



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)

Zoom Meeting Minutes 26th July 2022

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Mark Gibson, Erica Bowler, Cllr Lee Watson, Cllr Qaisar Abbas, Cllr Victoria Holloway, Ian Gallow Community Health Champion

3. General Discussions

Emergencies

What happens in an emergency/what provisions are there for emergency services being able to attend when roads are blocked due to the density of housing/ M25 jams overspilling onto local roads?

John and Trevor signed up with emergency planning at the council but there was no progression and no information provided for our area, although emergency packs (high viz, 1st aid kit, contact numbers) were put in place for Grays.

Harris Riverside is our emergency centre unless the issue is flooding.

The Back Stage Centre had not been aware of the possibility of their site being used as an emergency base.

Will need to contact the council to find out if any plans are now in place and also get in touch with Cllr Lee Watson to see if she can provide any information/help as she was heading up the task force for the Wennington emergency.

Local road bottlenecks need to be identified along with businesses such as the refinery - Head of Traffic and Transport should be able to help with this.

Defibrillators

Council run schools are to be provided with defibrillators.

To contact Purfleet Primary and Harris Riverside and ask if they have defibrillators on site, and whether they have bleed kits.

If we have such equipment a volunteer would be required to check dates/batteries/obtain replacements.

RSPB

New manager at the RSPB, Milo, who is very enthusiastic to get involved with all local groups

Bus Consultation Routes 11, 265 and 374

Bus users probably don't use social media, how do we advertise the consultation? Poster in our noticeboards.

Wellbeing Walks

Every Tuesday in August, meet 2.15pm at bridge by RSPB for 2.30pm start, one hour session.



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Play Equipment

John met with council officers to see what improvements might be undertaken by way of refurbishment and whether we can include equipment for the older age group.

Having to check if CEDF grant with 15% match funding will cover the costs.

Spider Field only has swing frames and a zip wire. Council suggested removal of frames, John suggested put up one swing and see what happens. If vandalised, relocate the swing frames next to Children's Centre. Waiting on costing which, as long as it comes in under a couple of hundred pounds, the Forum will finance.

Lisa believes the vandalism is being done by young adults aged 20+, that the mugger cage gets good use, and the skate park just needs tidying up. The skate park is basic and could have some additions - half pipes, bowl - but likely minimum cost would be £35-£40K.

Concrete table tennis tables are popular and there is not much to vandalise.

Contact Hansons – concrete for spider field?

Trevor suggested the swings are moved next to Children's Centre and that area be built up for youngsters.

Provide some outdoor gym equipment?

Redevelopment

Off of Church Hollow there will be a children's play area but there is no knowledge as to what equipment will be installed. Need to have discussion with PCRL as to what is going in and if it is for use by the public, or only people paying towards the upkeep of the play area. Swan is amalgamating with Orbit and therefore will only be involved in the 1st phase of house building. If Swan will not be involved in 2nd phase and the maintenance contract is with Swan we need to find out who will look after things.

Due to the negative response received when presenting the marketing plan Swan met with Ken, who said he was disappointed that the presentation had been lacking 'bounce'.

A follow up 'You Said We Did' meeting is planned for the town centre.

Social housing will be interspersed so should not be identifiable.

Wales and Cornwall are bringing in special measures – affordable housing will be allocated to local residents first, and they will stop outside councils purchasing – can we reserve housing for local people?

The Green Bins/Seating

Bins often overflowing, need bins next to benches and regular emptying. There is a spare bin at the entrance to station approach – can that be moved up to the green?

Will try to get a replacement log seat and keep the wood for the next beacon lighting.

Community Hall Update/Council Assets

2 trustees retired in 2002, nobody running the hall so the council took it over. Cabinet meeting last Wednesday was for the sale/transfer of assets and included – Corys Wharf, VOSA site, north of Tank Lane by bridge, Hugh Delargy Hall in North Road, Children's Centre. Asset list was approved to go to Cabinet to be put forward for disposal.

As for Corys Wharf, part of the regen, council are looking for someone to short term rent/lease, VOSA site - £500 per week rent commercial vehicle storage and has also been offered to council building team as has the parcel of land north of Tank Lane. Woodlands sold in March for £251K, the Butterfly Room has a 21 year lease for renting at £3k per year so it can be used for the next 21 years.



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At the council meeting Cllr Qaisar Abbas asked Mark Coxhall, deputy leader of the council, what will happen with the Children's Centre. Mark incorrectly said it had been built by Sure Start, and the end result was that the Cabinet had approved disposing all assets.

The Forum was advised to submit a Letter of Interest – community take-over with freehold – but Assets responded that the building is still being used, is a shared facility with a good relationship with the forum, so queried why we want to take on the responsibility of the building. This has received a reply and we are awaiting a response from Assets.

An Asset Transfer Request form has also been completed but was rejected stating the asset is not available.

Proof House, restored 1986 from Lottery Grant and Viola, is supposed to be used by local community and is rented out. Earns £5K pa and has 4 years lease remaining.

Jubilee Event

We are in profit and also now benefit from having a new laser printer; the stolen corgis were returned and are now in the lockup; graffiti on the queen's head was kindly resprayed by unknown person and is also now stored in the lockup. The silhouettes are to be loaned for Royal British Legion 100th birthday celebration. Enquiring whether corgis could be auctioned at the event with proceeds split 50/50.

Next Event

People would like another event and the next one will be the Christmas light switch on at the Green – need to work out how to organise volunteers/kitchen. Need to contact local companies for support, a visit to the new Ocado warehouse was made but proved unfruitful.

Lost Gardens of Thurrock

Book which includes an article about Botany Gardens - £12.50 if anyone wants one contact Trevor.

4. **Next Meeting**

September 27th – speaker to be Jonathan from the library as the tram company have been moved to our November meeting.