

## **PURFLEET ON THAMES COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING (MINUTES FOR 29<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2013)**

**15 Attendees inc John Chair/ Demus Vice Chair/ Lynn (Apology)/ Steve C/Sec...**

**John** welcomes local community to meeting. On this occasion no introductions are made as there were no new faces.

John went through the minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**Paul** (Local Police liaison officer) was absent due to work commitment. John to attach Oct/Nov crime file (**see attached**).

**This month we have 3 speakers, Alison Campbell re 'Greening Projects' and Faye Spencer with Eleanor Conway from the 'Family Information Service'.**

**Alison** started by first saying that the footpath down to the museum is unadopted which is why it is made up of some gravel and some unknown finer material. It is understood for those community members that have used it not to be user friendly.

She also mentioned that Spider field Park will have internal seating.

There are currently 3 Town and Village Greens in the borough and we were told that these spaces will be kept this way for at least the next 20 years. As well as the Mardyke site which also has the same status as 'Green Belt'.

If you want to know more info then follow the links on the Thurrock Council Website/greening projects.

**Faye from FIS** which is based in Gray's started off by first saying they provide an impartial service for parents, carers and children up to 19 years of age.

From September 2010 all 3 and 4 year olds attending an early years setting can have up to 15 hours of **FREE** early years provision per week.

The minimum offer is: 3 hours a day over 5 days of the week **OR** 5 hours a day over 3 days of the week. You can even split your 15 hours entitlement between two providers if you need to. Some providers allow you to pay for extra childcare over and above the free 15 hours if you need it.

Every setting will offer different packages, so please contact them directly for further details including availability of linked sessions (2 session's running back to back). Parents may not always get their preferred pattern of free entitlement at their selected provider.

Funding is available for a minimum of 38 weeks per year but can be stretched up to 52 weeks and the funding spread appropriately for children in full day care. You need to contact your provider to see if they deliver this service.

Yes, all children attending childcare in Thurrock are entitled to the funding. Please check in the FIS leaflet at the table format to find out when your child will be eligible.

Faye joined the council in 1999 for your information.

**Eleanor from FIS** then mentioned re promoting 2 year old funding, which entitles you once assessed to income support, JSA and Tax Credits. FIS will help support parents whilst they find a full time placement for a 38 week funding.

It was noted from one of our committee members that in RM19 on the 'child minders' website, there are already too many child minders. It was noted Ms Louise Hunt from Thurrock Council will have to deal this request/possible problem. Ofsted are responsible for all costs, insurances, CRB checks and 1<sup>st</sup> Aiders are current in their life saving skills. This can all take up to 6 months to register in which Ofsted send through daily down loads on how lists are updated. If you would like more information then check out the website [www.askthurrock.org.uk](http://www.askthurrock.org.uk)

It's up to you where you use your child's free entitlement. There are a variety of places to choose from that provide children with good quality early years education.

**These include:**

Full Day care Nurseries

Pre-schools/Playgroups

Accredited Child-minders that are part of a Child-minding Network

Local Authority Nursery Schools

Nursery Units within an Infant or Primary School.

**Ofsted inspection reports can be viewed on [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Inspection-reports)**

Thurrock Council aims to have a variety of childcare provision in all areas so that families have more choice about which providers they use. We want you to have a selection of quality, flexible options to choose from, and together with 15 hours, this means greater choice in enabling you to balance your work, family needs and childcare options.

So if your child is already attending one of Thurrock childcare providers, arrange to talk to them. They will be able to tell you what they offer and what you need to do. If your child has not yet started at an early years provision, you can find out about local providers by calling the **Family Information Service (FIS) on 01375 652801.**

John then went on to say about any other matters arising and was so extremely angry and said ----- to the council for neglecting to help re the uplands footpath lighting. So having written to the Chief executive of TC the lights are **NOW** working...**well done John!!!**

John has referred the speed limit of 60MPH on the 1306 to Basil Jackson, to get the limit reduced to an ideal 30/40MPH so as to deter any future fatalities.

**\*\*John was requested to deal with the Purfleet sign at the children's centre ASAP please  
\*\***

Finally 'en-sign' have helped in funding this year's Christmas lights in Purfleet, so that has to be fantassstic newwwws for the community.

Please put your vote in for a Xmas drink and nibbles for the members and committee team sometime in December 2013... Thank you all.

Minutes taken by S. Mazza MCFA (CG) ACF