



# Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018

*If you would like copies of the agenda and minutes to refer to at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018, please help us by printing your own copies to bring with you.*

1. **Welcome**

John Rowles welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining to first time attendees the purpose of the forum and that it is a non-political, non-racial and non-religious group.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Demus Lee.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were agreed and duly signed off by Chair John Rowles and Vice-Chair Trevor Batchelor.

4. **Matters Arising**

Deferred to AOB.

5/6. **AGM**

Meeting paused for the AGM, minuted separately.

7. **Guest Speakers**

**Andrea Valentine from Healthwatch:**

The STP (Sustainability Transformation Partnership) is looking to reduce Basildon, Chelmsford and Southend Hospital Trusts' deficits by streamlining services - e.g. one HR department, one specialist scanning machine, although the proposal for only one A&E has been withdrawn due to public feedback.

There are proposals to close Orsett Hospital and for some of their current services to be delivered locally in four new IMCs (Integrated Medical Centres) which are to be built in Purfleet, Corringham, Tilbury and Grays.

The IMCs will be independent of GP surgeries but not all facilities will be available at each of the IMCs.

Minor Injuries is to be moved to Thurrock Community Hospital.

It has yet to be decided where renal, ophthalmology and musculoskeletal services will be sited, and whether or not they will be offered within Thurrock.

A transport service is proposed to assist family members to visit relatives who, in order to receive specialist services, have been transferred to a hospital outside the local area. It is not known how or where this service will operate, what it will look like, or what the eligibility criteria for transport will be. Attendees were encouraged to complete a short survey, forms being available that evening, and which can also be obtained from Healthwatch. If the survey does not address the question you wish to ask make sure you write the query you would like answered in the comment box.

Healthwatch has already asked the STP why information regarding Thurrock is not mentioned until 50 pages in, also insisting that a separate document concerning the proposal to close Orsett be produced. There are links available to this document on the Healthwatch website, and various web addresses regarding the proposals and consultation are listed on today's agenda.

Cllr Gerrish encouraged everyone to get involved with the consultation which closes on 9<sup>th</sup> March, saying there are concerns as to how the consultation is being run, the lack of public awareness and the number of events taking place, information concerning the capital receipts from Orsett, the lack of details about services being split across the IMCs and how, in the future, if a service is only offered in one IMC it would be easier for the provision to be withdrawn.

John and Trevor to approach Wendy Smith who leads STP Thurrock to see about the possibility of being included in meetings.

**Thames21, Lawrence Beale-Collins:**

An application has been made to work on the lower Mar Dyke section of river between the railway and the sluice on the Thames.

Due to its depth it is a challenging stretch of river to access. Despite this Thames21 would like to realize the area's potential.

Invertebrate sampling takes place monthly which gives an indication as to how clean the river is. The bottom of the river in this location has never been seen due to large amounts of silt.

Thames21 is to meet with the RSPB's Learning Outreach Officer to find out how best to work with schools and aims to engage with the local school and residents to create a team of volunteers. This team would then be responsible for arranging their own events and projects, but would receive support from Thames21.

Volunteers benefit from a sociable activity and sense of accomplishment, learn about health and safety and undertaking risk assessments.

Please get in touch with Thames21 if you have any ideas about the river and what could be done with it as the river clean up does not fall within the scope of the regeneration.

It was suggested a good start would be the clearing of the river on both sides of the road by the bailey bridge.

River ownership was queried and the general rule of ownership was outlined. Chris Varney, marine and freshwater biologist, offered his assistance.

On February 16<sup>th</sup> there will be habitat management, shears provided, alongside the path at the bottom of Tank Hill Road.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Great British River Clean event takes place, volunteers to meet at the Spider Field.

8. **Regeneration**

Six public comments have been made about the outline planning application. In March PCRL are attending a property exhibition in France and will be exhibiting the scheme.

9. **General Update**

Handouts have been produced detailing the tabs on the new website and the type of information which can be found under each tab, including press releases.

If you would like anything specific added to the website please contact Trevor.

10. **Matters Arising/AOB**

No matters arising.

**Change the Name**

Currently the name of Purfleet is associated with industry and the Garrison Estate. As Purfleet will alter considerably the vast majority of those present were in agreement that a name change would contribute towards creating a new identity for the area and there was overwhelming support for the rebranding of Purfleet to Purfleet-on-Thames.

PCRL will be using the name Purfleet-on-Thames when exhibiting their scheme at the Property Exhibition.

It was reported that the Council were positive about the proposal to change the name and also, as it is the postcode which dictates mail delivery, it will not matter whether people opt to use Purfleet or Purfleet-on-Thames within the postal address.

**From the floor:**

Are there any cost implications?

It was thought that PCRL or the council would foot the bill regarding signposting and that it would not affect council tax bills.

There is no pier so why 'on-Thames'?

The sea wall is to be raised so the river will be clearly visible when walking along the new boulevard and jetty.

### **Name a Road**

Everyone was encouraged to think about putting forward road names for consideration. Submissions would need to include the reason for the suggestion.

Gareth Davies suggested Davies Road stating he has been volunteering in Purfleet since 2001.

A leaflet has been produced to distribute to residents to promote this and to encourage engagement.

### **Cllr Gerrish**

In February the annual council budget is to be set and is to increase significantly.

Yellow lines by the school should be in place by the end of the fiscal year and a request to replace the wooden posts around the green has been submitted.

School parking in Mulberry Drive has become an issue but it was understood that yellow lines were not permitted in this area. Cllr Gerrish to take this up.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March (incorrectly shown as 28<sup>th</sup> March on today's agenda).  
19:30 start, venue to be confirmed (possibly the Backstage Centre).

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