

## NEWSLETTER

March 2017, issue 1

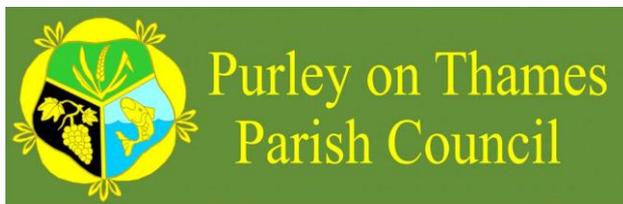
### Parish Council matters

Over the past few months an increasing number of people have used our message facility on the Parish Council website to share their concerns, give us feedback on new initiatives or to answer a request for information. We are delighted as it helps Parish Councillors to feel that they are working with local people.

We need your views again! Last month our District Councillor Rick Jones explained in this magazine that West Berkshire Council has plans for local libraries. The basic facts are these ... the funding of libraries such as Pangbourne library will be passed to local Parish Councils, their contribution amount calculated per head of population, regardless of the number of people using the library. Library staffing will be reduced by 50% and the shortfall will be made up by local volunteers. West Berkshire will provide the book stock and maintain the building. For Purley the contribution will be £4500 per year. Whether to support this plan is a hard decision for us to make. It is a great deal of money to allocate to one service when demands on our money are increasing each year. We are unsure of how many Purley residents make use of Pangbourne library or what they use it for ... borrowing books, researching, using the computers there. We are aware that some local people use other nearby libraries run by Reading. We also know that the increase in electronic books, home technology and the availability of books from charity shops may have led to a fall in library use. It is possible that changes in the bus service to Pangbourne and expensive local parking charges have affected the popularity of that library. Please let us know your thoughts on this topic as they affect you, your children or someone you know. If you want us to use Purley money in this way, we want to know. If you do, are there aspects of the library service which you would like to see improved or changed? We also need to know if you feel we should not support the scheme and tell us why. You can leave an e-mail message via the Parish Council website [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk), phone 0118 984 4507, write to our Parish Office, or talk to a Parish Councillor. Thank you for your help.

We have been asked what the Parish Council is doing with the bungalow at Goosecroft, vacated by the retiring caretaker last year. It is our plan to make it a source of regular income for Purley and we are moving forward with this. As all decisions at Parish Council level have to be approved at formal, monthly Parish Council meetings, progress can take time. The building has had to have a full structural survey, be refurbished and updated, decisions made about whether to use it for residential or commercial purposes and a lease prepared. Attention to detail is critical so that the Parish Council can manage it without problem but we will have the building ready for occupation and generating an income soon.

Sue Briscoe  
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council



## Public meeting

A public meeting was hosted at the Barn on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Its purpose was to give local residents the opportunity to hear more about the activities at Springs Farm and to ask questions.

A second meeting is planned to be held in Pangbourne but no date has yet been confirmed.

The telephone number for queries about Springs Farm is 0344 225 0003, or questions may be e-mailed to [springsfarm@glhearn.com](mailto:springsfarm@glhearn.com).

## Village Plan

Purley on Thames is in the process of producing a Village Plan. This is a document which captures a 'snap-shot' of a place at a particular time, looks at its strengths and weaknesses and its aspirations, short and long term, all through the views of local people. The Village Plan leads to an Action Plan to which the Parish and District Councils and other organisations can refer when deciding how to spend local money.

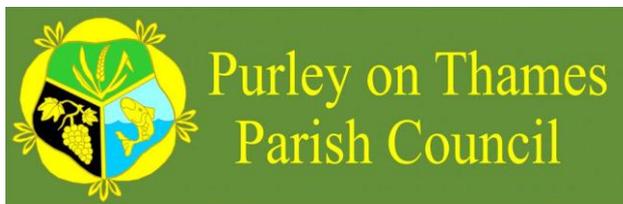
Just a few of the improvements which have happened as a result of Purley's 2004 Village Plan (still available on the Parish Council website) are: adult education via Silver Surfers; the outdoor gym equipment at Bucknell's Meadow; the Farmers' Market; and traffic calming measures in Long Lane.

Work on the 2017 Plan is well underway. A questionnaire, which provides the data for the Plan, is now ready to go. During the last two weeks in May and the first week in June, Village Plan volunteer distributors will deliver a questionnaire to all households in Purley on Thames and answer any questions about it. There will be an opportunity for every member of the household from five years old upwards to share their thoughts about Purley on Thames.

In 2004 61% of the residents of Purley completed the questionnaire. In 2017 we are aiming to better the number of returns in order that we have a really good idea of the views of local people.

We hope everyone will take the time to complete the questionnaire as fully as they can. Only by doing that can their views be represented in the Village Plan. All answers will be completely anonymous.

We'll keep you informed about the progress of this work as we progress.



## Notice boards

Most of the notice boards in the village will be replaced over the next few weeks. New aluminium notice boards have already been delivered ready for installation and we hope to have them all in place by early to mid April.

Notice boards are located on Purley Rise, Mapledurham Drive, Colyton Way, Knowsley Road, Long Lane and Clarendon Rise.

## A date for your diary

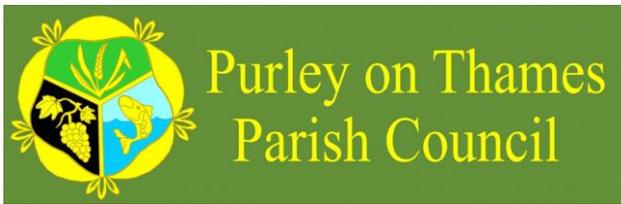
On April 20th 2017 at 7.30pm, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Barn. The meeting is an opportunity for residents of the Parish to hear from the Council about what it has done over the past year, and local people also have the chance to put questions directly to the Chairman of the Council.

This year, something extra has been planned for earlier that day. The Council is inviting local groups and organisations to have stalls at the Barn between 11.00am and 4.00pm so that residents can come and see what is on offer locally – in the Parish Office we are calling it the 'Purley Show Case'. There will be something for all ages, with the array of groups and clubs taking part including:

- Friends of Purley School – Tour de Purley;
- Scouts;
- Purley Park Trust;
- Project Purley;
- Silver Surfers/Tai Chi;
- Bridge Club;
- Friends of Purley Barn;
- Purley on Thames Cricket Club;
- Purley Horticultural Society

Additionally, there will be refreshments available with a small café area where people can meet and chat. There will also be some children's activities including a drawing table where the Village Plan Group would like local children to create pictures illustrating what they like about Purley and what more they'd like to have in Purley. These pictures will be displayed during the Annual Parish Meeting for attendees to view.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017, The Barn, Purley on Thames**  
*11.00am to 4.00pm – 'Purley Show Case' in the Large Hall*  
*6.00pm to 7.15pm – 'Purley Show Case' in the Large Hall*  
*7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting in the Small Hall*



## **Village matters**

### **SID training**

If you have concerns about cars speeding in the village, why not sign up for SID training and help us get a clearer idea of where there are problems?

A three-hour training session run by West Berkshire Council qualifies participants to operate SID apparatus. You'd be part of a small team of volunteers.

If you're interested, please contact the Clerk on [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) or call 0118 984 4507.

### **Feedback**

This is our first monthly newsletter and we'd be interested in your feedback.

- Do you like the overall look and content?
- Do you like the format?
- Are there any specific topics you'd like us to try and cover?

Your input would be a great help to us – although we can't promise to make all suggested changes.

### **Contact**

Villagers are welcome to come and see us during Parish Council Office Public hours, which are:

Monday	2.00pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	9.30am to 2.30pm

Our telephone number is 0118 984 4507, or e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

If you know anyone who might like to sign up to our newsletter, please ask them to contact [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.