enforcement.

There are no signs for lorries to follow to get to the dock at Cobelfret so when following their sat navs they come through Purfleet rather than use the bypass. Signposts are needed for Cobelfret. The MOT testing station sign needs removal.

Poor air quality – the Council is pushing for a low emission zone.

Permit Parking, Steve Lines, Highways Engineer

The proposal is to have a controlled parking zone along London Road and yellow lines from Coniston to The Fleet by the end of the financial year. Parking bays will be inserted where possible just to the west of Botany Terrace. There is to be a short term parking bay outside 3 Riverview Terrace for people using the shop. From 4 Riverview Terrace through to 2 Sussex Terrace will be resident parking, Monday-Friday 10am-3pm.

From the floor:

The charge for the new car park is more than the station.

The car park charges have been reduced but Steve Lines will feed back that this is not clearly displayed for public awareness.

What is the cost for permit parking?

The first two vehicles are free, a third vehicle will cost £65.

Why does the parking permit, which has to be displayed within the vehicle, have the resident's name and address on the bottom of the permit?

Steve Lines was unaware that the permit had to be displayed, believing that ANPR was used for enforcement, and will raise the query with the parking team.

11. Date of next meeting

28th March 2017.