



# Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

## Meeting Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

*If you would like copies of the agenda and minutes to refer to at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 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 Lynn Mansfield, Gareth Davies and Roger Passfield.

### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were agreed and duly signed off by Chair John Rowles and Vice-Chair Trevor Batchelor.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

Deferred to AOB.

### 5. **Guest Speakers**

#### **National College Creative Industries, Backstage Centre: Principal - Jane Button; Vice-Principal - Caroline**

An introduction to the background of the college was given. The building was gifted, and High House Production Park has given them a long lease. The NCCI would like the opportunity to share their resources with the community and host community events such as the forum meeting this evening.

The college opened in 2016 with 12 students, offering a small selection of Level 4 diploma courses. This year there are 30 students and 80 apprentices and plans are for increased numbers in the future. Courses are being promoted within local schools and NCCI look forward to bringing real job opportunities to local people. Most students come from the Essex area but due to the unique courses on offer some travel in from Sudbury, Aylesbury, East London and Orpington. Transport infrastructure can impact students and therefore the college is working with the council in this regard.

When asked if they intend to be a national or even international college the response was that as a new business they recognise they need to grow slowly

and in year three will be looking at their business strategy. Their priority is toward those aged between 16 and 18, and apprenticeships.

An invitation was given to drop in at their reception should anyone wish to have a look around. Please email John if you are interested in a tour.

### **Kirsty Paul, Principal Planner, Growth & Strategy**

It was explained that the Local Plan is a document which sets out how the borough will change over the next 20 years. The Issues and Options stage is being discussed, e.g. HGVs, lack of affordable housing, anti-social behaviour. Kirsty spoke about the need to make planning more accessible which would then allow feedback to the council. As people see themselves as part of a local community rather than part of Thurrock there are plans for community engagement days which are to be interactive, without the need to read jargon, or for the need for input to be repeated to other relevant departments within the council as officers from a range of departments will be present. Suggestions for interaction include 'story boards' – residents say what the area used to be like, what it is like now, what they would like to see in the future.; 'priority ladder game' – e.g. pedestrianisation, work on a local park; 'model of an area' – each community where an engagement day takes place has a model/map of their area where people can point out issues such as anti-social behaviour/make suggestions such as health and wellbeing, land use opportunities; 'wall of fame' – what makes Purfleet 'Purfleet', e.g. viewpoint of bridge, a special place in the area, an architectural style which could be reimagined in future development e.g. Dutch gable ends reimagined in a modern architectural design.

There is a Local Plan Residents Forum to support, check, challenge and debate. Planning awareness is increased through attending, e.g. how best to raise objections which carry weight. Additional members to this group would be welcome.

Cllr Gerrish stated that nothing is more influential than the Local Plan as it will shape the future of Thurrock.

## **6. General Update**

### **Regeneration – Garrett Doran, Engagement Programme**

The new partners, Swan Housing Association, were formally appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> November and have just won Housing Association of the Year 2017.

The outline planning will be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Site investigation works are required, details before Council on 29<sup>th</sup>

November. Residents will receive notification regarding works being undertaken by Keltbray - operating hours to be Mon-Fri, 09:00-17:00. Yarra site to have cabins in situ for use of Keltbray staff. Investigations to take 10 weeks and include trenches and bore holes.

Hoardings to be erected - Tracey Luck and the Design Panel to contribute ideas as to what should appear on the hoardings and try to engage young people in the process to reduce likelihood of vandalism.

Studios going ahead, probably concurrently with Phase 1, and anticipate that in the future they will work with the studios proposed in Dagenham.

PCRL very much want the community to continue to be engaged in the regeneration.

**From the floor:**

It has been almost a year since the last time any progress has been mentioned and PCRL should have handled this void and lack of communication far better than they did to ward off doubt and cynicism.

Are webcams to be utilised?

Yes, construction webcams will be on site.

Are there plans for adequate broadband across the whole area?

Yes, black fibre, and wi-fi being considered for the whole area.

It was pointed out that home broadband is different to wi-fi and that some residents currently experience issues with their home broadband and it would be good for all residents to benefit from a good connection.

School construction programme.

This is separate to the regeneration.

The groundworks application is thought to be for 7 day working - Cllr Gerrish to check the details.

7. **Matters Arising/AOB**

No matters arising.

**Roads:**

Public Notice re potential one way on Stonehouse Lane to facilitate cycle path, closing date for comments 10<sup>th</sup> December.

There is a borough-wide cycle path project, for which the council says it has received a lot of requests, and as funding is available it will not be paid for out of the council's budget.

Bypass closure west to east in 2018 to move the lamp posts out of the new cycle path currently under construction.

Realignment of Purfleet Road with the A1306 - junction to be controlled by traffic lights.

Parking restrictions to be extended along London Road by Vellacott Close. Vehicles parking off the road, on the grassy area alongside double yellow lines, can be ticketed and fined by the council. It was pointed out that it had been agreed that visitors to Jarrah could park in the car park at High House Production Park, but letters have been placed on such vehicles informing them they cannot park there. John Rowles is in communication with Steve Lines and elected members to try and get something in place to facilitate parking along by Jarrah.

It was brought to the Forum's attention that there have been near misses with drivers not stopping for red lights at the pedestrian crossing next to the school. Cllr Gerrish to take this issue to Highways.

The recent speed strips only recorded a small number of vehicles speeding, not enough to warrant action. Before the end of the fiscal year a 'slow' sign will be painted on the road surface. Speedwatch was mentioned but it was pointed out that this would not be effective against cars falsely registered or unregistered drivers, also that as tax discs are no longer required to be displayed it is not possible to spot untaxed vehicles on the roads. There are static sites for speed traps at the entrance to Esso and the RSPB. No information was known about the speed traps seen at the railway station. Discussion took place concerning parked vehicles being hit and the feeling that court sentences are not harsh enough. More information regarding Speedwatch to be obtained. Cllr Gerrish mentioned design safety improvements, e.g. moving central lines, and that this should be considered within the town centre regeneration.

### **Forum Website Links**

We no longer see Police representatives at the meeting or receive crime information for the area, but there is a link on the Forum website to Police UK where you can look at crime statistics for an area.

Trevor offered to put a link to the government website where you can enter car registrations to check if they are taxed. Insured vehicles should appear on the Motor Vehicle Database.

### **Quiz Night & Donations**

The quiz night raised £105 towards the Christmas lights, and donations were gratefully received from Ensign, PCRL, Thurrock Housing and Kier.

### **Cobelfret**

All plans were passed. This is likely to be a 10-year ongoing project as the company expands. The roundabout and 6 storey car deck on the Mill site will affect residents and it was asked why the council passed the plans when there are already huge issues with air quality in the area. Cllr Gerrish said that at the meeting the council stated that it was within boundaries and the potential 217 jobs created over-ride all other issues. It was said that a proper transport plan along with proper roads for HGVs is needed for the area.

### **Change the Name**

What comes to mind when you first think of Purfleet, is it industry? In Edwardian/Victorian times Purfleet was known as Purfleet-on-Thames. It was a destination place of choice for many Londoners. People came to enjoy the river and rural pleasures of this once popular village. As Purfleet progresses into a new town it would be great to incorporate its history and, at the same time, revive the feeling of it being a place to be enjoyed and a go-to destination by once again calling it Purfleet-on-Thames in readiness for the huge changes the regeneration project will be bringing. It is recognised that not everyone will feel the same about a name change and the Forum will be contacting the council to find out formal requirements, including the need for consultation.

### **Upcoming Events:**

National College Creative Industries Open Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
St Stephen's Christmas Fayre and Christmas Lights switch on – 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Nominate Your Community Star – closing date 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Stop The Hate – Essex Police Hate Crime Officer at Purfleet Community Hub on 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Forum Quiz Night at The Royal – 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Wrestling at the Backstage Centre - 16<sup>th</sup> December

### **8. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 19:30, venue to be confirmed.  
This will include our AGM and election of committee members.  
If you would like to become a member of the committee please get in touch.

If you are unable to attend due to transport issues please contact  
[chair@purfleetcf.org.uk](mailto:chair@purfleetcf.org.uk)

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