



Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 27th March 2018

If you would like copies of the agenda and minutes to refer to at the meeting on 29th May, please help us by printing your own copies to bring with you.

1. **Welcome**

John Rowles welcomed everyone and outlined meeting etiquette which assists in the smooth running of meetings, especially at St Stephen's due to their acoustics. Members were informed that much work has been undertaken on our website and lots of information, including meeting minutes, can now be viewed online.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Demus Lee, Gareth Davies, Laurence Pitt, Jason Tuvey, Rachael Foxley and councillors Oliver Gerrish and Victoria Holloway.

3. **Guest Speakers**

Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways, accompanied by Mark Mixture, Highways; Gary Shilling, Engineer and Network Manager.

John introduced Julie, saying they had met at an Emergency Procedure Meeting where it had been said that if an area needed to be evacuated the Police would work with Highways to undertake this.

Julie explained that not everything presumed to be handled by Highways comes under their remit, e.g. strategic matters such as new roads, yellow lines, are handled by Planning & Place colleagues.

Environment includes repair, maintenance and flow.

Network management looks at scheduled planned works, which are limited and monitored, and takes note of emergency unplanned works.

From the floor:

How will pedestrians cross over the new railway bridge?

There will be a path either side of the bridge.

Keep left signs have disappeared from Meads Corner to Arena Essex.

Can the new lights at the bottom of Purfleet Road/Arterial Road be made sensor lights so that they only stop traffic on the Arterial Road when a vehicle wants to turn into/out of Purfleet Road?

As the lights are new they will be monitored to see if improvements can be made to link with the set of lights at Tank Hill Road.

Traffic outside the school is very dangerous.

Police say contact the council and the council say contact the Police.

Julie confirmed the council deal with the zig-zag lines/parking and the grass, that monitoring sessions are to be carried out but that installing yellow lines simply moves any problem to another area.

There are no restrictions on the bend and a suggestion under consideration is for yellow lines on the inside the bend, parking bays on the outside of the bend and the central line being adjusted. It had been said this may happen by the end of fiscal year. Julie will provide a time-line.

The left-hand grass verge has been destroyed by cars parking on it and mud has reduced the width of the footpath, and in fact all Purfleet suffers from poor footpath access.

Julie to provide a list of who deals with which issues.

Phil Carver deals with enforcement, mainly fixed penalty notices.

Cars are driving onto the grassy area by the river bend because the wooden bollards have been stolen. Please can the council replace the bollards.

Fanns Rise and Thamley have had potholes refilled but within a month the holes break up again. In Water Lane a pothole has been filled in with sand. Roads are inspected on a regular basis, it would not have been the council who used sand to fill in the pothole. It is recognised that some roads need to be resurfaced but the council cannot afford to resurface all of them.

Metal railings on bend between Lockyer Road and Jarrah are regularly hit. For safety reasons a proper barrier needs installing where the footpath running north/south emerges onto London Road on the bend, especially as the depth of the path is very shallow at that point.

Weston Road, near Matalan, has a section where the road level is very poor. The road has concrete sections and some of these have dropped creating uneven levels.

Congestion

An integrated transport system is needed and C2C need to run more trains to assist in getting people off the roads.

Council will feed back to C2C that although the number of trains have increased the number of carriages has been reduced.

Emergency Planning

There is no solution as to how to evacuate Purfleet in an emergency.

As this comes under Planning Julie will request an update, especially as on the flip side if people cannot get out emergency services cannot get in.

It was pointed out that traffic in the area will increase due to new residents and new school, along with the regeneration's associated works. In addition, Cobelfret will be increasing their two entrance/exit points to four thereby causing additional hot spots.

Issues connected with the bridge are managed by Highways England who have had meetings with the Congestion Task Group and Thurrock Road Users Group. Response time for issues on the bridge has sped up and there are discussions re alternative slip roads and priority being given to traffic on sub-roads rather than priority for M25 traffic.

Yellow box junctions in Essex can only be enforced by the Police but this is not happening. As the box junctions are being ignored traffic flow issues are exacerbated. Meetings are taking place to try and reach agreement for ANPR camera enforcement.

44 bus service has been doubled and the bus company is working behind the scenes with the council regarding its service when the roads are congested. Concern was raised about children being stuck on buses for hours when the area becomes gridlocked. It was suggested that this should not be an issue for Purfleet children as they will be going to school locally with the secondary school operational in 2019, along with a 6th Form. It was asked whether parents would want to transfer their children mid-secondary school.

Do Highways believe a second river crossing in the area will relieve congestion?

Members were directed to check the council's website for regular updates about the new crossing. There is a link on the Forum's website to a virtual video of the proposed link road.

Highways will feed back on points raised.

Rebecca Ellsmore, Council's Regeneration Programme Manager

Rebecca was to present the council's perspective on the regeneration.

There was a lull last year due to changes within PCRL but things are now moving on at a pace. The council's role is to check that PCRL deliver the outline scheme and vision they presented, and that they do what they said they would.

When detailed planning applications are submitted the council's Planning Team take over. It makes no difference that the council are a partner in the scheme.

From the floor:

Concerns were raised regarding height especially in relation to the flats, and it was queried whether comments will be acted upon or disregarded, and that additional dwellings will only add to the road problems

It was confirmed up to 10 storeys are on the outline plans along the river front and this allows for flexibility within the scheme.

Comments regarding height can be made at a later stage when detailed planning is submitted.

Comments will be taken into consideration; and a transport assessment has been undertaken.

Although there are over 250 documents for the outline planning application, links to the 5 main documents can be found on the Forum's website.

Lockyer Road end of Purfleet only has a sandwich bar, no shops – what is coming?

Up to 2,850 dwellings, primary school, Integrated Medical Centre, film and TV studios, high street, opening up of the river front, community facilities, possibly a hotel, cinema, gym. The new railway bridge will be sited in the park near the level crossing.

What are the council's views on the proposed new Thames Barrier?

Thames 2100 plans are either to upgrade or put in new barrier either at Long Reach or Tilbury in 2070. No decision will be taken until 2050 but as they have submitted an objection to the planning application this issue will have to be resolved. They are not sufficiently forward in their plans nor has enough detail been provided to resolve this.

It was asked if Purfleet-on-Thames would flood in the new scheme.

The response was that flood defences would be raised downstream.

The proposed Greenway section just south of the level crossing is unable to go ahead as this is private land and therefore cannot be used.

4. General Update – Regeneration

Garrett Doran

Community input shaped the master plan and a similar process will be undertaken at each stage as the project moves forward.

Regeneration planning links are available via the Forum's website.

Please submit comments whether for or against.

Ken Dytor

Ken informed the meeting that a lot is happening, community engagement is taken very seriously and that comments are very welcome.

Please write in/contact PCRL regarding the outline planning application which is to be heard post-election, and if successful will press ahead asap.

PCRL have spoken with Dan Rodwell from Barking Council with the aim of a combined approach to promote the whole area.

There is a link to a promotional video on the scheme on the Regeneration Tab on the Forum's website.

Although some levels of the scheme have not reached the proposals others have been exceeded.

PCRL are putting pressure on government to take the regeneration seriously.

Funding is being looked at for a range of things in the hope of being able to accelerate the project, e.g. building more homes sooner and the closure of the level crossing, and the infrastructure funding bid has been short-listed.

Keltbray's bore hole works (£1M) has been completed. Results are due in the next 2-3 weeks, after which fresh site investigations will be conducted.

The next set of detailed plans, which includes up to the sea wall, are to be submitted to the council this summer.

PCRL have undergone a rebranding.

Bridge and Station

With reference to the bridge over the railway, actual details have yet to be decided as they need to include access to the station and access to different levels. There should not be interruption to the service during its construction although people may incur inconvenience.

C2C are wanting to make Purfleet-on-Thames an exemplar station. Increased passenger numbers will raise their revenue. Thought is being given regarding which facilities to include and how to make the station hospitable and safe.

A convenience store is to appear early in the scheme, located close to the station. Discussions with operators are currently under way.

HGVs and Roads

PCRL want to restrict as many HGVs travelling through the area as possible and those accessing the film and TV studios will enter from the north, not through the centre of the village. Their desire is to see a walkable environment, and to help manage the roads propose a 20 mph speed limit.

River

It was suggested from the floor that in an emergency the river could be used for evacuation, and that congestion might be reduced if the river was better utilised.

PCRL are in talks with the Port of London Authority and have inspected the piers. Yarra is the only working wharf. Barking Reach want a Thames Clipper service; Ebbsfleet views on a clipper service are unknown at present.

Healthcare and Education

PCRL are working closely with the NHS and the Purfleet-on-Thames scheme aims to be exemplar for producing both a healthy development and environment.

There is to be a mini university campus for secondary healthcare services and entrepreneurs.

Apprenticeships and vocational training will be high on the agenda due to opportunities within the film, TV and retail services to come. The film studios aim to employ as many local people as possible and will require skilled workers such as carpenters, electricians, metal workers.

5. Matters Arising and Any Other Business

John referred to a Seminar in Purfleet in 1993 and that issues raised 25 years ago remain the same today.

Members were encouraged to read and comment on the regeneration plans, and that factual reasons for objections carry weight.

People were also encouraged to speak to Garrett and Ken who would feed back comments to the designers.

Change The Name

The proposed name change has been taken on board by PCRL.

Those present were asked whether they preferred the new name to be with or without hyphens.

It was proposed that hyphens be included in the name. A show of hands indicated that all were in favour, nobody preferring the name to be hyphen-less. Next step to be a consultation.

6. Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th May.

19:30 start, St Stephen's Church.

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