



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 30th July 2024

Attendees:

Trevor Batchelor (Vice Chair), Lyn Batchelor, Janet, Christine Rowles (Committee), John Rowles (Chair), Aaron Hastings, Moira Pollington (Committee), Claire Asplin (Secretary), Adrian Hilsum (Committee), Lynn Gittins, Jo, Hilary Mason (Treasurer), Gail Lawson-Phillips (Committee), Angela Savage, Lee Stevens (Committee)

Apologies:

Cllr Lee Watson; Cllr Aaron Green will try to attend.

This was a Zoom informal meeting with no agenda which started at 19:30.

The Purfleet-on-Thames Big Lunch took place yesterday.

It was an amazing event with an excellent turnout; 10 Big Lunches are being held in the borough.

The councillors are aware of the fly tipping at the bus stop by the railway station.

It was asked if the new government's housing targets would impact us locally.

Conversations have been taking place with a supportive government agency. There is the possibility of some movement on the building front but likely to not be quite in line with the regeneration's vision. Limited conversation and governance checks have been undertaken by the council with a possible partner, so things are happening behind the scenes even if very slowly, with likelihood of work commencing at the Market Square. Sanctuary have yet to finish the association housing.

Wyldecrest Park – 28 storey building is being proposed so we need to keep an eye on this as currently there are no other local high rises, then assess and comment.

Kirsty Paul is no longer with Thurrock Council and there is no updated Local Plan, which is said to be a council priority. Lynn Gittins said she will try to ascertain who oversees the Local Plan at the Your Voice Your Place meeting on Thursday. All job titles in the council have changed so it is difficult to know who is responsible for what.

There is a public consultation until 28 August regarding a 10-year plan for walking and cycling.

Kenex Trams, who spoke at our November forum meeting, have applied to the government for funding for the first phase of their tram line. Gordon is to meet Trevor and John at end of month to give an update. The original plan was to terminate at the green but it was suggested the station be considered instead; now there is no regeneration where else? New Tank Hill Road? The VOSA site has been sold for housing, so if the terminus was at New Tank Hill Road it would benefit Mardkye and Garrison residents as well potential new residents on the VOSA site.



Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

Bluelands Quarry warehouses, built on an SSI site, have never been used. Carpetright's head office is due to close, and the future of the site is unknown; 200-300 workers are likely to lose their jobs. Alex Beard, chair of Royal Opera House and Ballet, has been informed in case they want to relocate their storage from Wales.

The council has permission from the Secretary of State to enforce yellow boxes at J31 on the M25. Cllr Watson has been made aware of the belief that to be effective the roundabout for the A1306/M25 also needs to be managed.

It was said that Stonehouse Roundabout also needs to be managed due to traffic travelling north on Stonehouse Lane and blocking local roads.

During the meeting Lynn Gittins emailed the council's tree officer to ascertain what is to happen regarding the aborted tree work in the bus turnaround.

The Care Centre are replacing their noticeboards and have voiced that they would like to be supportive of the community. The forum now has their own noticeboard inside the Care Centre and asked if it is possible to have their old noticeboards. The Hub requested a noticeboard for the new community shop/cafe. A request to erect a noticeboard has been made to the Butterfly Room Nursery sited next to the primary school.

C2C has now replaced our noticeboard and would like to do something for the community. Suggestions are needed before their contract runs out - picnic benches for the green; toilet on public side of station; bleed control pack; costings to reinstate the disused field. Money is available from Sport England so Lynn Gittins will discuss the possibility of cutting the overgrowth in the field, levelling some of the land and installing a couple of goal posts when she meets with them next week.

18th August will see the unveiling of the first Essex Gurkha memorial, official invites are to go out and attendance is expected to be in the region of 400. CCTV is to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

The planning application to install the soldier silhouettes was made by the forum.

Another soldier who died in WWI was learnt about last year and has yet to be recognised locally. £477.48 is ringfenced from crowd funding at the time of the first incident of vandalism and was going to be put towards the cost of CCTV but as the Gurkhas are covering the cost of CCTV and ACS Steel are replacing silhouettes free of charge could we use this towards adding another name to the war memorial?

A group of 6 individuals recently vandalised the soldier silhouettes, throwing one into the river. ACS Steel still have templates and will make a further 4 for us - 2 to replace the damaged ones, 1 to replace the one thrown into the river, and 1 for the recently identified WWI soldier.

The war memorial at St Stephen's belongs to the church, not the council so Demus Lee will need to be contacted about adding another name. There is also a roll of honour inside the church.

The green plaque commemorating John Newton has now been attached to a boulder on the green and was recently unveiled.



Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum

Lynn Heath has been approached regarding the purchase of Christmas lights, some of which will need refurbishment.

Ensign have committed to continuing to help with our Christmas lights.

It was suggested we look at getting bleed control packs and have them installed in a separate box next to the defibrillators. Trevor to check if High House has a bleed control pack. Hilary has a contact who may prove helpful – Angela Savage. Perhaps C2C may fund these?

Cllr Aaron Green joined the meeting just as it was finishing. He reported that he had asked the council where their communication strategy data source came from as it stated that 92% of the borough's residents have internet access, and that he had also asked how the council intend to reach and communicate with residents lacking the internet.