



## 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 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

1. Welcome
2. Apologies Lisa Wright.
3. Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed.

The meeting paused whilst the AGM was conducted.

4. Speaker:

*Illy Jaffar from Counterculture Partnership LLP & Assemble re High House Production Park, introduced by Lisa Ricketts from Thurrock Council*

High House Production Park have appointed Counterculture to undertake a refresh of the vision, business plan and master plan with the aim to support the trust in completing the production park to sustain long term viability, with the project having been funded by Creative Estuary.

Counterculture were seeking views, opinions, and ideas as to how HHPP can be relevant as a business and how it can integrate and engage with the community.

The overall feedback was that what goes on at the HHPP is not generally known, and that there is a distinct lack of engagement with the local community.

Various thoughts as to how this might be improved were voiced.

Concern about the manor house was raised as initial High House plans included enhancing and preserving the manor house and to bring the property back into use but nothing has happened in this regard.

The café was also mentioned. South Essex College are responsible for running it and are not able to open it on weekends or Bank Holidays which are times when the local community are likely to make use of the facilities.

It was said how the site could be a great vehicle to inspire local young people.

Illy was grateful for the history of the site and comments provided, which will feed into what comes next.

Counterculture will go back to the board and then engage with the community again. It was suggested that the conversation be kept going with regular meetings or perhaps the setting up of a resident working group with HHPP.

Cllr Holloway asked whether there was any intention of removing/demolishing any of the buildings or offloading of land or repurposing HHPP.

Illy said there was no hidden agenda, and HHPP were looking to reintegrate so it is relevant to their business and us as a community.

Their brief is clear – there are 3 plots of undeveloped land, and they are looking at their development to enable the charity to bring in an income to improve their sustainability.

Also, to find a solution for the Grade 2 house and consider what use could be made of it. Iffy would like to set up a sub-working group with a few representatives to give them a voice at the table as this process unfolds.



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### 5. General Updates Queen's

#### Jubilee

The forum has signed up to be part of the national beacon lighting event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will participate in steering group meetings.

Please contact Hi Ching at [thurrockfestival@gmail.com](mailto:thurrockfestival@gmail.com) if you are interested in having a stall on the green.

More information will be released in March but if you are able to help even if only for a short time on the day or running up to the day do get in touch with Trevor – many hands make light work.

#### Railings

Awaiting council response to a request allow us to paint 28 metres/44 historic railings along the river front in Prussian Blue (the colour used on the clock face of Elizabeth Tower - previously known as Big Ben).

#### Councillors

The NHS failed to sign off on the IMC stating there were a number of things they were not happy with, and an agreement is now expected by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

An update will be given in March about the council's financial position and council tax after February's full budget meeting.

No news yet about the Children's Centre but please get in touch with the councillors if anything is needed.

A strip of land in Botany Way has been maintained and adopted by the council but it does not belong to them. The owner wants to sell for £1 million. This strip will not be repaired by the council for the foreseeable future.

The intention is still to close Purfleet Care Centre and the NHS say there are not enough staff to man 2 centres. Cllr Holloway will speak to the council about the current state of the building as it is not being maintained yet will be operational for several years to come, possibly until 2024.

A1306 pothole repair was deemed unsatisfactory, and resurfacing will take place next week. Designated Green Space consultation ends on 6<sup>th</sup> March and the beacon has been put forward as a designated green space. If more residents make the same request it will carry more weight, so please take part in this consultation.

#### Police

Coffee with Cops will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at The Hub 10:30-11:30, starting 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### 6. Matters Arising and AOB

If you are interested in a short and easy wellbeing walk and the chance to get out and be active, please contact Erica at [erica@lovepurfleet.org.uk](mailto:erica@lovepurfleet.org.uk) or 07851689613. St Stephen's Community Trust coffee morning has been suspended until April.

Trevor is looking into the possibility of a World War 2 memorial as currently we do not have one. He has discovered 13 names; 4 people died at Esso on the first day of the blitz. If you have any information, please contact Trevor.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 19:30; venue High House Production Park unless government restrictions are in place.

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 giving as much notice as possible.

Purfleet-on-Thames.org

email [chair.POTCF@thurrockforums.org](mailto:chair.POTCF@thurrockforums.org)