



# Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

Meeting Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*If you would like copies of the agenda and minutes to refer to at the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 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 and introduced our three councillors who were in attendance, Victoria Holloway, Oliver Gerrish, and recently elected Qaisar Abbas.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies received from Laurence Pitt, Jim Smith, Gareth Davies, Alan Gosling and Madeleine Emmerson.

3. **Guest Speaker – Author, Ian Yearsley, Dracula The Essex Connection**

A very interesting talk and slide presentation was given. Dracula was first published in 1897 but there is only circumstantial evidence that the author, Abraham Stoker, visited Purfleet. Ian went on to explain his reasons for speculating that the character of Dracula may have been based on Vlad the Impaler (1431-1476)/Sir Henry Irving/poet Walt Whitman; that the Royal Ordnance site gave idea for the lunatic asylum; and that 'Carfax' is possibly a corruption of 'Quatre Fois' meaning 4-sided house agreeing with the cardinal points of a compass.

4. **General Update**

**Regeneration**

It was asked whether the regeneration plans would include a focus on Purfleet's history.

Garrett Doran responded that at present the design is not in the detailed stage but that yes, "ideas twine significant threads".

How many dwellings are to be specifically allocated for local residents?

Swan have a track record for supply of affordable housing, and schemes include part rent/part buy.

The outline planning application may be heard at the July planning meeting.

The Reserve Matters Phase 1A is still active.

Please comment even if you support the plans, as it would show the council that there is significant support for the development - John will send an email round providing the email address of where to send comments for those who do not wish to create an account on the Planning Portal. The planning application number 18/00313/REM needs to be quoted in the subject heading. Our website simplifies access to the key documents:  
<https://purfleet-on-thames.org/zone-1a/>

## 5. **Matters Arising and Any Other Business**

### ***Highways***

It was reported that Julie Rogers, Highways, had responded to issues raised at last meeting.

The phasing of lights at Purfleet Road/A1306 was reported by Highways as 'no action required' but this had been pursued. A new piece of technology has been activated so that the lights are now traffic sensor operated.

Bollards on the edge of the green still await replacement.

### ***Plaque***

A plaque commemorating Sir Henry Newton, who wrote Amazing Grace, had been made some years ago but so far has not appeared in Purfleet.

Mike Ostler confirmed he has the plaque and that it needs to be put up.

### ***Listed Buildings***

Although there were x3 Grade II listed buildings in Church Hollow two of these were demolished and disappeared off the listings register in 2015 as considered 'not safe'.

### ***Christmas Lights***

Trevor Batchelor informed the meeting that the Forum had made its first big funding application through the Council for three years of funding for Christmas lights (coloured, LED, and hopefully animated) and for provision to extend the lighting. The Forum would need to pay 10% plus VAT.

A request for a 10' high Christmas tree was made.

### ***Remembrance Service; and Battle's Over Event 11<sup>th</sup> November 17:30-19:30***

At St Stephen's the Remembrance Service will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, and on 11<sup>th</sup> November, circa 11:00, there will be a 10 minute memorial service.

A National Heritage Lottery Grant has been applied for on behalf of the Forum to repair the beacon, which is to be lit at 19:00 on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Battle's Over event, and to cover the cost of an event to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1. Tilbury's application for this has been rejected so an application is also being made to the Council for funding.

Everyone was encouraged to get involved and help with the Battle's Over event; the local school will be involved, the Backstage Centre are hoping to project a WW1 newsreel, Ensign are planning to provide some old vehicles for the event.

### ***Website***

Lots of information is available on the website including minutes, regeneration updates, photos.

Alan Dod kindly responded to the request for help with our Twitter and Facebook accounts.

### ***Change The Name***

The Forum is still waiting for the Council to provide the wording for a consultation document.

As consultation responses are known to be very low, it was asked if everyone present would encourage their friends and neighbours to participate.

### ***NHS***

The Purfleet Participation Group are holding a meeting re the NHS at 09:15 on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

### ***Council Planning Portal***

Members were encouraged to view a Scoping Plan 18/00140/SCO - it includes a suggestion that Arena Essex (which has a Purfleet postcode) could become a housing estate with 2,500 homes, the lake be opened up, and a velodrome built.

### ***Councillor Update by Oliver Gerrish***

There will be a decision regarding Orsett Hospital in June - residents are very strongly against its closure, and prefer the Integrated Medical Centres being provided in addition to the hospital rather than replace it.

32,000 dwellings are required over the next 20 years, many of which will be in the Green Belt - check the Local Plan for further details, site issues/options.

ASB on the Garrison – trying to hold the Police more to account.

Enforcement – trying to get the environment enforcement team, who mostly work in Grays regarding litter dropping, to extend out to other areas.

## **6. Next Meeting**

19:30 start, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July, The Backstage Centre, Room G20, High House Production Park.