



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Venue: St Stephen's Church Hall, London Road, Purfleet-on-Thames RM19 1QD

Time: 19:30

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Adrian Hilsum, Claire Asplin.

#### **2. Agree Previous Minutes**

Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were agreed.

#### **3. Guest Speaker - Michael Dineen, Assistant Director for Community Protection & Enforcement Services (CPE)**

13 departments come under his remit which include public protection, community safety, parking enforcement, environmental enforcement, CCTV systems, domestic abuse and ASB teams.

He is the authority's lead for emergency planning and resilience and takes charge of major incidents on behalf of the council as Gold Commander.

Plans are in place for dealing with a mass casualty event, not for specific events such as a fire or flood, and include authority to halt train services and to divert traffic.

There is a multi-agency traffic plan, which includes the Dartford Crossing.

Plans are regulated under legislation and being restricted documents cannot be shared.

Declaring something to be a major incident triggers the involvement of other agencies.

In the case of flooding, if there is minimal risk to life, the Environment Agency takes the lead.

The Essex Resilience Forum meets quarterly to discuss concerns, and review incidents to improve practice.

Information/instructions to residents are provided via the council website, social media and the internet.

If there is a significant event involving danger to life, the council can send an en-masse text to residents.

If an area is to be evacuated officers will be on the ground instructing residents where to go and what to do.

Residents can sign up for the council's email updates to receive messages from the Comms Team; and on the council's website there is a preparedness page with useful information.

Work is under way to improve communications between the council and residents, e.g. around traffic.

Michael was happy for residents to email him with any issues that come under his remit.

#### **4. Matters Arising and Updates**

Police

Police operate two systems, one for phone calls and one for crime records.

Statistics are provided to forums to highlight what problems may exist and any changes.



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As percentage figures can be misleading it was recommended to always look at actual numbers.

Currently, statistics for Purfleet-on-Thames are included within the West Thurrock Ward figures:

For the period 26<sup>th</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> January 585 incidents were called in.

For the period 27<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> March 622 incidents were called in.

One incident may relate to more than one crime.

### Regeneration

John, Trevor and Claire attended the cabinet meeting where the regen project was on the agenda.

The project was discussed and it was agreed to partner with Muse, regeneration specialists. £450,000 from Freeport funds has been allocated to KPMG and Muse to create a business plan in preparation for seeking funding from Homes England. These plans will then go before cabinet for a decision as to whether the revised scheme is to go ahead.

Cllr Watson stated that a community hall within the market square is in the new plans.

The first stage of work, being part of the old master plan, will cost £181,000,000, and includes moving the railway station further back, building a link road, and pedestrianising the market square. There is a risk factor in obtaining the £181,000,000.

The missing fence from the Vineyard development was queried and it was confirmed that the fence forms part of the planning permission for Phase 2-1A, and the fence is to be in place before other work can start.

### Play Area Next to Children's Centre

It is hoped that a decision will be made soon regarding multi-generational equipment and that the project will be completed by the end of the year.

### Muddy Footpath

The worn muddy path which crosses the green from the Royal to the children's centre is to have hogging laid to improve the surface, and this will hopefully be completed by the end of April.

### Lamp Illuminating Steps

A concrete lamp post at the bottom of the steps leading to the green has been replaced with a metal lamp post which has an additional light to provide some lighting for the steps.

The play area, footpath and additional lighting are all being funded by redirected S106 monies. Suggestions for future spending of S106 monies was requested.

### Purfleet Pantry

Open Monday and Thursday, joining fee £3, £5 for a weekly shop.

### Heritage Centre

Walks, talks and presentations are constantly being developed to generate funds.

Outside improvements are being made to the car park and garden areas.

The Thames Board Mills head office Portland stone frieze, located in the wood yard at the bottom of Tank Hill Road, is to be mounted and placed on display.

### New Ward



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The Purfleet-on-Thames Ward will incorporate Watts Woods and Armour Road.

### Local Government Reorganisation

Thurrock is to join with Basildon, who have a debt of £800,000,000.

The councillors believe Basildon and Thurrock's debt combined will be unsustainable. It has been noted that Essex County Council are seeking a judicial review.

### 5. Any Other Business

#### Fly Tipping Beacon Hill Flats

The council is not responsible for tipping on private land but has repeatedly been reporting cases of fly tipping to the managing agent.

The council is looking at a new fly tipping strategy which will include covert and overt cameras, and possible new legislation may allow the council to clear rubbish and charge costs back to the landowner.

Legislation states where bins are positioned so a consultation may need to be undertaken before bins could be moved away from the edge of the road and placed out of sight.

#### Davy Down

The council are aware of the issue of rubbish in the valley and are trying to establish egress and gather evidence to enable prosecution.

#### Rats

There is no longer a statutory duty for the council to deal with rat infestations.

If there is a risk to public health Environmental Protection will become involved and pass costs incurred on to private residents.

#### C2C

It was asked if the councillors would speak to C2C about the level crossing gates being down for 10-15 minutes without any trains passing through.

#### Shelter

It was asked if the shelter placed next to the children's centre needed planning permission as it is within a conservation area. Cllr Green thinks that Education may have arranged for it without seeking permission. Councillors to check if Education spoke to Housing.

#### Vineyard Park

Young people are hanging out in the park in the evenings causing noise nuisance.

Cllr Green said conversations are trying to be had with the young people to get them to disperse.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> May Elections

People can vote for 2 candidates.

#### Graffiti

Is it possible to paint over the graffiti on the hoardings on London Road?

The council are speaking to Sanctuary and hope to reach an agreement involving use of some S106 money but it was not known how much S106 money would be used for this.

#### Speakers

Purfleet-on-Thames.org  
email chair.potcf@thurrockforums.org



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It was suggested Peter Wright from the council is invited to speak as he is involved with the work being carried out on road widening and pavement widening and he could inform residents of his plans for Purfleet-on-Thames.

### **6. Next Meeting**

Next meeting 26 May, 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church.