



Purley on Thames Village Plan

Progress Report – January 2013

Village Plan - Background

The Purley on Thames Village Plan was first published at the very end of 2004. It contained several sections:

1. Introduction to the Plan
2. How the public consultation was arranged
3. How the team consulted Purley's youth
4. A summary and an index of local organisations
5. A summary of key findings
6. Background and brief history of Purley on Thames
7. The demographics of the village
8. The geography of Purley on Thames
- 9. Findings and action relating to Services and Facilities;**
- 10. Finds and actions relating to Litter**
- 11. Transport Issues**
- 12. Policing, Law and Order**
- 13. Youth Issues**
- 14. Communication**
- 15. Development Issues**
- 16. The Village Design Statement**
17. Useful Information

Each of the sections from 9 to 16 gave a report of the situation in 2004, and recommendations for change. The recommendations were taken from the answers to the questionnaires that were distributed and collected by an army of volunteers, and therefore represented the popular views of the residents at that time.

This update is a short document showing the actions that have been taken since then, in each subject area. At some stage, the parish council will sponsor a new initiative, to prepare a new village plan, which can act as a guide to future Councils, just as the 2004 plan has guided us over the past few years.

Key to the following table:

Actions completed or in progress are shown in normal text and ticked.

Actions which proved not to be possible are shown in italic text

Services and Facilities

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Improve sports and leisure facilities in village and locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adult / youth outdoor gym installed at Bucknell's Meadow. ✓ All-weather Ball Play area ordered for installation at Bucknell's Meadow – due early 2013 ✓ Boules piste installed near Mapledurham Lock • <i>No progress yet with WBC on swimming pool or other improvements in Eastern Area.</i>
Greater access to formal adult education in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The 'Silver Surfers' organisation offers Computer education and Tai Chi classes, aimed mainly at older residents. These are run at the Barn Community Centre. There are free taster/beginner sessions for both. • <i>The Barn was also made available to Reading and Newbury Colleges, and some courses were run. However, there was insufficient demand for these organisations to continue.</i> ✓ Adult education is, however, available at centres near Reading and in locations in West Berkshire, and this is supplemented by that provided by local community groups for specific leisure interest areas or special needs.
Try to institute a Farmer's Market here	✓ The Thames Valley Farmer's Market operates in Purley now each month.
Investigate the possibility of doctor surgery and a bank cash dispenser in Purley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Doctor's surgeries operate nearby in Pangbourne and Tilehurst. It was not viable to introduce one to Purley</i> ✓ The Post Office now offer banking and cash withdrawal facilities in Purley during opening hours. Out of hours bank service was not possible.
Improve waste recycling services	✓ In conjunction with West Berkshire Council (WBC), recycling services to Purley have improved dramatically.

Litter

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Reduce litter and the perception of the litter problem, (which was a significant concern in 2004).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Many more litter bins and dog litter bins have been installed around the village, and are emptied on a regular basis. ✓ Neighbourhood Wardens help to identify issues, and clear fly-tipping, graffiti and dangerous rubbish when necessary

Transport

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Traffic measures to support a safe environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Traffic calming measures in Long Lane installed and refined. ✓ Many roads re-surfaced over the past five years ✓ 30 mph speed restriction introduced along A329 through village ✓ 20 mph speed restriction introduced through the old village and past the Infant School. ✓ Parking restrictions put in place and further refined. On-going work to iron out remaining issues continues.
Create a cycle path through the village, and make critical pavements wider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pavement between Purley and Pangbourne cleared and made wider. ✓ Pedestrian ways over New Hill and Purley Lane bridges made wider. • <i>Cycle Path proves technically difficult and is too expensive for WBC at the moment. It still forms part of our request plan for WBC Highways.</i>
Bus Services	<p>✓ Bus services to and from Purley were improved considerably in the years following 2004. The situation is monitored with WBC on an on-going basis, because financial pressures on bus companies mean that they change services. At present both Reading Buses and Thames Travel provide regular and reliable services for Purley.</p>

Policing, Law and Order

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Support the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group – a forum of neighbouring parishes and agencies working together to improve community safety and crime) and Neighbourhood Watches	<p>✓ The Parish Council is an active member of the NAG and spends a lot of time monitoring and acting with others to reduce ASB and crime, road safety and community safety generally.</p>
Consider the use of street wardens, their role and funding.	<p>✓ The Neighbourhood Wardens scheme was introduced four years ago and has proved to be very successful in helping the village. It remains the Council's intention to support and fund this scheme.</p>
Inform and educate residents about crime and anti-social behaviour, drink and drugs use, and anything affecting community safety and the perceptions of safety.	<p>✓ The PC has used publicity means at its disposal to inform residents as much as it can. <i>Unfortunately, the law enforcement agencies have been less active in their communication, so there is still work to do in this area.</i></p>

Youth Issues

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Promote and encourage youth activities, youth council, and encourage volunteers to work with youths in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth Club (9-13 years) started in the lower village, supported by the Parish Council and run by local volunteers. ✓ Sports Clubs and Scouts actively supported by the Council, and facilities made available and managed.
Improve play facilities (especially for older children)	<p>The Parish Council has targeted Bucknell's Meadow for installation of better equipment for both younger and older children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New equipment has been added to the play area, ✓ New facilities have been / are being installed. <p>There is also an intention of upgrading the play area at Goosecroft Recreation Ground.</p>
Consider providing a Youth Shelter in lower village.	This action still forms part of the Council's plan. However, it has not proved possible so far to find a suitable location for the shelter. The work is on-going.
Look at a Duke of Edinburgh scheme for the village.	<i>This activity scheme is accessible through the Scouts and Youth Club.</i>

Communication

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Better general communication of local events and issues, and encourage a sense of belonging	✓ The Council uses the Parish News, noticeboards and web site to inform as much as possible, and offers its facilities to local community groups to advertise and notify parishioners.
Create a Parish Website	✓ A parish website was launched in 2006, and has now been extensively revised. The new site is due for launch in January 2013, and contains much more information now about Council business, local information, events and news. It is accessible at www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/
Create and publish a Parish Directory	<p>✓ The Council now provides directory information for local groups on its website. In addition, useful information is published in the Annual Report, and more is available from the Parish Office.</p> <p>There are also free local publications to residents now, which give directory information about local businesses and organisations.</p>

Create a welcome pack for new residents	<i>The church organisation does attempt to do this. Also, the PC has developed the new web site to provide more information for new and existing residents. Creating a specific pack was rejected, as the arrival of new residents is not notified to the Council.</i>
Parish Council business to be more transparent and accessible.	✓ More information is published and also available at the Council office.

Development issues and the village design statement

Objectives from Plan	Results Achieved
Develop a Village Design Statement (VDS) to use with WBC to act as a guide to future housing and business development in the village. This is to encourage the development, housing and employment that are needed, but also to protect the essential features and character of the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Although not a VDS in itself, the 2004 Village Plan contained some key elements that would be included ✓ The Council now has a large and dedicated Planning Committee, meeting twice per month, who review all planning applications and development in the village. The committee tries to apply these elements in advising WBC before they make their planning decisions. • <i>A VDS was not completed, due to the 'whole village' effort required by the format. Now in any case, the VDS has been superseded by another form of planning, which the Council does intend to initiate by 2014, if possible.</i>