



## 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)*

Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

1. Welcome and Meeting Etiquette  
John welcomed everyone to our first hybrid meeting and ensured everyone was familiar with meeting etiquette.
2. Apologies  
Cllr Lee Watson and Cllr Victoria Holloway.
3. Agree Minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Minutes agreed.
4. Guest Speakers:  
**Darren Kristiansen – Health and Wellbeing Consultation**  
The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is part of a whole system of coordinated strategic thinking of all elements of the council along with all system partners, to enable delivery of quantifiable gains in the health and wellbeing of residents, and to which NHS partners must pay regard when planning their strategy.  
Healthy life expectancy in this area is significantly lower than the England average.  
A positive impact on health and wellbeing outcomes can be achieved by prioritising the following 6 areas:
  1. Managing health conditions
  2. Building on things learned during Covid – building strong and cohesive communities
  3. Services – person-led health and care
  4. Opportunity for all – training, education, employment
  5. Housing and the environment
  6. Community safetyThe council is keen to receive residents' views via their website consultation portal and a request has been made for the closing date to be extended until the end of December.  
You do not have to complete every section of the consultation or complete it in one go. Shorter version paper forms are also available.  
To provide views about health and wellbeing opportunities for youth use section 5 - housing and the environment.  
**Questions from the Floor:**  
How much does the strategy take account of access to outdoor education, arts etc. as it appears the council is looking at depriving communities of these very opportunities?  
Cllr Huelin is committed to arts and culture and has already raised this question.  
Other strategies feed into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Brighter Future Strategy feeds into the overarching plan.  
Do planning applications have to take account of this strategy?  
Developments larger than 10 properties must conform to a health needs assessment and planning applications already go before a strategic group.



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### **PC 76335 Karen Gibbs - Operation Bluebird**

Operation Bluebird currently works across 12 police forces and was set up to deal with any person who enters the UK illegally as a clandestine. Many are here for human trafficking and modern slavery purposes and pay up to £30K each for the journey.

Officers work with various agencies including Border Force and National Crime Agency as well as working closely with various ports, Stansted and Southend airports, and the small airfields around Essex.

A site visit was made to the local port who are now working through the concerns raised. High tech equipment is used during operations and a maximum of 30 vehicles can be processed in one day due to lengthy checks by various teams.

Although drivers are arrested on suspicion of assisting clandestines into the UK it is extremely rare for them to be charged as it is very hard to prove they are complicit.

Since May 2020 a lot of accompanied under 18s have arrived, including a 2-year-old. Under 18s are immediately handed to social services who process them.

Now that fingerprints, photos, and DNA is taken 75% of children remain in care whereas previously the majority ran away. The parents can be put in hostels anywhere in the country after being processed by the Home Office.

If you see anything suspicious such as a lorry driver/small group of people with rucksacks hanging around, please report this via 101.

### 5. Updates

#### **2 x Litter Picks**

More litter picks are planned for next year.

#### **Remembrance Day**

Very good turnout.

#### **Silhouettes**

The director of the company who manufactured the silhouettes free of charge, along with the person who installed them, attended the unveiling at the Remembrance Day Service. There has been a very positive response to the silhouettes although sadly one has already been kicked and damaged.

#### **Christmas Lights Switch On**

The turnout was better than expected for such a cold evening. Thanks was given to Erica and friends for their carol singing and to the team working in the kitchen.

Qaisar was complimented on the beautiful photo he took to capture the event.

#### **Update from Cllr Qaisar Abbas**

Thanks was expressed for work done by members of the forum to facilitate our having the silhouettes, the Remembrance Day Service and the Christmas lights switch on.

Missed bin collections continue to be reported.

Due to a £34 million gap over the next 2 years the council are looking to cut 200-500 jobs but at the same time hire 2 new political assistants, each at an annual cost of £40K.

Cllr Abbas is against the closure of the Thameside Theatre saying it is a community asset and should be handed over to a community led organisation.

### 6. What are we going to do next year?

We are looking at becoming a charity as this would put us in a good position if a building asset became available.



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One person out of the 8 signed in on Zoom gave a conflicting vote to the proposal to become a charity, displaying both a thumbs up and a thumbs down icon. No other 'against' votes were received, the majority being in favour.

Larry Collins informed the meeting that his understanding is that the building on the green still belongs to the community, not a business, and that the charity is still in existence.

At the time the hall was handed to the council he gave his paperwork to Cllr Rob Williams, now deceased.

### **PCRL workshops in the New Year**

Next step will be the town centre, keep an eye out for emails.

### **Queens Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Looking for volunteers and a working committee will be set up. A pipe major has been booked and Thurrock Police Cadets will act as marshals. If anyone wants to have a stall or stand, please let the forum know asap.

### **The Railings**

We are waiting for permission to paint 44 historic railings by the river in Prussian Blue (refurbishment colour on Big Ben clock face) and hope this can be done in time for next year's Jubilee celebrations.

### **Benches**

We are hoping for 2 benches to be installed on the green by Christmas and a further 2 seats elsewhere.

### **Future Meetings**

Speakers have been booked for January, March and May. Instead of a meeting in July it is proposed that we hold an informal Q&A chat on Zoom.

### 7. Any Other Business:

A Christmas Carol by Commedia – flyer already distributed, visit website to order tickets.  
Ensign historic bus run – 4<sup>th</sup> December, first bus 10am Lakeside, check Ensign's website.  
Expressions of interest for positions on the committee at January's AGM to be registered with the Chair by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, or if preferred you can simply register as a helper.  
16th December 5.30pm snacks, mulled wine with High House Community Group.

### 8. Next Meeting:

19:30 on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at St Stephen's.