

Purfleet on Thames Community Forum
 Minutes of open meeting held Tuesday 22nd February 2011
 Venue: Barn High House Complex

No	Item
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>John Rowels, Chair of Purfleet Community Forum welcomed everyone to the second Open meeting of the forum for 2011 and the first to be held at the Barn High House.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Councillor Oliver Garish, Councillor Val Morris-Cook, Demus Lee</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>Minutes of 25th January 2011 were approved as a true record. To save on printing costs, John suggested that minutes will no longer be printed as they used to. As much as possible, members should print it out themselves as a way of helping the forum make those savings.</p>
4.	<p>Updates/Matters arising from Previous Meetings (28th Nov '10/25th Jan '11)</p> <p>Parking outside Purfleet Primary School: Bollards will be put along the road outside to prevent parents from parking on the pavements. These have been proposed as part of the 2011/2012 Integrated Transport Programme (subject to programme being confirmed). Tank Lane has already been closed off due to works being carried on the cliff face. Current parking arrangements for residents down the school will remain for the time being. Meanwhile yellow lines have been put at the junctions to deter parents from parking there. There will be zero tolerance and tickets will be given to those flouting the rules.</p> <p>Welcome to Purfleet: Cobelfret has agreed in principle that the sign can be installed on their land to the east of Jarrah Cottages. The council is currently negotiating the funding from Bellway Homes.</p> <p>Traffic queues on London Road: It is not clear what causes the queues. Cobelfret suggests their operations should be one significantly contributing to the problem. Network Rail has however advised that the only solution would be for the operator to change their operation to avoid the HGV arriving simultaneously during those peak times. The council has asked the operator to investigate this.</p> <p>Purfleet Bypass: cost estimates for bunding and high kerbs are being looked at. Once these are clear, the best options will be decided, subject to the approval of the utilities in the area.</p> <p>Councillor Andy Smith confirmed that the plan for Purfleet Pride was still going ahead but there were a few remaining parcels of land that still had to be acquired before the project could start. It should be noted that there doesn't seem to be any timescale attached to this project.</p>
5.	<p>Guests Speakers</p> <p>Kris Radley (Sustrans)</p> <p>Kris, the Sustrans Area Manager for Essex, made a presentation about the plans for expanding the cycle network in Essex. The objective of Sustrans is to improve access to sustainable services through cycling and to promote cycling as a sustainable</p>

alternative to driving. The Company oversees about 12,000 miles of cycle network, promotes safer roads to schools and also make connections between towns divided by roads with funding from the BIG Lottery Fund. Sustrans collaborates with the council's sustainable transport teams to influence the way funds are spent on transport.

The company has been given a community fund by the Thurrock and Thames Gateway Corporation to undertake a feasibility study on developing cycle paths in Purfleet. This is to complement other studies which have been done already for Thurrock. A consultation process to develop the cycle network in Purfleet has been ongoing for some time. Kris came to the forum to continue with this process, not to over consult, but to solicit for more ideas and suggestions from residents in order to ensure that needs are appropriately reflected in any final decisions taken and that the different consultation processes link up.

The two projects being considered are:

1. The link from the RSPB centre to Davydown and Mardyke way with a potential link to Aveley (the objective is facilitate access of residents to green spaces away from heavy traffic); and
2. The Thames estuary park (all the way to Shoeburyness).

These projects are all in the indicative stages as Sustrans talks to land owners and voluntary groups to get a better understanding of what exists or does not exist in the communities.

Residents raised the following issues which have been raised in other forums but haven't yet been addressed:

1. How unsafe roads are for pedestrians and the desperate need to provide safe access for pedestrians as well as appropriate paths for cyclists.
2. The need for public education on codes of conduct where cyclists and pedestrians share the path as well as putting up signs to avert possible accidents.
3. The need for a cycle path near the bypass at the Circus Tavern.

Other issues raised include maintenance of the existing footpath from the station to the river (all the way to the seawall), the lack of pedestrian access behind the royal hotel as well as how lovely a path like the Thames estuary park (all the way to Shoeburyness), leading to Grays and properly maintained would be.

Kris stated the importance of building support for a stronger voice in order to influence the council's decisions. The aim of Sustrans, he mentioned, is not only to build cycle networks but also show residents existing alternative routes which are safer to use. Kris gave out some cycle maps to help residents locate where existing cycle paths are.

On the proposed projects, residents suggested breaking the routes and also linking two ends of the cycling route with a point of interest is an approach that Sustrans could consider. Kris also mentioned that the project will be linked to cycleway 13 and will affect industries in the long term. Kris will keep the forum informed on the progress of the consultation process.

6. Meetings Attended and Correspondence

No new meetings were attended.

7 Business Discussion – Ideas on how to take the forum forward, Fundraising

	<p>The committee proposes doing a big launch of the forum at the Barn with a community picnic to be done early in the school holidays and a boot sale at St. Stevens early in September to raise funds for the forum. It was mentioned that all the councillors have a budget of £2000 each for projects but they need to agree on what to use it on. The forum could explore getting some funds from the councillors too.</p> <p>Committee Membership Gareth nominated Larry to fill the vacant committee position. This was seconded by Moira Pollington and unanimously approved by members.</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Julie Smith, one of the residents living opposite the Royal Hotel raised concerns about the lack of proper consultation by the council before proceeding to implement parking restrictions. The council has already started putting paint on the road without the knowledge of residents. Residents are not only concerned about this but about the fact that they approached the council four years ago to discuss issues around parking at which time permits for residents were proposed. The council felt that there was no one to monitor residents so they did not buy into the idea. Residents are questioning why the council are not considering parking permits now if they can monitor restrictions. Responses from following up on this have been unsatisfactory (for example telling residents that the consultation was advertised in the Gazette when the Gazette is no longer produced) and residents would like the committee to follow up to ensure that the consultation which was meant to be closed on Thursday 24th of February is postponed to ensure wider participation. 2. The need for bollards on Northhead road and Southgate to stop parking around the corner. 3. For parking issues on Coniston Avenue, the Management Company of the estate have to be informed.
9.	<p>Date and Venue of Next Meeting 29th March 2011. If it is possible, members would like to have the meeting at the refurbished Barn on the High House complex.</p> <p>Nathan from Highways will be invited as the guest speaker for the next meeting. Councillor Val Morris-Cook will be invited to come for the meeting in April.</p>
10.	<p>End of Meeting</p> <p>John both thanked everyone attending the meeting and hoped to see everyone at the next meeting.</p>