



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 24th November 2020

1. Welcome

John opened the meeting, gave notice that it was being recorded, and asked attendees to use the chat facility for comments/questions.

2. Apologies

Cllr Qaisar Abbas and Lynn Mansfield.

3. Addition to the Constitution

In order to help the Forum to continue to operate during difficult circumstances an addition to the Constitution was proposed by Garrett Doran and seconded by Jim Smith. Instructions were given as to how to vote and all votes were in favour to adopt the following paragraph: Following agreement by the Committee in times of crisis, for example a natural disaster/pandemic, the deadline for holding an AGM may be extended or emergency measures adopted for remote attendance and proxy voting and/or adjournment postponement or cancellation until such time as it is possible to reconvene.

4. Guest Speakers

Steve Lines, Highways
20mph Zone

Due to COVID-19 the Government is seeking improvements to encourage sustainable travel and to help people feel safe walking. Thurrock Council have tried to steer clear of obstructing vehicle flows and looked at four areas where footpaths are narrow in East Tilbury, Stanford-le-Hope, West Road South Ockendon and London Road Purfleet-on-Thames.

As there is a minimum distance required for a 20mph limit it was decided the scheme would start/end at Botany Terrace/Riverview Flats as vehicles are parked with wheels on the footway in these locations.

Cushions were installed instead of full width humps to avoid large vehicles causing vibration and noise and for the sake of buses and emergency vehicles.

Additionally, a bus stop has been moved to a recess in the hedge line.

As it is illegal to display signs before a scheme is operational the new signs had been sprayed out and once the repeater signs are installed the new speed limit will come into force.

Speed checks took place before installation and will be recorded a couple of times during the temporary one-year period of this experimental order which could be removed at the end of this period depending upon complaints/objections, or if well supported it could be made permanent.

There is a six-month consultation period for this scheme, ending June 2021.

Questions:

Can you investigate a 'slow children crossing' sign – Steve will make enquiries.



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Diagram 545 – Steve not involved with any requirements from the school, will take this back.

Is the 30mph sign at the entrance to Harrison's Wharf a mistake? – Steve will look at getting this removed as it leads into a complex, not an adopted road.

New roundabout close to Stonehouse Roundabout has not started yet – Work was supposed to start in April but a one-year extension has been granted.

Car deck in use – this is a planning enforcement matter and is being dealt with.

Issues are experienced with the port holding back traffic on London Road – please provide details. Will tabulate so can take to an external meeting to raise this.

Cornwall House site car park – closing on 21st December.

If you have any questions concerning the highway please pass these to the Chair in advance of a forum meeting to enable Steve to prepare a response. This will also enable him to make approaches to Highways Maintenance or Planning Enforcement should the query come under their remit.

PCRL and Purfleet Centre Design Panel

John Rowles introduced himself as chair of the Design Panel and outlined its aims.

If interested in joining the panel, please email him.

Ken Dytor advised there is a lot of interest from the government to attract investment into this area, that Purfleet-on-Thames is the number one growth area for the UK and that we are a key component in the delivery of Thames Estuary growth.

There followed a slide presentation with questions being responded to.

Do you anticipate a massive increase in residential property rent?

The first phase, starting at the west end and working toward the station, will see 61 homes of which 34 will be shared ownership (minimum 25% of the value of the property).

It is too early to speculate pricing; private rental costs will be in line with the market.

Will there be adequate parking?

Parking will be blended, and the philosophy is that not all the parking will be next to the town centre and will go where there is a higher need.

What type of work is included within site clearance and mediation?

Tree removal, archaeological studies; surface remediation to take place in 2021.

Design Codes

These codes sit alongside the master plan and are like an operation manual, providing key aspects of how different elements of the design are to work. They are currently being written and the plan is to work on the details with the Design Panel in early December as the codes need to be submitted by late December.



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Green Infrastructure

Types of existing habitats on the site: ancient woodland, woodland, open mosaic habitat, species rich grassland riverbed and riverfront, River Thames.

The aim is to link different types of habitat and green assets within the site and there will be a large ecological park at the east end of the site.

Competition

Asking for photos from back in the day and memories of the town, what you loved then and what you love now, and what makes Purfleet a great place.

5. General Update

Christmas Lights

Switch on has been suggested for the first week of December.

No objections were raised to them being switched on at the end of this week.

Broadband

Open Reach plan house to house fibre within the next two years but there are pockets with no foreseeable plans at all for fibre installation, believed due to an obsolete cabinet - Southland Terrace, Sussex Terrace, Riverview Flats, Beacon Hill, some of the Lakes at the top end of Coniston. Working with council on this.

Sports Facilities

Harris Academy now let out their own facilities as School Letting Solutions went into administration.

Silhouettes

Following crowd funding to repair the vandalised Battle's Over silhouettes a stainless-steel company in Leeds has offered to make all 26 silhouettes out of steel free of charge. A planning application is now in for the silhouettes to be erected next to the Heritage Centre.

Cllr Victoria Holloway Update

New Road Layout

Believes this to be a missed opportunity for path widening and is emailing Steve Lines.

Bin Collection Changes

Poor collection throughout the epidemic due to workforce issues. Council administration have agreed to fortnightly bin collection from next April, specific details not yet available. It was reported that bin collection day causes issues for pedestrians because of the narrow paths resulting in people needing to step into the road.

Within the new development the aspiration is to utilise a central waste management system with underground waste facilities at the end of each street and part way down the streets. Please contact vholloway@thurrock.gov.uk with feedback about bins or for anything else.

COVID/Health

Broadly speaking Thurrock is doing by comparison very well and has remained in the bottom quarter of cases and we have a very good public health team at the council;



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Are St John's Ambulance training volunteers to give vaccinations as GPs don't have the capacity? Cllr Holloway to investigate this.

6. Matters Arising and Any Other Business

Film and TV Studios

There is a lot of interest and proposals are being put together with meaningful progress anticipated in the next couple of months.

Tree Planting Project

Andrew Pryce asked residents to get in touch to try and turn this into a community project with ideas of where to plant trees. Areas suggested – on bend opposite The Royal on the right-hand side; on scrubland (belongs to Bellway?) east of the old Baptist Church.

WW2

Ensign wish to commemorate the fallen of Purfleet from WW2 on the sides of their buses. Please contact Trevor if you can provide any names or details.

Caspian/Neighbourhood Watch

Victoria will contact police re anti-social behaviour and Police to be invited to January's meeting to discuss any concerns residents may have throughout Purfleet-on-Thames. If you would like to become a member of Neighbourhood Watch, please get in touch with Lisa via the Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page. The Facebook page has 320 members, but this doesn't make you an actual member of Neighbourhood Watch.

AGM – 26th Jan 2021

Interested in becoming a committee member?

Please email secretary@purfleetcf.org.uk by 12th January.

7. Next meeting:

19:30 on Tuesday 26th January 2021

If you have enjoyed today's meeting or if you didn't enjoy today's meeting, please let us know.

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 giving as much notice as possible