



Purfleet On Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 26th September 2017

If you would like copies of the agenda and minutes to refer to at the meeting on 28th November, please help us by printing your own copies to bring with you.

1. **Welcome**

John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Christine Rowles and Demus Lee.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 25th July 2017 were agreed and duly signed off by Chair John Rowles and Vice-Chair Trevor Batchelor.

4. **Matters Arising**

Deferred to AOB.

5. **Guest Speaker, Emma, Thames 21**

Emma reminded everyone that Thames 21 cleans waterways and said that there is now funding available to clean up the Mardyke in conjunction with the local community, and they are hoping for ongoing community involvement as a result. The event will take place on Saturday 28th October 10:00-13:00 with Thames 21 providing all equipment required, including waders. A risk assessment visit will be undertaken prior to the event. It was suggested that the start point be the sluice gates. Flyers to advertise the event are to be sent to John to distribute to Madeleine Emmerson (High House Group), Purfleet Hub, ROH, and Carpetright in case any locals work there. It was suggested that, rather than hand out 600 flyers at the school, an advert is included in the school newsletter. After hearing about the huge numbers of plastic bottles and tops having been picked up it was suggested a

competition be included for participating children, the winner being the collector of the most plastic bottle tops.

6. **General Update**

Harris Academy

Several people had attended the recent presentation and John has requested a digital copy which he will chase and, once received, will circulate.

The academy is due to be occupied in September 2019.

Comments are available to view on the Council Planning website and can be accessed by opening an account on-line; the planning application number is 17/01171/FUL.

Attendees were encouraged to log any objections/comments regarding this application, which can be submitted until around 13th October with plans coming before Council in the November planning meeting.

This is a stand-alone plan, meaning all issues need to be raised now and not left to be raised/addressed within the regeneration plans.

Objections regarding issues of light, privacy, noise and pollution can carry weight.

Groundworks are to be completed by March 2018 with proposed hours of work Mon-Fri 08:00-18:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-13:00 and an in-house concrete crusher will be used. One suggestion was that the crusher does not operate on a Sunday.

Japanese knotweed is present and the proposal is to simply fence this off due to a set budget with no room for manoeuvre. It was felt this would be detrimental for the local environment and that published guidelines for eradication/removal of this weed should be followed.

Other issues discussed included the non-existence of any pupil drop off points with no parking on site other than for staff.

A suggestion was made that any works traffic should not travel the distance of London Road but enter/exit via Botany Way.

Regeneration

There is a change of partner due to L&Q withdrawing. Swan, who are pro place-building and community, are the new partners. There is a legal wait of 30 days following notice of change of partnership after which the outline application will formally be submitted, and the full planning application will be made by 17th February 2018. There is no change to the Master Plan. Meetings for the community will be held and PCRL have been made aware that the long delay has caused enthusiasm for the project to decline.

Development Planning Meeting

John and Trevor are to attend a meeting on 27th September to promote community involvement from outset to completion of projects.

Road Users Group

There has been a lot of progress in the last 6 months regarding proposals to try and keep traffic moving, and money towards this has been received from central funding. Local Highways and Highways England have joint responsibility for the roads, but Highways England is taking over more of the network to ensure joined up thinking and best outcome.

Currently, following an incident, replacement road barriers are brought to the area from Swindon. A modular barrier, able to withstand being hit by speeds up to 70mph, is being developed and tested and is looking to be patented.

These barriers could be stored locally, transported by transit van and have an installation time of 45 minutes per section. They would not be able to be used on the QEII Bridge, which has bespoke barriers.

Work has been undertaken regarding wind speed etc and it is hoped, following more tests on vehicle design, especially HGVs, that with improved suspension, tyres and general stability the wind speed at which the bridge is closed could be raised, which could significantly reduce the number of bridge closures.

More digital road information signs, linked to each other via computer, are to be employed, and initially will be monitored. The information signs at Stonehouse will be linked into the local road network and Highways England. It is expected to take 18 months for the system to learn how to control traffic flow, at which point it will become automated. If drivers ignore road information sign instructions, which are designed to keep traffic flowing, the system will be able to display stop signs to temporarily hold traffic.

It was mentioned that warnings on the M25 gantries are needed further back than the A127 to enable traffic to leave the motorway earlier than at present. Outer London boroughs are not allowed to enforce yellow boxes and this is seeking to be redressed to assist with traffic flow.

Cycle Pathways

The A1306 cycle pathway work should be completed in October, the next section will be along the by-pass and incorporate the closure of the layby nearest Watts Woods Park. It is not known whether this is to be a temporary or permanent layby closure.

Following requests to the Council there will be a public consultation about making Stonehouse Lane one way north to south between DSV and

Stonehouse roundabout, along with permanent closure of the west-side layby. This would then provide enough width for a joint cycle lane and footpath to be put in. The section from DSV to Dolphin Way roundabout and onto the next roundabout is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic as well as a joint cycle lane and footpath. John will circulate the consultation via the emailing list once received.

Backstage Centre

The Backstage Centre has offered use of one of its rooms to the Forum free of charge. Attendees agreed to holding the November meeting there on a trial basis and in the hope that residents living close by might attend. Concern was raised regarding walking distance. Anyone unable to attend due to lack of transport was asked to get in touch with John to arrange a lift.

There has been the offer of a tour of the Backstage Centre. People were invited to contact John to state their preference of daytime or evening and arrangements for a tour will then be made based on majority preference.

Fundraising

Rachael Foxley was introduced as fundraising committee member and told the meeting about arrangements made for a pub quiz to try and get the community together and raise money towards the Christmas lights. This will take place on Friday 27th October, 19:30 start, Royal Hotel, £1 entry to encourage people along - if successful entry price to be increased - and a donation bucket will be available during the evening for extra contributions. The cost of the lights is £1,900. An appeal letter is to be sent to local businesses including Cobelfret, Harris Academy and Carpetright. It was mentioned that Ensign always makes a generous donation to this appeal.

7. Matters Arising/AOB

No matters arising.

A variety of leaflets were shown and available to take away, including:

Living Well Evening – 27th September 18:00-20:00

Heroes Wanted – litter pick on the Mardyke, meeting at the alleyway of Fanns Rise/Water Lane, 1st Oct 13:00-15:00, please bring your own gloves/spade

Pumpkin Carving – free event, High House, 29th October 11:00-16:00 Meet your Anti-Social Behaviour Officer – Purfleet Hub Thursdays 10:00-12:00 High House Group are to hold an event on St. George's Day 2018 and a Dovecote Festival in April 2018.

Residents were made aware of a facebook forum group called Purfleet RM19. Cllr Cliff Holloway apologised as, having just returned from the Labour Conference, he was unable to provide any updates but said he would stay

behind after the meeting in case anyone had any issues they wanted to raise with him.

8. **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 28th November, 19:30, Backstage Centre, Vellacott Close, Purfleet.

If you are unable to attend due to transport issues please contact

chair@purfleetcf.org.uk

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