



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 27th July 2021
Zoom Meeting 19:30

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies

Father Matt Drummond, Qaisar Abbas, Hadi and Laurence Pitt, Moira Pollington.
Minutes of May's meeting appear on the website and were signed off.

2. Guest Speakers

Robert Brien, Operations Director, Kloeckner Metals, Klockner & Co Group
German steel company operating in 13 countries, relocating here from Silvertown.
From end of October six HGVs will be delivering 250 tonnes of steel products daily to the south-east of England. The Thurrock warehouse will be cutting to length and shotblasting and are looking to employ local staff. The products are predominantly manufactured in Europe with some materials purchased from the U.S. 50% is made by electric arc furnace which is a greener way to make steel.

They use Class 1 and Class 2 vehicles and try to get product shipped as close as possible to the site (trying to use Tilbury and Chatham ports) and will have around 7-8 incoming lorries each day. Route out of the site will be turn left to the Matalan roundabout, on to the tunnel roundabout and onwards. Few lorries will need to travel along London Road as not many local deliveries, and 5-6 deliveries to Canvey.

The company wants to partner up to see what they can offer locally apart from money and hope to invite youngsters into the business through taster days and are working with SSCT and Fair Share. Various apprenticeship schemes are available to staff such as warehousing, HGV driving, management. Contact Robert.brien@kloeckner.com

Kim James, Healthwatch Thurrock - cancelled due to sickness.

3. General Updates

Regeneration

Keltbray have completed the earthworks for Phase 1A Hollow Wood and Cornwall House.
Swan Housing will commence building the first week in August.

Due to objections from C2C and Network Rail a temporary station will not be built. This will delay the bridge being built and closure of the level crossing. A new station will be built, the old station demolished, and the bridge built once they can align the road.

Port Roundabout

Following information that the proposed roundabout was not a condition and the new roundabout and new road have fallen off the grid this has been raised with Planning to check for any breach of conditions.

Essex Arena and Lakeside

Plans to build on the Essex Arena site are back on the table and include part of the existing lake becoming a swimming lido and provision of an off-road cycle track.

Discussions are taking place again about converting part of the shopping centre into flats.



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Silhouettes

Awaiting an installation date.

Cllr Updates

Cllr Holloway reminded everyone the council runs on a cabinet system, that 99% of decisions are made by cabinet, consisting of 7-10 members, and not many decisions are taken at the monthly Full Council meetings. Scrutiny oversee Cabinet and can make recommendations. The financial situation was presented to Cabinet on 7th July and if the council fail to balance the budget a S114 Notice will be served by the Finance Officer highlighting that they cannot meet their statutory obligations. Council proposals include changes to staffing (lose 500 roles), assets, home to school transport, refuse collections (green bin fortnightly, charge for brown bins). The new civic building is to house the library and registrars, no assurances have been received that the library will be of a similar size and no answers given as to where the museum and the theatre will be located. There are no imminent plans to reopen the Hub at Purfleet-on-Thames and currently insufficient staffing to run the current library service.

Lisa Wright requested a discussion with local councillors regarding disposal of Grangewaters which is an amazing asset.

Trevor advised that Museum Officer Michelle does not know what is happening and heard rumours about a museum in the Tilbury Hub. Cllr Holloway advised that Thurrock Cllr Deborah Hulin is responsible for communities and says there is no need for fixed buildings and that the council work with groups with regard to heritage and creative industries and that she is awaiting a response from her.

Woodlands is on the asset register to be sold off. When asked about pre-school provision for this area the response was that no information could be given until a decision is reached, and talks will take place with the tenant.

The green and proof house belong to the council, the pre-school building does not belong to the council although they own the freehold.

The community hall was never formally offered to the Forum or anyone else by the council, it was given to ChildrenRUs and taken over by the council when the organisation went bust, but it remains a charity in the name of Purfleet Village Hall. Cllr Holloway said she would email the council to establish ownership.

Everyone was asked to keep their eyes and ears open.

Caspian Way – fly tipping, ASB issues – a meeting took place with the managing agent RMG, work is being carried out and there is constant communication.

In response to comments about the state of the local area it was said that the whole borough is in a state and for residents to email their local councillors.

Alan Dod emphasised the need for communication with PCRL as we are losing valuable assets and we need to be informed as to what is going on with our proposed community facilities and to ensure that we have a hall as the plans only say 'community building'.

Police

12 ASB incidents reported during a 27-day period in July. Speed checks have taken place in Tank Hill Road and patrols continue to take place on the Garrison. Coffee with Cops will restart if premises can be found.

In response to a question about e-scooters it was said to be a polarising subject. They are classed the same as a motorbike or car. The Police cannot chase riders in case of injury, instead they try to educate children. Letters have been sent to parents via schools advising e-scooters cannot be used legally in public spaces.



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4. Matters Arising and AOB

Thames Opera Company

There remains a strong core of people who continue singing all kinds of repertoire despite closure of the ROH Thurrock Community Chorus and they are setting up the Thames Opera Company www.thamesopera.org.uk Recruitment is under way with plans to start in September and membership open to everyone in the Thames Gateway area. Admin support and trustees are needed in addition to singers.

Dance Class

Afro Flexo are starting dance classes on a Sunday at Harris Academy.

T100 Dreaming

Please book your place on the walk and picnic (bring your own) taking place on 30th July.

Book Swap

Takes place at High House on a Sunday morning.

Weeding

Please join us and help weed the boat on Stonehouse roundabout - Saturday 31st at 10am.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Taking place next year. Looking for people to be involved before as well as on the day, companies and individuals.

Contact Robert from Kloeckner in October and they will see what resources they can spare.

Turner's Missing Painting - Purfleet and the Essex shore as seen from Long Reach.

Exhibited extensively in the 19thC but not seen in public for over 120 years apart from its previous sale at Christie's in 1945, was sold recently at auction to an unknown buyer for £4 million.

New Email Addresses

Please use the following addresses if you wish to get in touch with the Forum:

Chair.POTCF@thurrockforums.org

Vicechair.POTCF@thurrockforums.org

Sec.POTCF@thurrockforums.org

Treasurer.POTCF@thurrockforums.org

5. Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th September 2021, 19:30, venue to be confirmed.

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.POTCF@thurrockforums.org giving as much notice as possible