



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 25.11.25

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Cllr Lee Watson, Lee Stevens, Moira Pollington.

3. Agree Previous Minutes

Minutes of 30th September 2025 were agreed.

4. Guest Speakers

Police

Nuisance Bikes

An effort is being made to try and tackle nuisance bikes and is mostly intelligence led due to rigid rules on who can chase and stop such vehicles.

A request was made for residents to report information, which can be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers.

Although each policing team includes some pursuit trained officers it was confirmed there has been no change of policy regarding stopping e-bikes and scooters.

Road traffic officers are pursuit trained and have different capabilities, so bikes and scooters are more of a traffic-based speciality but, as they are a danger to public, permission to pursue must first be obtained.

A view was expressed that illegal riders' safety is being given priority over that of pedestrians.

Car Drivers

If you have dashcam footage of poor driving this can be uploaded to Extra Eyes on the Essex Police website and checked for reportable offences.

In response to a comment that Thurrock is the biggest hub in the UK for uninsured drivers the meeting was informed that an operation involving checks and the use of ANPR was undertaken last week and will be repeated; results of which are not yet known.

Police did not have figures identifying uninsured drivers living in the area and those visiting.

There is a police presence on Friday and Saturday nights to enforce Public Space Protection Orders.

Travellers

Police are unaware if the travellers, moved on from an industrial unit off Stonehouse on Saturday, have left the area.

It was put to Police that the council car park in Crown Road should have the barrier locked to avoid any encampment there.

Thurrock Data Centre

Rebecca Coleman, SEC Newgate (public consultation organisation) introduced:

Google Representatives:

Acquisitions and Development – Daphne Adjei



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A planning application has been submitted to use $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site for development, retain access to the lake for fishing, and open up an area to the public to include cycling and walking trails and the outcome is expected in Quarter 1 of 2026.

Despite creating up to 200 full time jobs which are not part of the construction process there are no plans for on site parking, but they are looking at the positioning of the land and its access in case parking is warranted for the proposed public use area.

On hearing there is no parking it was asked if the company will be arranging transport for workers and, as roads are not always built to accommodate buses, of the need to talk to transport providers.

The transportation plan has been approved by the council; there will be a phased approach to the development allowing room for contractors to park on site.

At the last meeting they attended it was said there would be very few jobs, being skilled technicians who would not be based on site, so how come there are now lots of jobs?

The centre will be operating 24/7 and the jobs will be split across engineers to maintenance teams and canteen staff. It was not said how many jobs are likely to go to local people.

The go-kart lease expires in mid-2026 and an agreement has been reached with the tenant to terminate the lease.

Community Lead - Michael Blake

To help the local community Google has started conversations with the RSPB (trails and education) and Essex Community Foundation.

They have looked at 2 programmes needed by residents which align with the Local Plan and are working towards some level of a youth hub.

They are looking at building a 5-star community hub that has planning permission and to actively partner with skills and workforce development.

They can access an apprenticeship levy pot and are looking at apprenticeships for local companies, businesses and charities, e.g. apprenticeship with local bus company to obtain a bus driver's licence.

As there is a history of motor sport on the site, they are in early conversations with Lewis Hamilton's charity Mission 44 and pathways into motor sport.

They are also piloting a few things for grass roots organisations who don't have the capacity to write a business plan but may instead be able to access some funding from Essex Community Foundation.

The data centre will be powered by clean energy and be air cooled.

There will be solar on site and PPAs (power purchase agreements) enabling them to purchase green energy to offset power used.

With connection being independent of the local grid the grid will not be affected in any way.

Bernadette Wakeling - A Commedia Christmas Carol – Friday 19th December 7pm

Bernadette taught at Palmers College and runs the community-based theatre company The Complete Commedia Co. Ltd. which works almost exclusively in Thurrock with its 7 staff.

An attendee from last year said what a great show it was and strongly recommended people go to the hour-long performance at St Stephen's if they could.

Tickets (available from trybooking.com) start from £5.

For information contact enquiries.commedia@outlook.com



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5. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes and Updates

Play/Gym Equipment

A meeting took place today with the third playground company, Sutcliffe, whose plans were available to view and comment on. Once their quote has been received all quotes will be passed to the council for a final decision.

To facilitate adult gym equipment, planning permission costing £300 will be required for an extension to the current play area footprint.

It was confirmed that Housing would not raise an objection if planning permission were sought for this, and nobody present objected to applying for planning permission.

S106

CVS hosted an online S106 meeting to enable groups other than forums to put forward suggestions for future spending.

The chair, vice-chair and secretary attended a meeting for forums at the council offices to speak with officers about spending options for S106 monies already held.

A request for the spending of a £2K pot was made for the removal of a lamp post at the bottom of the steps leading to the children's centre, to be replaced by a steel lamp post with a double head, one to light the pavement and one to light the bottom end of the steps.

The council will investigate a bespoke bus shelter outside St Stephen's Church, a standard shelter on the opposite side of the road, along with one to the east of the level crossing on the north side of the road by the park.

(Cllr Lee Watson arrived.)

It came as a surprise to learn the new lift for Purfleet Care Centre had been pulled despite funding having been granted by the Integrated Medical Board and having been told recently the centre was to be updated and run new services with more doctors.

Following up on this we were told that Mid and South Essex had said no lift was required as patient and service user facilities were all to be located on the ground floor, with the upstairs being used by NHS and council staff only. The Portfolio Holder was unaware of the change in plans, and we were assured that Tom Able, the Chief Executive will investigate this.

We also learned that we were now only to receive £100K towards the new play and gym equipment as Harris Riverside had requested £100K for a canopy over an eating area. Following discussion, it was confirmed that we still have £200K to spend on our project.

Heritage Centre

This will be closing on Sunday for 3 months for further refurbishment, with a grand opening planned for 1st March 2026. If you would like to volunteer or can offer photos, stories or memories of Purfleet-on-Thames please get in touch with Trevor Batchelor.

Councillor Updates – Cllr Green

Litter Pick

The Purfleet-on-Thames Wombles Litter Pick held its first litter pick.

Thanks to Dermott for providing food and beverages to the litter pickers.

The next litter pick will start at The Pantry at 12.30pm on 10th January.

Collapsed Wall Tank Hill Road

This is a listed wall and privately owned. The council are continuing to push for repair.

Resident Casework

This work continues and an online meeting has been arranged with the managing agents of Watts Wood Park.



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Christmas

Thanks to Sue's Gardening Services for donating the Christmas tree, planted on the green yesterday, and the gift voucher for the winner of the Christmas tree decoration competition. Cllrs Watson and Green have supported and contributed towards the Christmas market and the light switch-on.

Mardyke Estate

The signage was recently inspected and has been rechecked.

HGVs have permitted access for deliveries only.

A traffic regulation order request has been submitted to Highways.

Garrison Shops

The upcoming council auction concerns the leasing of the shops on a 200-year lease arrangement. The council will retain ownership of the housing and the freehold.

6. **AOB**

A Christmas market, carols and light switch-on at the green is taking place this Saturday. There will be no festive streetlighting this year due to increased costs and servicing issues.

A Christmas Market is being held at High House on 6th December.

Riverview Charitable Trust are holding half term youth activities.

We need help to keep the Forum going - if you are interested in standing as a committee member at our AGM in January, please email chair.potcf@thurrockforum by close of day on Monday 13th January 2026.

7. **Next Meeting**

19:30 on Tuesday 27th January 2026, which will include the AGM.