



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)

Meeting Minutes 28th May 2019

1. Welcome
2. Apologies:
Adrian Hilsum
Laurence and Hadi Pitt
Cllr Victoria Holloway
3. Guest Speaker – Andrew Betts, Principal of Harris Academy Riverside
The Harris Federation consists of approximately 40 schools; they open and build new schools and take over failing schools; this building has been paid for by the Government. There is a strong emphasis on behaviour, uniform, high aspiration and overcoming disadvantage. There are 4 assistant principals – Gemma White, Chi Chi Opara, Bianca Christie, Tunde Balogun (pastoral care). Contact details – 01375 802060; info@harrisriverside.org.uk and a.betts@harrisriverside.org.uk
Keys will be handed over on 23rd August and the school will open in September this year with the 250 students who already in Years 7 and 8; the new Year 7 intake comprises 180 students; and a further 70 Year 12 students will also be starting.
When full there will be 900 students in the secondary school (intake of 180 per year group) and 150 students in the 6th Form (predominantly Science and Maths).
Secondary school intake policy in order of priority – children with SEN; Looked After Children; siblings of students already attending; children of staff with more than 2 years' service; those living in closest straight-line distance to the school (alternately school-Purfleet Station; school-Magnet Road/London Road).
6th Form is open to any applicant.
Facilities – MUGA tennis and netball; 4G football and rugby; fitness studio; indoor basketball, handball and table tennis; dance studio; 2 other halls; catering facilities; science studios and prep rooms; DT workshop; art room; resource centre; IT suites; music suites.
The students have said they want to get involved with the community with gardens, events, litter, facilities, student leaders, live music, arts, competitions, art exhibitions, committees, regeneration, clubs, church.

Questions from the floor:

Community use of the facilities:

A separate management company will handle lettings outside of school hours, weekdays 17:00-22:00 and weekends 10:00-22:00. Users will be able to park within the grounds. When asked if residents will have a preferential and affordable rate the response was that the school does have input regarding charges.
Andrew was unsure whether details of the size and capacity of the halls is on the website.



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Times:

There are no staggered start/leave times.

School hours anticipated to be x2 days 09:00-15:30; x1 day 09:00-16:30; x1 day 09:00-13:30 and the main flow of arrivals is expected to be between 08:20 and 09:00.

It is a secure site and secondary school students will not be able to exit during the school day, but there may be outside movement from 6th Form students.

Road Safety:

Concerns were raised about the speed of vehicles along this stretch of road, the large number of students arriving/leaving at the same time, the narrowness of the footpath, no safe crossings on London Road, nowhere for parents to drop off/pick up, lack of street parking.

Ongoing conversations are taking place regarding road safety, and it was said students will be chaperoned in the street by school staff as happens elsewhere.

More cycleways are to be put in.

Discussions are taking place with Ensign regarding a bus service/entry onto the site.

Cllr Gerrish to pursue safe crossings with the Council.

Andrew Price from PCRL addressed the meeting, stating that PCRL wish to create a healthy environment and that discussion is ongoing with Thurrock Highways. There are plans to prevent HGVs travelling along London Road within the next 2-3 years using bollards, barriers, and width restrictions. Buses will still be allowed access.

6th Form:

What happens if an application to 6th Form is made by a student who is not a high achiever? Students are monitored all the way through their schooling and will be made aware of levels to be achieved in order to gain entry. If the student is not expected to pass the entry criteria the school are only able to offer advice and to suggest that several applications be made to other 6th Forms.

App and Website:

It was reported that the app has not been updated for 2 years.

This was acknowledged but is expected to be addressed when staffing levels increase.

Various issues will arise once the school is operational and the Forum will keep an eye on the situation and work with Harris Federation for best possible outcomes.

Problems anticipated – dropping off, double yellow lines, zig zag lines.

4. General Update

New bollards on the green:

Trying to get bollards, also looking at bunding to be planted with wildflowers.

Purfleet Gunners, L15 Zeppelin plaque dedication:

Organised by Purfleet Heritage Centre, and the Forum arranged for a boulder to be donated by local firm CED Stone.

2 x stolen bronze plaques on War Memorial:

In the process of trying to get these replaced.

Crime figures are updated regularly on the forum website.

Litter Picks:

X3 picks undertaken so far. Litter picks to be an ongoing project.



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Quiz Night 24th May at The Fleet:

Good turnout; anticipate holding quiz every couple of months alternating between The Royal and The Fleet. Next event to be at the end of July at The Royal.

Also considering a bingo night. Any suggestions for events are welcome.

Xmas Lights:

Costs up by 30% this year; looked at expanding lighting onto the Garrison but the Forum is unable to finance this.

Ken Dytor informed the meeting that PCRL would have a conversation with the Forum about the lights.

CEDF application for projector, screen, laser printer and PA system:

With better equipment the Forum hope to be able to do more in the community, e.g. film night on the green.

5. Matters Arising and AOB

None.

Upcoming events:

'D' Day 75th Anniversary – Heritage Centre – 2nd June

Purfleet Heritage & Military Centre AGM – 9th June

Teddy Bear Picnic and Knitting in Public – High House – 9th June

Patient Participation Group – Mulberry Drive – 12th June, 19:30

Peace-Making a New Europe Exhibition – Thameside Theatre – 24th June-5th July

Armed Forces Day – Heritage Centre – 30th June

Thurrock 100, Walking, Talking, Making Festival – 5th-20th July

Update by Cllr Oliver Gerrish:

Lighting on the green – waiting to hear if new lighting is available

Regeneration –in response to comments in the local press councillors had responded with a balanced view

Local elections – Cllr Holloway re-elected for Purfleet and chairs Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee

Police:

Constable Neil Brand, based at South Ockendon, was introduced.

Officer numbers have increased from 1 to 3 but in addition to serving the West Thurrock Ward they must now also cover Aveley and Ockendon Wards.

Issues with youth were raised. Attendees were advised to speak directly to Neil regarding this, or any other Police problem, at the end of the meeting.

Regeneration Update:

Although outline planning has passed, Highways England objections still need to be satisfied regarding impact on J31.

Ken Dytor said it had been a small step for PCRL but a giant leap for Purfleet-on-Thames and that PCRL want to continue working closely with the Forum, who were an integral part of their success.



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Highways:

An officer from Highways will be attending the meeting in September so please think about any highways questions/issues you may wish to raise. Closer to the time please email these prior to the meeting so that a response can be prepared for the meeting.

Meeting Location:

It was asked if a meeting could take place on the Garrison.

It was explained that this had been tried in the past but residents had not attended; added to which the venue is not considered to be large enough.

6. Next meeting

19:30 on Tuesday 30th July 2019 at The Backstage Centre.