



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 28th November 2023

1. Welcome and Meeting Etiquette

2. Apologies

All councillors due to a Council meeting.

3. Agree Minutes

Minutes from 26th September 2023 were agreed and are available on the website.

4. Guest Speakers:

Port of London Authority

An interesting talk was given about the variety of work that the PLA undertakes.

Destination Thames

The aim is to make the river accessible to all and for it to be an international icon for the City. Anyone with suggestions of initiatives for this part of the river on the Essex side regarding the quality of the river or how more people can access and enjoy the river are to contact the chair. Grants are available to clubs who make a case as to how their use of the river can make a difference. PLA also have an environment fund, again a case needs to be made for how a project can make a difference to the use of the river, and evidenced.

Residents can sign up for a fortnightly newsletter about the river called Tidal Thames News:

<https://share.hsforms.com/6716815/badd7196-dd42-4cc6-a640-d088b39b6290>

Trading Thames

The heart of the river's economy is from the Thames Barrier to the estuary. It is recognised that trading is essential and strategic investment in acquiring land is being undertaken as a catalyst for wider growth.

Thames Freeport

The Freeport is part of the Levelling Up Agenda with financial incentives to drive investment. The PLA are trying to ensure the trade relied on is as sustainable and as green as possible.

Thames Tidal Super Sewer

This is due to be operational in 2025 to assist with collecting London's excess sewage that currently flows into the river.

From 1st July 2023, the PLA mandated operators they can no longer discharge sewerage into the river.

Plastic Pollution

Vessels are placed strategically to catch litter, but it is not believed they can be utilised here.

Moorings

The PLA is not responsible for every pier and mooring and it is largely a Local Authority planning issue.

PLA's Priorities

Supporting sustainable growth in port trade – pilotage recruitment to handle increased trade and maintain service levels – progressing the priorities captured in the Thames Vision 2030



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Action Plan – advancing Thames Master Planning – developing the new marine control centre in Gravesend.

PLA's Current Activities

Air quality strategy – Thames Green Scheme – Environment Fund – Light freight strategy – FfT Domestic Green Corridors taskforce chaired by PLA Director of Sustainability & Net Zero Transition – fleet strategy 2040 and biofuel transition – net zero coalition and right ship emissions model – hydrogen Highway project – clean Thames Manifesto – Thames Master Planning.

Ken Dytor – 21st Century Campus

The vision for film and tv studios has moved on and the intention now is to create something more special and unique in the 54,805 sqm space owned by the council to include crossovers linking in with education and apprenticeships.

The Dome, an innovative and inclusive approach, is a sub-set to kick start everything off.

James Bradbury from Bradbury & Bradbury – Dome Theatre

A 6,100 sqm space which can be used for theatre, music, exhibitions, e-sports with food and beverages available outside the dome.

With no internal pillars the 2,000 seats all have a great view, and the seats can be removed within 48 hours to allow standing room for 5,000 people.

It is believed people will want to travel from Europe to attend events and they are also looking at ideas as to how to connect with shows from abroad.

It has a low carbon footprint and is the world's largest tent tensile structure, which can be constructed in 9 months, and was said to be a low-risk investment, ballpark £8 million.

Questions From The Floor:

This is a residential area, what considerations have been given to noise, vehicles late at night, the height of the dome, noise from the outdoor areas?

All sound and light will be contained within the theatre.

The sound will be broadcast into the audience, seating and flooring and use the latest technology.

They are working with Urban Catalyst regarding minimal noise, including sound from vehicles.

Thinking of the O2 will the outside be lit up and activities take place over the dome?

Not every day of the week but yes when celebrating something special.

Can locals afford ticket prices, how many days a week will this operate and what are the operating times?

Don't know ticket prices, how many days a week this will operate or what times the entertainment will finish.

How do you expect people to travel here?

Train – conversations taking place with C2C regarding a 'theatre' train.

River – tentative enquiries have been made with Uber to transport people from the city and river crossings from Kent are also under consideration.

It was pointed out that they will need to consult with the PLA as the jetty is in a very poor state of repair.

How many car park spaces on site, and how many and where off site?

250-300 on site and 240 at the City Campus site.

How will things be transported to the site and where will performers and staff stay?

The site has been designed to accommodate low loader artics.

Accommodation has yet to be considered.

Will meeting rooms be available to local people?



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Yes. This project will also see jobs, training, and career opportunities for young people.

5. **Updates**

Meetings

An Overview and Scrutiny meeting was attended by John and Trevor where Stanford-le-Hope station, Grays underpass and the Purfleet regeneration were discussed.

John and Trevor also attended a Cabinet meeting where, despite not being on the pre-arranged speaker list, they were invited to speak about the regeneration.

They also attended two early-stage planning presentations; one described as an employment hub, but which is really a logistic park with seven warehouses. The other is a large housing application on the north side of the A13.

This Thursday's planning meeting will see a proposed application for a logistic centre on the east side of the M25 (retail park where TK Max is located), the retail units to be replaced with the biggest warehouse in Europe.

Defibrillator

£1,500 has been received from the Mayor's Fund towards a defibrillator. Lee Stevens has kindly offered to install this free of charge on the public building on the Green.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Additional groups attended this year including stilt walkers from Light Up Purfleet.

Arts Outburst ran a mini-lantern class with approx. 100 children attending and the lanterns were paraded around the Green. Kinetica also paraded their silk flags.

Our thanks go to Ensign Bus, Sanctuary/PCRL, Cllrs Watson and Green for their generous donations and to the committee and volunteers for their work.

Cllr Georgette Polley, being unable to attend the event herself, very kindly offered to pay for the First Aider. All committee members present agreed the Forum should pay 50% of the £150 cost.

Received from Cllr Abbas:

Most issues raised by residents have been resolved.

Marine Court car park, plus other areas, have been cleaned.

Two burnt vehicles were removed from North Road and the footpath is now clean and clear following weeding and cutting back of bushes.

Ground Maintenance will carry out necessary works to tree issues in the bus turnaround.

Brown bin bi-weekly collection will end on 15th December and resume in February 2024.

Real Christmas trees will be collected between 8th and 19th January 2024.

Parking:

Following reports of hotel customers parking in residents' bays opposite the Royal Hotel enforcement officers visited the site and the hotel has been advised about parking and planning conditions.

A consultation seeking residents' views about extending the permit parking times will take place before the end of current financial year.

Mayoral Roll of Honour:

Cllr Abbas has recommended several individuals for inclusion on the Mayoral Roll of Honour for outstanding voluntary services including Sue Gosling - Purfleet Heritage Centre; Claire Asplin - Forum Secretary; Lynn Mansfield - Mulberry Drive; and Jo Goddard - Piper.

Forum Chair, John Rowles, and Vice Chair, Trevor Batchelor, were also inducted into the Mayoral Roll of Honour on 30th March.



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PFCC 2024/25 Survey:

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex has launched a Precept Survey to obtain views on more investment in the Police, Fire & Rescue Services in Essex:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MVKC3H>

Christmas Events:

Thanks to Lynn Mansfield and volunteers for organising the Christmas Fete and Fayre in Mulberry Drive Hall, and to Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum and their volunteers for arranging the Christmas lights switch-on on the Green.

6. Matter Arising from Previous Minutes

Recent traffic gridlock meant it was nigh impossible to exit Purfleet-on-Thames at the eastern end due to port traffic having the right of way on the new roundabout. John said this can be raised with the port and if needed an approach made to the council for traffic lights to be installed.

7. Any Other Business

Committee

If you are interested in standing for a position on the committee at the AGM in January, please register your interest with the Chair no later than Tuesday 16th January 2024.

RSPB

Car park charges are to be introduced in January.

St Stephen's Christmas Fayre

2nd December 1-4pm; carolling by Thurrock Gospel Choir and tree lights switch on 5pm.

Community Pantry

New shop opening next year, hopefully with a café and small community space.

Kidzproof Nursery

Now open and based in the Proof House.

8. Next Meeting to Include AGM

19:30 on Tuesday 30th January 2024.

Speakers:

Brian Warrens from The Backstage Centre; and Simon Burwood Thurrock Education College.