



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 - 28th March 2023

1. Welcome and Meeting Etiquette

2. Apologies

None.

3. Agree Minutes from 31st January 2023

Minutes were agreed.

4. Guest Speakers

Robert Groves Business and 3rd Sector Consultant introduced the work of Riverview Charitable Trust

The Trust has been working in Purfleet-on-Thames for over 10 years supporting children, young people and families through a variety of programmes including Early Years, youth work, mentoring, meal support, skills training and qualifications and volunteering opportunities. Outreach and street work is undertaken, and satellite sport activities take place but are expensive with schools charging up to £45 per hour. Qualified youth workers and sports coaches will be running additional projects this half term. A new intervention project targeting anti-social behaviour issues is due to commence April/May with referrals straight into the programme which offers free activities mainly around sport, 121 and informal mentoring, and opportunity to access AQA qualifications in a subject of their choice from 22 on offer. Tracey confirmed that services do not overlap those provided by the Youth Offending Service.

Due to many children being hungry between 700 and 800 meals were given out last year.

The Trust is seeking to develop its existing partnerships and build new ones with stakeholders who can engage with, support, and develop the work of the Trust. As the current accommodation is hindering development both capital and revenue funding is needed, alongside income generation to make projects sustainable.

Everyone was encouraged to think whether they have any contacts who could help identify sites within Purfleet-on-Thames where a new building could be sited; to get in touch if they are interested in the volunteering programme; and to feed in any ideas about what the provision for the area should look like for the future.



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From the Floor:

Cllr Watson said she supported a new building and asked what would come first - the site or modelling around the details of a building - and asked about the size, scale, and timeline.

Rob responded that it is a top down, bottom-up approach led by the identified needs of the area, and that the Trust is very focused on early intervention which creates a long term impact and a better return over the long term.

The hope is that residents will take ownership and partner with the Trust to better serve the community.

Tracey anticipates co-design of the building via consultation and partnerships where expectations can be worked through and spoke of the need for new accommodation sooner rather than later.

Trevor Batchelor – Purfleet Heritage & Military Centre

Magazine Number 5 is the last remaining former Royal Gunpowder Magazine where most of the nation's gunpowder was stored for the army and navy during Britain's period of growth as a naval power and is now home to an extensive collection of local and military artefacts.

It is considered by Historic England a most outstanding example of a typically British type of magazine. It is a Georgian building with walls 5 feet thick and sand in the roof, and stored 10,000 barrels of gunpowder; the other four magazines were demolished in 1973.

A building called the Proof House, where all the nation's gunpowder was proved and tested for the government, is located behind the magazine.

5. Updates

Zone 1A development has been named Botany Gardens

Although the first 16 houses are due to be finished by the end of April and being marketed now nobody can move in until the remaining 34 properties are completed which should be by the end of the year. Work on Derby Terrace is anticipated to commence at the end of this year.

Christmas Light Donations

Swan Housing has been chased for their donation for last year's Christmas lights. It is unknown if Sanctuary and First Bus will donate, so when coupled with our need for a more reliable/expensive light supplier we may not be able to afford lights this year.

Coronation Celebration Sunday 7th May

Hub volunteers are leading on a event, Riverview Charitable Trust are providing a sports coach and the Forum are offering support. The afternoon event will be mostly aimed at the younger generation.

Play Area by Children's Centre

Cllr Watson and John Rowles are working with the Council to revamp this area.



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Lighting on the Green

£7,000 funding has been applied for to install a minimum of 3 solar lights for the corner of the children's centre, by the play area, and at the top of the steps which lead to the pavement below.

Port Roundabout

A council officer is on site daily as the road and roundabout will be adopted by the Council. The style of landscaping is unknown, and the Chief Highway engineer has reported that any works to the road will not be undertaken before regeneration of the area. John and Cllr Watson will be undertaking a walkabout on Thursday and direct any issues with the road surface to the right council department following a report that car tyres are being damaged due to the broken carriageway.

Planning

Planning Committee meet on 6th April and will decide on the PDI Centre and Aveley Logistic Park applications.

6. Matter Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

7. Any Other Business

Infrastructure/Town Centre Update Requested

The planning application for the bridge and railway should be submitted within the next few weeks but there is no indication as to when works may start. Initially an electrical substation by Botany Terrace will have to be moved to the southern side of the road and set on a plinth so that it is level with the road. There is a timeframe within which work must be started on the film studios, thought to be 2026, otherwise the Housing Infrastructure funding will be withdrawn, and the Council will reclaim land given for the regeneration.

Caspian Way/Botany Gardens Entrance

There will not be direct access to Caspian Way from the new development for vehicles other than bikes and emergency vehicles.

Jarrah

Surveyors are looking at the 3 properties affected by the recent accident, one lost windows, one lost their front bay, the third property did not suffer damage. At the time of the incident one property was empty and one family were away; of the 2 people renting 1 has been rehoused in Tilbury and 1 is staying with friends.



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Light Up Purfleet-on-Thames

This was an excellent event, and it is hoped it will be held here again.

Cllr Watson

Lee reminded residents that ID will be required to vote unless voting by post. Lee continues her efforts re the emptying of bins and encouraged people to contact her to discuss any issues.

8. Next Meeting

19:30 on Tuesday 30th May 2023 venue St Stephen's Church.