



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 27.09.22

1. Welcome

May's minutes appear on the website and were signed off.

2. Apologies

Lisa Wright, Adrian Hilsum, Christine Rowles, Hilary Mason, Duncan Innes (Swan Housing).

3. Guest Speaker

Elizabeth Murdoch, Emergency Planning & Resilience Officer TBC

Incident Response

Protocols remain the same post COVID, local area co-ordinators are in place and volunteers are always needed. Thurrock has 22 designated rest centre buildings (capacity 9,000) across the borough for use in times of evacuation, and hotel rooms are utilised if overnight stays are required. Kit is stored across 4 sites, our closest being Oliver Close and then DP World London Gateway, and our closest evacuation centre is Impulse Leisure Belhus.

Residents do not automatically go to a rest centre and tend to head for higher ground, or other places e.g. Wennington residents gathered together at Willow Farm. This is not an issue and co-ordinators will attend wherever residents are gathered.

Elizabeth will send a link to the chair containing 'go bag' information for residents to help them to be ready for an emergency.

Should anyone hear of a local issue they should contact the Forum chair who can then contact Emergency Planning.

Responses to questions from the floor included:

M25 J31 has its own plan in place to release traffic in times of emergency and to enable emergency vehicle access.

Access to chemical sites in the borough need to maintain access so these have specific clearance plans.

Plans are being considered for occasions when traffic jams last more than 4 hours, but that road capacity matters rests with Highways England.

The new owners of Lakeside have adopted all previous plans and consult with the Planning Department.

Elizabeth will approach ROH and the QEII Centre to see if they can assist in an emergency.

Purfleet-on-Thames will be used in their next major incident exercise.

Warning and Informing (Met Office, Environment Agency, Flood Preparedness)

Residents can receive personal flood warnings, all that is required is a personal email address. If interested contact the chair who has the links.

4. General Updates

Royal British Legion 100th Anniversary

Our Platinum Jubilee silhouettes of the queen and the corgis were lent for the occasion and very well received.



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Jubilee Event and Corgis

What a great event with up to 4,000 attendees!

The Queen's Pageant Master was very impressed with our report and the winning photo from the event was sent to him.

It was a very successful, incident free event with lessons also learnt.

The stolen corgis have been returned – any ideas what to do/how we could raise funds by selling the corgis?

Land Sell Off

Several council owned spaces in Purfleet are potentially up for sale/housing. The Children's Centre is still under review, awaiting outcome on a decision as to whether this is actually a council asset.

Lock Up

The Forum is now renting a larger garage and obtained racking free of charge.

RSPB

The new manager will be coming to our next meeting and Nikki is arranging free events including an outdoor yoga session, a volunteer week, wellbeing with nature.

Harris Riverside Academy

The school is seeking to link in with the community and want to do some gardening so will likely start work on the L15 plot in October. They are holding a Toy Fair on 2nd December.

Community Noticeboards

These are being revamped. Anyone wishing to display a poster should email the chair.

Benches

Cllr Lee Watson assisted with the removal of the damaged log seat on the Green, which has been replaced with another bench. It was noted that one of the benches near the Heritage Centre has been damaged/warped due to a bin fire.

Nigerian Independence Party

Taking place on the Green 1st October 12pm-6pm, open to all.

PCRL

You Said We Did Event 4th October 7.30pm – if you want to join Design Panel email John. First houses have a sale launch date of 19th November.

5. Councillor Comments

Cllr Abbas

Gave a tribute to the late Queen for her long life of service to us and the commonwealth. Thanks was given to the forum and volunteers for the successful Platinum Jubilee event.

Cllr Abbas has resolved most resident issues presented to him.

Garrison Estate - pest control is involved

Caspian Way – damage to properties caused by missiles – increased police presence

Botany Way – burning/smells – Protection team visit, advice given to site operator and warning given to refrain from activity

Pop up sessions have taken place to support Ukrainian guests

Purfleet-on-Thames.org

email chair.POTCF@thurrockforums.org



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A dedicated section within West Thurrock Cemetery has been provided for the Nepalese Gurkha community

Cllr Watson

Continues to undertake confidential casework for residents and informed the meeting that, as has been reported in the media, Essex County Council are now commissioners for Thurrock and therefore have the say concerning any programmes and ultimately make the decisions. They are overseeing our council and will be writing a report for the Secretary of State next year. As yet they have to say how they will progress things, but they will work with the councillors who will work with the council. Things will continue to be done but best value reports will be produced. Some engagement consultations will take place soon including transport strategy, local plan, and blue routes (river crossings). Cllr Watson recommended resident participation and dates will be shared when available.

Cllr Holloway

Informed residents that problems with waste collections are down to lack of staff and, due to the financial constraints of the council, agency staff are no longer being employed to pick up the slack. This week there will be no blue bin collection and it will be the last garden waste collection due to its suspension until further notice.

6. Police Updates – Neil Brand

In person engagement at forum meetings will start soon with the new sergeant.

Neil Brand attended today as the Town Centre Team (who report back to the Council) are on a rest day and beat officers are at a quad launch.

The Police now have 2 quad bikes for Operation Caesar (nuisance offroad bikes, the number one ASB issue across the district). The bikes will also be able to assist with missing persons. ASB Garrison hot spot – a walk has been taken around the estate and longer-term solutions are being sought. The Garrison was removed from the agenda this month as no ASB issues were reported. If problems occur, please report them.

How often there are patrols?

Impossible to answer as the 2 beat officers are part of a larger team (Town Centre) so may be directed elsewhere as required and the local policing team respond to calls and emergencies.

Are there still School Police Officers?

No, there are now Children and Young People Officers who are more focused.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

May – No update has been received from Swan following dislike of the proposed overarching marketing name of The Castings.

July – Minutes of the informal chat will be uploaded shortly.

8. AOB

Defibrillator + Blood Kit

Cost approx £1,800 per kit. Council will pay to have them fitted on a council building.

Comes in a locked box with a phone number displayed for obtaining the key code.

We would need a volunteer to check the equipment/batteries and be responsible for any replacement requirements.

It was asked if this is a need in our area.

Hand show indicated approx. 50% in favour of having a kit. Forum to look for a sponsor.



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Mardyke Park Proposal at Cherry Tree Woods

HGV logistic park with a community building run by Essex Association of Boys and Girls. It was thought that the land had been gifted to the Scouts but nobody had any information.

Event for Coronation

If we are to hold an event we need volunteers – contact John if you want to volunteer.

Environment Agency - Flood Meeting

Drop in at Thameside Theatre 11th October 4.30pm-8pm.

Christmas Lights

The Green, Saturday 26th November with hot dogs, teas, coffees and possibly the Council doing something. It is hoped that Thames Opera Choir will be able to lead carol singing.

Remembrance Day

Heritage Centre – Sunday 6th November.

Jubilee Event

The Forum website has a photo tab where you can view pictures of the event, and there is also a link to a video clip.

Lost Gardens of Thurrock

Book available, price £12.50 – if interested contact Trevor.

9. Next meeting

29th November 2022, 7.30pm start, venue to be confirmed.