



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 30th September 2025

1. Welcome, Meeting Etiquette and Apologies

It was announced the meeting would be recorded, to which there were no objections.

Apologies – Cllr Lee Watson.

2. Agree Previous Minutes

Minutes of 29th July 2025 were agreed.

3. Guest Speakers

PC Smith, shoulder number 81378, introduced himself as the new beat officer for Purfleet and West Thurrock, and referred to two ongoing operations:

Operation Caesar – off-road bikes

Operation Sculptor – theft from and theft of motor vehicles

Sexual assault figures for the area for were not known.

The next Coffee with Cops will be at The Pantry on 13th November and residents were encouraged to report problems.

Priscilla Omede, Thurrock Council's Principal Planning Officer, with responsibilities for Planning Obligations and Major Infrastructure, and Place

It was explained that S106 is a legal agreement between the local authority and a developer. It is subject to a legal test, the purpose of which is to make sure that new developments include things that benefit the local community fairly and reasonably, relate in scale and kind to the development, and are proportionate and justified.

Current S106 money for Purfleet stands at £621,040.15 and falls within 4 categories:

1. Feasible, but can't progress (awaiting the regeneration) - currently £340,776.07, the majority designated for education and a primary school
2. Feasible, service progressing
3. Not feasible
4. Still investigating

There is a sum needing to be spent by early January 2026 else it will be forfeited, being £201,941.75 originally for Purfleet Primary School and a further £2,044.20, which is the balance remaining from a separate S106 agreement after installation of solar lights on the Green.



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There had been little response to a previous request for ideas on how to spend some S106 money therefore, due to time constraints, the chair and vice-chair have had two meetings with Priscilla where it has been agreed to replace the current play equipment next to the Children's Centre with new play and multi-generational gym equipment. The landowner, Housing, has given permission for this to go ahead provided the equipment is placed within the existing footprint. Enquiries will need to be made to establish whether a bench with pedals in front of it could be sited outside of the footprint.

Two playequipment suppliers have been approached, including Playdale Playgrounds, and their brochures were made available at the meeting. A third company will be contacted. Residents were asked what types of play and gym equipment they would like to see installed. Pamphlets showing various equipment options will be available to view at the Hub, and the schools will be asked for their input.

A suggestion was for a simple frame, which people could attach their own exercise bands to, and arm and leg strengthening equipment. Lisa Wright to provide additional information.

Any new equipment must be durable and vandal-proof.

Rochina Raymond, from the council's Recreation Leisure department will set up a 4-week online survey for community input about choice of equipment, and asked residents to raise queries or offer suggestions via S106Enquiries@thurrock.gov.uk Residents can find out more information by searching for the 106 Section Funding Statement on the council's website.

Handouts which listed various ideas for spending any remaining money after the purchase of new gym and play equipment were distributed, with attendees being asked to add their own ideas at the bottom and to hand in their sheet at the close of the meeting.

Verbal suggestions included more benches, including picnic benches made of recycled plastic; and the mud track across the grass from the bend to the Children's Centre be widened to support wheelchair/buggy use and be made into a more sustainable surface.

Ideas for spending on one large, one medium and one small project for future S106 funding agreements to be sent to chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org and these will be forwarded to Priscilla Omede for future reference.

4. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes and Updates

The Big Lunch saw 1,200 attendees.



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The first SALUTE! Festival proved successful despite low numbers.

Due to insufficient business October's cabinet meeting has been cancelled, meaning further delay around any possible regeneration scheme.

The Community Pantry is going from strength to strength, and the café is open Mondays and Thursdays 10am-2pm.

Planning enforcement has attended the Royal Hotel on three occasions.

The hotel is believed to have 52 rooms and 30 car parking spaces.

Enforcement have identified 40 rooms.

The council is chasing regarding the scaffolding, and residents were informed the original company has gone into liquidation.

5. Councillor Comments

Cllr Aaron Green

Elections will take place in May 2026.

Many questions around the local government reorganisation remain unanswered at this stage, including hospitals and household refuse centres. Thurrock is pursuing a 4-model proposal (Thurrock, Brentwood, Epping, Harlow) which has been submitted to the Secretary of State, with a decision due around February.

Casework continues, as does working with the Pantry, and Aaron can be contacted at AGreen@thurrock.gov.uk

Cllr Qaisar Abbas

No hotel in Thurrock is being used to accommodate asylum seekers.

Thanks to Lynn Mansfield and volunteers for organising a free community breakfast and family food packs.

Various items of casework were mentioned, and residents were encouraged to report minor incidents of domestic abuse.

Qaisar can be contacted on 07552407007 or QAbbas@thurrock.gov.uk

6. AOB

Christmas Lights

There will not be any festive streetlights put up this year due to increasing costs, but it is hoped to be able to provide additional Christmas lights on the Green.

Parking in Water Lane

Cllr Green advised parking issues across the whole of the Mardyke Estate, not just Water Lane, had been raised with the council and urged residents to continue to report problems, that the council has very limited powers, and it is the Police who enforce pavement parking.

Dog Fouling



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Cllr Green advised the council does not have enforcement powers over dog fouling outside of cemeteries, and requested residents continue to report incidents online in the hope that this might result in a public space protection order.

Speakers

Residents were asked to let the Forum know if there are any specific speakers they would like invited to future meetings.

Trees, Caspian Way

There was a disagreement as to whose is responsible for some trees in Caspian Way and the resident was asked to speak with Cllr Green at the end of the meeting.

Footpaths/Overgrowth

It was mentioned how in several areas there is only a footpath on one side of the road, and of drug dens in bushes along London Road.

Cllr Green said the council is trying to establish which agent is responsible for maintenance of the land along London Road.

Collapsed Wall, Tank Hill Road

Cllr Green reported that the wall is owned by a private individual and therefore not the council's responsibility. Cllr Green was requested to speak to the council about their duty of care and to at least put some kind of temporary fence/barrier along that stretch without shutting off the complete path.

Truck Park

Guidance for lorries on the council's website has been changed but the truck park shows as being in Marlow Avenue. A request was made for these details to be changed to stop lorries incorrectly turning into Marlow Avenue and then turning round in Water Lane causing damage to parked vehicles and for double yellow lines on the road entrances. Cllr Abbas will pass this request to the council and see about the possibility of a prohibition road sign on the junction of Tank Hill Road and Marlow Avenue.

7. Next Meeting

19:30 on Tuesday 25th November 2025.