



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 July 2026

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

Time: 19:30

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Claire Asplin and Cllr Aaron Green.

2. Agree Previous Minutes from 28th May 2026

Minutes of 28th May were agreed.

3. Guest Speaker – Peter Wright, Thurrock Council Highways Service

Peter Wright outlined the responsibilities of Thurrock Council's Highways Service, whose actions are data led.

Highways duties include:

- Highway maintenance
- Road safety schemes
- Street lighting
- Roadworks coordination
- Structures and bridge maintenance
- Government funding allocations and prioritisation

Speed cameras do not fall within Highways' remit, and humps and bumps cannot be sited between the new Port roundabout and Esso due to HGV usage of that section of road.

A study is under way, looking at speeding on London Road and Tank Hill Road.

London Road is inspected bi-monthly and the road cracking close to the primary school is not deemed to have reached intervention level. However, Peter will raise this with the inspectors.

Jet patching and proper patch repairs are worked east to west in the borough and Purfleet-on-Thames is on the list.

Matters Raised

Residents raised numerous local issues including:

- Condition of London Road
- Cracking and deterioration of carriageways
- Potholes and road repairs
- Pavement parking
- Obstructed footways
- Residents with driveways in Keswick are parking in the road, where parking is limited
- Visibility at junctions



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- Overgrown vegetation (hedge notices have been issued to landowners)
- Accessibility for wheelchair users and pushchairs
- School road safety
- Footway parking enforcement
(currently only London and Manchester have pavement parking enforcement powers)
- Planned Cadent gas works
- Street lighting.
- Traffic congestion
- M25 and Dartford Crossing impacts
(Highways is limited in what they can do and when there is an incident National Highways have the power to take control of junction signals at J31 on the M25, plus there is now camera box enforcement which helps)
- National Highways projects
(Highways is working with Lower Thames Crossing to try and get best outcomes for the borough and to hold LTC to account)
- Parking on the bend at Centurion Way
(Highways is aware of the problem)

Peter Wright advised that:

- Parking across a dropped kerb is technically obstruction and dealt with by the Police, but he was unaware of who deals with it when occurring on private land
- Cadent gas replacement works remain planned but subject to revised programming.
- Some streetlights are dimmed at night but are not switched off
There is a fault with lighting at Orsett which would require a lane closure on the A13. As this is not considered a safety issue the council will not be undertaking repairs, rather leaving the faulty lighting to be fixed within the Lower Thames Crossing works so that they bear the cost
- Traffic management continues to be coordinated with National Highways and utility companies
- Removing the mini roundabout by Harrisons Wharf is an issue due to drainage and electrical works and the cost involved
A request was therefore made for this to be tidied up with a coat of white paint
- Specific resident concerns would be investigated where appropriate
- To check on planned roadworks in your area go to <https://one.network/en-gb>

The Chair thanked Peter Wright for his attendance and willingness to answer questions and help in getting solar lights on the green.

4. Purfleet-on-Thames Colourised Photos

Trevor Batchelor presented a selection of newly colourised historic photographs of Purfleet-on-Thames, demonstrating the use of modern digital restoration and artificial intelligence to preserve local history.

Members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

5. Matters Arising and Updates

Police Update

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



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The Police representative requested residents to raise any issues.

Residents raised several concerns including:

- Speeding traffic including electric scooters and motorbikes, particularly around school routes and the stretch of road from the bend before Jarrah (Chadwicks Hill) up to the new Port roundabout
- Dangerous parking affecting visibility at junctions
- Concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and road safety
- Illegal use of electric scooters and electric motorbikes, particularly during the evenings as riders have no lights, are dressed in black and speed

Resident requests included:

- increased police patrols, especially at night around 10pm
- To attend Purfleet Primary School when the school finishes as no traffic wardens attend and cars park everywhere

The officer undertook to:

- Email traffic officers
- Feed residents' concerns back to the neighbourhood policing team
- Ask the beat officer to check on the lorry park near the medical centre
- Consider additional patrols where resources allow
- Liaise with colleagues regarding school-time enforcement and traffic issues

Frustration was expressed by residents that both the Police and the council refer residents to the other party who, when contacted, say the issue being raised does not fall within their responsibilities.

Councillor Updates

Councillor Michelle Heal updated residents on current issues including:

- Accessibility improvements
- Community projects
- Housing matters
- Resident engagement
- Ongoing discussions with council departments
- Church Hollow

(The council are fully aware of issues at the site, including the hardcore across the site, and have met with the owners. The site is being monitored, and enforcement officers are involved as the owners have tapped into the water supply and work is taking place at anti-social hours. A PCN - planning contravention notice - has been issued.)

Cllr Heal was asked who is responsible for repairing the collapsed wall on Tank Hill Road. The council do not own the wall and Cllr Heal is making enquiries to try to find out who built the wall and the name of the estate's management company.

Planning concerns were raised over the permanent buggy park structure adjacent to the Family Hub, which is within a conservation area. Cllr Heal was asked to investigate and see if it can be removed or sited elsewhere.



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General Updates

Path on the Green

Following considerable liaison with the council and contractors the pathway across the Green has now been completed.

Family Hub Play Area

The proposed new play area continues to progress slowly, and a final decision on what equipment will be installed is expected on 6th August.

Regeneration

An informal meeting with Ashley Baldwin (Planning) had taken place with senior council officers regarding regeneration proposals.

Members were advised that:

- Discussions remain commercially sensitive
- Information will only be shared once confirmed

HMOs

No update was available.

6. AOB

Christmas Tree

A request was made for any resident to remove the dead tree on the Green.

Upcoming Community Events

Thames Board Mills Open Day at Purfleet Heritage & Military Centre on 9th August

Purfleet Pantry community activity on 14th August

Annual SALUTE! event, including Gurkha Festival and Kabaddi Tournament on 16th August

Military History Walks with the RSPB on 30th August

Ghost & Folklore Walk on 12th September

Crochet Poppy Appeal - poppies to be handed in to the Heritage Centre by 19th October

Dracula Day on 25th October

Residents were reminded:

- Community information should be circulated through a variety of channels and not solely via social media
- Purfleet Pantry continues to operate during the school holidays, although with reduced opening hours due to volunteer availability

National Highways has been invited to attend a future meeting.

7. Next Meeting

19:30 on Tuesday, 29th September.