



## 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 29.11.22

#### **1. Welcome and meeting etiquette**

#### **2. Apologies**

Cllr Qaisar Abbas, Cllr Lee Watson, Cllr Victoria Holloway, Lisa Wright, Adrian Hilsum.

#### **3. Agree Minutes**

Minutes for 26.07.22 and 27.09.22 were agreed and are available on our website.

#### **4. Guest Speakers**

*Gordon Pratt MD Thames Gateway Tramlink, also known as KenEx Tram*

A very interesting presentation was made about the benefits of trams and the meeting was informed that Central Government is looking for light rail.

The core strategy is for 18km/11 miles of tramlines, which will include an immersed tunnel 1.2km/3/4 mile long, which will connect Purfleet, Chafford, Grays, Northfleet, Ebbsfleet and Gravesend along with the potential to expand to the Freeport at Tilbury and Stanford.

The outline business case has already been submitted to Department of Transport and the next submission will be a full business case, expected submission next April.

Double tracks without the need for points means trams can run in both directions down narrow streets; they can carry 300 passengers and accommodate bicycles.

Benefits:

Lower energy consumption, no particulates, no carbon emissions, proven modal shift (in Manchester 20% of tram users were car drivers), lower operational costs, socially inclusive.

Indicative timeline:

2023 – funding for full business case and TWAO (Transport & Works Act Orders) preparation

2026 – TWAO submission

2027 – commencement of construction

2030 – scheme opening

*Questions From The Floor:*

- What is the predicted employment and what type of jobs?

Systems operators; tram drivers; tramway construction; looking at a south Essex site for tram manufacturing.

- As the default is green with grass/living cover either side of the rails who will maintain this?

In Manchester sedum is used which does not require maintenance.

- Do you have the funding for this project?

Sufficient funding has been raised for the outline business case, and there is an indication to say there is funding for the full business case.

- Is this a new start up business or are you already running trams?

New start up, promoter. Have the support of bus operators.



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- Can trams be powered without the need for overhead cables or use hydrogen?

Hydrogen trams are operating and an alternative to overhead wiring is available via supercapacitors or battery.

- Are you talking with the council here and in Kent? What is the reaction?

Yes, and we have had a good response. Meetings have taken place with the leader of Kent, who have a fast track bus service. To avoid competition it has been agreed to provide a tram to cross the river for interchange onto their bus service.

- Will you use established roadways?

It will largely run on existing street routes until east of Grays where there is the possibility of using non-street routes and talks are taking place with Swanscombe peninsula landowners. No properties are in danger from the routes.

- Due to greenery default do you propose that no cars use London Road?

No, green is default when you can. If there is already a road the road surface will be used and a solution for cars and trams running together will be looked at and found.

- Can trams be used for freight movement?

Yes, it is already done in Germany.

- A tram would be ideal for Canvey.

Yes, and KenEx have been lobbied by government about this.

- Will the free bus pass be able to be used?

Yes

A request was made that if there are any further thoughts or suggestions residents contact [info@kenextram.co.uk](mailto:info@kenextram.co.uk) Their website address is [www.kenextram.co.uk](http://www.kenextram.co.uk)

*Housing - Peter Doherty and Steve Dumbrell*

Unfortunately, they had to cancel at the last minute.

### 5. Updates

*Planning*

Mardyke Park application – a logistics and general use park with a sports hall, cricket square and running track as the community contribution, which would be shared with workers.

There has been much discussion and the community is finding the proposal unfavourable with this being green belt land, site operations 24 hours a day, significant number of traffic movements, light pollution and the poor site location for easy access to the sports facilities.

If you want more information email John - [chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org](mailto:chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org)

Planning idea, conceptual at this stage, for the retail park where TK Max, George Asda and M&S Outlet are situated – demolish buildings and replace with a car deck for HGVs with shops located at ground level. If you cannot find this on the council planning portal contact John.

*Children's Centre*

Following a resignation at the Council nobody is currently in charge of Assets. This topic continues to be pursued. Former MP Andrew Mackinlay did not know where the money to build came from as the Council were not able to finance it, nor how it came to be built in a Conservation area. Trevor is trying to contact English Heritage to see if they have any information.



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### *Port Access Via New Roundabout (located just south of Stonehouse Roundabout)*

Work is progressing quickly. A potential problem for residents will have to be monitored once operational due to port traffic having priority over traffic exiting Purfleet-on-Thames.

### *Jetty*

John has been attending Grays town centre regeneration meetings and learned that the cost of a jetty for Grays Yacht Club and Uber boats is prohibitive. We have an operational jetty.

### *Parks*

Our 2 existing parks are to be upgraded and made safe.

The swing put into the Spider Field has remained although the zipwire chain disappeared.

Adult exercise equipment is to be placed close to the children's area on the Green, hopefully by Christmas.

### *Noticeboards*

Equipment has been purchased to enable refurbishment.

Currently chasing C2C as our noticeboard was replaced without our knowledge and we have not been given a key to the new noticeboard.

### *Environment Agency*

Their October meeting at Thameside Theatre on flooding was interesting. They will speak at our meeting in May of next year. The Thames Barrier is reported to likely last until 2070. Contact John in advance of the meeting with any questions so the EA can come prepared.

### *PLA (Port of London Authority)*

John and Trevor made contact at one of their annual public meetings and asked them to speak at one of our meetings. We are waiting to hear back.

Again, please contact John with any questions you would like to raise such as what they control and what they own along the river, and why they are stopping us using the jetty.

It is believed that they financially support a museum where their archives are stored so it will be interesting to find out what ventures may be possible.

### *Phase 1A Site Visit*

A site visit to see the new properties has been undertaken.

Phase 1A is to be called Botany Gardens but the overall scheme is still to be named.

Swan is due to merge with Sanctuary tomorrow.

Swan has purchased the first 27 homes for selling on as shared ownership, anticipated prices: 3 bed £425,000; 4 bed £520,000 with purchasers buying 60-80%.

It has been confirmed part owners will be able to purchase the freehold when purchasing their remaining percentage.

It has been reported that there are no delays to the start of the second phase.

### *Food Store*

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at the Hub, no registration etc. If you find yourself short simply show up and make your own selection from the free food on display.



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### *Christmas Lights*

Thanks to everyone who attended and to Thames Opera Company for their support and for leading the carol singing. Suppliers are being chased over non-working lights.

### *Police*

No update as no representative present.

A resident of The Haven warned residents to be aware that a number of people on the estate have had car registration plates stolen. Someone along London Road has also suffered the same.

### *Councillor Update*

The councillors were not present as they had been called to the council offices.

Brown bins were mentioned. Collection has recommenced although it got off to a bad start. Check the council website for collection information.

## **6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

None

## **7. AOB**

### *Social Media*

We are looking for a volunteer to take over our Website, Facebook, Twitter accounts.

### *Advertising*

CVS asked us to promote Covid vaccinations and health by advertising flyers.

As most flyers are for other parts of the borough, the majority of attendees took the decision to only advertise flyers relevant to our community.

### *What's On*

For more information contact the organisation directly

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Harris Riverside Academy – A Ton of Hope, 4.30pm-7pm

4<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Stephen's Christmas Fayre

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Ensign Vintage Bus Runs

8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Visit by Purfleet Primary School to the Heritage Centre

9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Harris Riverside Academy Christmas Fayre 4pm-8pm

29<sup>th</sup> Jan – Heritage Centre – 1953 flood exhibition, supported by the Environment Agency

### *Future Events*

#### Plaque

Plans are being discussed in principle for Thames Opera Company to sing Amazing Grace at an event to unveil a plaque commemorating John Newton.

The plaque was originally unveiled in 2012 but returned to Thameside Museum.

A boulder has been sourced to mount the plaque which will be sited on The Green.

Thoughts include making this event a 'picnic in the park' where packed lunches can be pre-sold, and some form of entertainment provided.

#### Coronation

Currently there are no national plans for the coronation in May and it is thought that most people are likely to want to watch this event in the comfort of their own home.



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### *Issues*

Please contact John if you have any questions or issues you want to raise.

### 8. **Next Meeting Includes our AGM**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at 19:30, St Stephen's Church.

We need helpers on our committee (all of whom stand down at the AGM), so if you are interested, please fill in an expression of interest slip and return it by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Slips available tonight or by emailing [chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org](mailto:chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org)