



Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

For ease of reference topics appear as separate subjects rather than in the order discussed. Items do not appear in any order of priority, and may appear under an unlinked agenda item (e.g. AOB)

Special General Meeting Minutes 25th September 2018

1. Welcome

John Rowles welcomed everyone and informed the meeting of the objectives of the Forum, which is to provide information to help the Community make decisions. He gave dates and places of future meetings the next one to be at the Backstage on the High House site. He then reminded everyone of the code of conduct at the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Claire Asplin.

3. Updating Forum Paperwork

John asked the meeting to ratify an updated constitution to include the new forum name Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum. He asked members to agree for the constitution to be adopted. This was passed by a show of hands - 19 for and 5 non-voters. Motion carried.

John then asked those wishing to be kept up to date with e-mailed information and voting rights to complete a confidential, non-shared form.

4. Guest Speaker Murray James – Assistant Director of IT - Thurrock Council

Thurrock Council are promoting a scheme to take broadband to superfast broadband. Thurrock are asking Westminster for funding as Thurrock has a strategic place in the country with the M25 and Shell Refinery being important to the Nation, making sure residents and businesses have the best broadband.

The Government set a target that 95% of the UK should have superfast broadband by 2017, Thurrock sits at 95%. There are 65,000 residential and 5,000 commercial premises of which there are about 3,000 premises not fibred.

Murray then explained about the copper and links for broadband. Problems can arise when fibre is connected to the green telephone boxes that can be seen on streets. Fibre goes from the exchange to the boxes and old-fashioned copper wires go from box to your home. The further away from a box you are the worse the connection.

A question from the floor was “How do I know if I’m connected to fibre”. The answer being you can check on a broadband checking site, Openreach site, fibre checker base using your postcode or landline number. (Link on website.)



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We were then shown a map of Thurrock showing residential areas and businesses without connectivity and Purfleet is badly connected. Watts Wood has very little connectivity, Openreach and Virgin Media are working hard to hit targets. One resident of Watts Wood said they'd had nine visits from Openreach regarding broadband and received excuses of problems with the copper wiring and the exchange. He also wanted to know why the Council estates have been given hyper broadband, but private housing is forgotten and why Social housing was fixed before private housing. Mr. James explained it had been tailored for low level use on a pay as you go basis.

Another resident who lives next to the new Harris Academy now being built said the Academy will no doubt be getting super broadband and wanted to know if that could be extended to her cottages. Murray said that one of the options is Local Full Fibre Network Programme, whereby they could build fibre out to 400 or 500 meters from Schools which would include homes. The Council are also looking to help people working from home with a full file download time of 11 seconds.

Murray talked of various options, bearing in mind the Council are prohibited to interfere with commercial markets, money being a prohibitor and the providers wanting a return on their investments.

Murray then talked about various options available including Openreach Community Fibre Scheme, Gigabit Voucher Scheme, Virgin Media –Project Lightning and the Local Full Fibre Network Programme. He said he would forward John a link to a website with his slide show (this will go on the website when received).

There was a discussion regarding the cost of broadband.

Somebody asked if the regeneration would help bring broadband into Purfleet.

Murray said the Council were working with the planning teams to ensure the developers add fibre to their new builds. The broadband problems in Watts Wood should not happen again and everyone should benefit, Community Forums can become involved.

John then suggested that the Watts Wood resident speak to Murray after the meeting regarding the problems he has encountered.

Murray said the Council would offer lots of support and will speak with Openreach and the Community to progress this on our behalf.

Trevor asked if Murray could get back to John with further information and updates.

Murray said he would be pleased to do that.

There were no further questions for Murray and John thanked him for attending.

5. General Update

A Quiz Night is to be held on Friday 5th October at The Fleet. £3 per person and up to 6 people per team.

Battle's Over. 5pm at The Heritage Centre then a Service on the green and reading of the names of the 26 fallen by children from Purfleet Academy, Thurrock Community Chorus will attend and The Tilbury Band will be playing, there will also be hot soup and poppies knitted by the local knitting group. Volunteers were called for as Marshalls and handing out soup. Everyone's invited.



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Highways. After a long discussion with highways there are now six double strip speed sensors in Purfleet. John said he has asked for a complete breakdown of information recorded as to the type of vehicle, speed and direction. The provision of speed cameras will be up to the 'equation' made from the recorded information.

There has been no further news on the fatal accident.

Footpaths: John was pleased to say that the undergrowth encroaching on the footpaths has now been cut away and has, in some places, made the pathways wider.

Cycle paths: John directed the meeting to look at the Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum website which shows a list of dates as to when works are happening. Stonehouse Corner will be next. Trevor will be putting the Traffic Regulation Notices onto the website too.

Yellow lines are now in, but understand cars are now parking on the Garrison. The Forum have spoken to the Council regarding this.

A person from the floor said that the School Officer can work with parents regarding parking problems.

6. **Matters Arising and Any Other Business**

The Purfleet Runners have asked the Forum to take their posters down as they no longer meet due to lack of Community Support.

C2C have taken on 21 new drivers

Harris Riverside hold a coffee morning every month regarding any problems with the Academy that you wish to speak to them about.

John asked Councillor Qaisar Abbas for Council updates, he apologies as Councillor Oliver Gerrish was going to update him, but did not do so. He said he would send them to John for the Forum website.

From the floor it was mentioned that signage approaching the school isn't very good and some are fading. John asked for an e-mail in order to take this up with Highways.

The Forum has asked the Council for weight restrictions to be more visible and told the meeting that unfortunately the council can make the restrictions, but are unable to enforce them.

In last week's Gazette was a Down Memory Lane article on Thames Board Mill. The Heritage Centre now a permanent display recording the history of the Board Mills.

The local Police have had a change of management and will now be coming back to Forum meetings.

John offered a Forum application form to everyone to complete giving them voting rights. On the reverse, if completed, gives the Forum permission to send you updates and posters. Neither of these are compulsory.



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Regeneration: Garrett PCRL said the Planning application is to be heard in November and once obtained the regeneration can all start moving. John asked people to come along on the day of application to show support.

Section 106 money: it was asked if this could be used for IT and broadband purposes. John said this has been looked into, but how it is spent is decided by the Council. A request can go on their list, but will only be dealt with if it is thought a high priority. Broadband infrastructure should be in place with the Regeneration.

It was suggested that this should be in all planning applications in future.

There being no further matters. John thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded.

7. **Next Meeting**

19:30 start, Tuesday 27th November, Room G20 The Backstage Centre, High House Production Park, London Road, Purfleet. RM19 1RJ

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29 attendees at the meeting, including the following committee members:

John Rowles; Trevor Batchelor; Hilary Mason; Christine Rowles; Lynn Mansfield; Moira Pollington; Laurence Pitt; Adrian Hilsum; Elaine Anderson

If there is a topic you would like included at a future meeting or would like the forum to invite a specific speaker or Council representative, please email [chair@purfleetcf.org.uk](mailto:chair@purfleetcf.org.uk) giving as much notice as possible