

Purfleet on Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 31st May 2016

1. John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Demus Lee, Jason Tuvey, Moira Pollington and Adrian Hilsun.
3. Minutes from the meeting on 29th March, including the AGM, were agreed and duly signed off by Gareth Davies.
4. Matters arising - deferred to AOB.
5. Kirsty Stokes, Principal Planner, Growth & Strategy, Thurrock Council gave a very informative, well explained and engaging talk on the Community Plan. Residents were strongly encouraged to engage with this Plan as it is the borough's long-term vision for the area including housing, infrastructures, regeneration, housing provision (approx. 920 houses per year are required) etc. It was pointed out that it is too late to shape or influence decisions by the time anything reaches the planning application stage, and now is the time to get involved.

This is a new system with the following timescale:

Scoping

Issues & Options Stage 1 - Feb 2016

Issues & Options Stage 2 - Oct/Nov 2016

Draft Local Plan - Oct/Nov 2017

Publication of draft - Oct/Nov 2018

Submission - March 2019

Adoption - Oct 2020

Gareth Davies raised the point that 20,000 houses are required but that the area needs employers to come to the area and the main growth area is in creative industries and that a mix of jobs to accommodate university graduates as well as manual workers is required.

Trevor Batchelor raised a query concerning listed buildings and mentioned Church House, Church Cottage, Church Bungalow. Church House was to be converted into x2 dwellings but there was no planning for the other 2 properties and these small Grade II listed buildings were now a pile of left-over rubble. The planning application has been cancelled and the site put up for sale, and there is great concern over Church House being at risk due to decay. Kirsty said she would pass the details to Enforcement (Richard Havis?) as there is no conservation officer at the Council.

Lynn Mansfield asked if the Community Plan went all the way from design through to final finishing. Kirsty responded that it did not go as far as layout/interior flow, and that in the case of affordable housing it would be designed according to the individual occupant's needs.

You can get involved with the Community Plan via:

Local Plan Youth/Residents/Business/Developer Forums

Local Plan Consultee Database – <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/portal/>

An electronic copy of the power point is available on request.

Kirsty is happy to return to the Forum to talk about green spaces and local community buildings which are not listed.

Yogesh from the Village Beach Festival came to promote this free event which is a family event where a wide age range of local artists will be performing, including the Community Chorus, on Saturday 16th July 11:00-20:00 at Grays Beach. On the Friday there is a mini-festival taking place for local schools, which is not open to the public. Last year 6,000 people attended this event.

6. AOB

Regeneration is coming along very well with the next Design Panel meeting due to take place soon, followed by a public consultation early August.

2 consultations have been sent round electronically, one concerning air quality in Purfleet and all were asked to participate. The other concerns proposed cycle paths, please persevere with this as it is a long document cross-referenced and includes the by-pass, river front, Stonehouse Corner roundabout towards Grays (possible no. 71), and putting in x2 Toucan crossings in this area.

Frankenstein ballet live feed at the Royal Opera House was deemed to be enjoyable, 3 people at the meeting having attended, and it was recommended that everyone try to go at least once.

7. Next meeting July 26th.