



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 26th November 2019

1. Welcome, and congratulations to Cllr Gerrish on his impending fatherhood.
 2. Apologies received from John Gidman, Moira Pollington, Jim Smith, Rev Matt Drummond, Laurence and Hadi Pitt.
 3. Guest Speakers:
 - Essex Fire Brigade, Samantha Harrington – Fire Prevention in the Home
The 3 most important things:
Have a working smoke alarm on every level.
At night close doors as this will slow down the spread of smoke.
Plan escape routes and make sure they are kept clear.
Essex Fire Brigade offer free home visits. The visiting technician can advise on fire safety and supply and fit, free of charge, smoke alarms which have a 10-year battery.
To arrange a visit call 0300 303 0088 or contact home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk
¼ of domestic fires start in the kitchen, main cause being distraction.
Electrical fires are the next highest – so far this year the Fire Brigade has attended 8 fires caused through overnight phone charging.
Strongly recommend that no IT equipment is left to charge overnight; at night, wherever possible, switch off sockets and remove plugs; check extension leads have the British Kite Mark symbol; avoid using the square block plug extension as the weight of the plugs can cause the block to tip creating an arc and sparks; if plastic items such as kettles or smoke alarms shows signs of discolouration this is an indicator of degradation and the item should be replaced.
 - PC Neil Brand – Essex Police
Operation Caesar – nuisance motorbikes – number of incidents reducing. Additional funding has been received for this operation to carry on up to New Year.
Operation Lemon – nuisance and drug related activities – has been successful with stop and searches and more funding has been received for this to continue on.
Operation Cannister – silver gas cannisters – cannisters are recycled and the money obtained given to charity.
Operation Pumpkin – Halloween – West Thurrock and South Stifford showed a 50% drop in recorded incidents.
New Town Centre officers should be in post end of this year/beginning of next, x2 in Tilbury and x2 in Purfleet. They should be visible, will be either on foot or pedal cycle, and will patrol in nuisance areas.
Essex Police can be followed on Facebook and many types of crime can be reported via the internet or via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.
PC Brand suggested the Forum consider joining the Community Speed Watch scheme due to ongoing traffic issues.
- From The Floor:*
Incident on the Spider Field 7th July, no contact received from the Police.
Advised to speak to PC Brand at the end of the meeting.



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Motor bike nuisance by the sea wall appears to have stopped.
Number of incidents across the whole borough have reduced; vehicles transporting bikes have been issued with tickets

7.5 tonne Exclusion Zone – can you assist with obtaining enforcement?
It is not best use of Traffic Enforcement's time to monitor this and photographic evidence was requested to assist PC Brand, who is only able to contact UK companies.

Stonehouse Lane - sign says for local vehicles only and condition of road is atrocious due to the HGVs using this road.

Again, if photographic evidence is passed to PC Brand, he can then contact UK companies.
Issues with foreign lorries can only be dealt with by specially trained traffic officers.

Electric scooters being used by adults – can anything be done about their use?
As they are motorised, they are classed as a motor vehicle and require MOT and insurance.

4. General Updates

Highways

New pedestrian crossing by the secondary school is under construction.
A walk between the secondary school and the RSPB was undertaken with Steve Lines from Highways to see if there are any issues which need addressing.
Between The Royal and the Mardyke road markings and hatching need renewing.
Where the buses go in and out of the Garrison the road paint has eroded.
Some roads on the Garrison estate belong to Housing and some belong to Highways.
A request has been made for the parking bays by the primary school to have a time restriction to stop all day parking thereby freeing up space for school drop off and pick up.

Greening

Outcomes from previous walk with Vince Taylor have been followed up. Stonehouse Corner roundabout is to be planted with some daffodils and the existing plants will be tidied up.
In October the Forum arranged a gardening event to clear back overgrowth by the bridges.
Walkway at Harrison's Wharf was not adopted by the Council, but they have agreed to clear the area and to install a couple of benches along the river front.

Remembrance Day and Plaques

Thurrock Council funded the replacement plaques for the war memorial and the service was well supported by local groups.

Christmas Lights

Switch on to take place at 17:00 on 7th December at the end of St Stephen's Christmas Fayre.
It is hoped next year, funding permitting, to have 4 lights on the Garrison by the shops. It was reported that Lynn Mansfield had raised £1,200 this year to fund these additional lights but as the Residents' Association had not liaised with the Forum the additional lighting had not been included in the necessary paperwork.

Forum Funding

Last quiz raised £107. Money raised by quiz nights has enabled the Forum to donate a Christmas tree to Harris Academy Riverside.



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Hope to have a new screen and projector for our next meeting following a successful funding bid.

Report By Cllr Gerrish

Council in purdah so has basically shut down.

Thurrock is one of the most polluted areas in the country and the Council is looking at how they can do better with their green policies along with ways of how to try and get the volume of air pollution down.

The Council and emergency services have performed well dealing with the fallout following the lorry deaths.

New gates have been installed at the West Thurrock Memorial Ground, there are good play facilities at the site and a small car park for visitors.

The new school is working relatively well. Marshals stand in the road which affects traffic flow. Pupils who leave school later without any supervision are becoming noisier.

Congratulations to John on his Pride of Essex Highly Commended Community Champion award.

From The Floor:

Parking, especially by the primary school is a problem and cars are now parking next to the traffic islands. Are there plans to close the 'D' section of the road by the school to ensure emergency service access? Can a camera be installed with costs shared by the school and the Council and any income generated by shared them?

There are no plans to close the road, traffic wardens attend every now and then but as this is getting worse Cllr Gerrish will pass this information back to the Council. The new parking restrictions should help.

5. Matters Arising and AOB

Railway and Botany Cottages

Now demolished.

Highways England

Written removal of objection to regeneration by Highways England expected any time now.

The meeting was informed that the report that Highways England are objecting to all planning applications for 250+ dwellings is not factual.

Purfleet Community Design Panel

When the regeneration starts to move forward the Design Panel will be looking for additional residents to sign up and become involved.

AGM, January 2020

Expression of interest slips were made available should anyone wish to register their interest in sitting on the committee.

Upcoming Events

St Stephen's Christmas Fayre and Christmas lights switch on 7th December.

Harris Academy Christmas Fayre 13th December.

Quiz Night 28th February 2020 at The Fleet.

6. Next meeting, including AGM:

Tuesday 28th January 2020; 19:30; St Stephen's Church Hall.