

NEWSLETTER

April 2017, issue 2

Parish Council matters

Well, Spring has certainly arrived in Purley and I hope you have all been able to enjoy our lovely area in the sunshine?

At this time the Parish Council starts a new financial year and the Clerk ensures all our accounts are up to date and ready for inspection by the external auditor. The Parish Council is accountable to you, Purley's parishioners, and on 20th April we held the Annual Parish Meeting at which our activities and finances from the past year were reported. 2016/17 was a challenging but productive year as the Annual Report, which will be delivered to you very soon, will tell. At May's Parish Council meeting we will elect the Chairman of the Council and the Chairs of the various Parish Council committees for the 2017/18 period. This year we want to raise the profile of the Parish Council within the community, and this monthly emailed newsletter is part of that; if you know of anyone else who would like to receive it, do let us know. The Village Plan Questionnaire will also give you the chance to have 'your say'. More about that elsewhere in this issue.

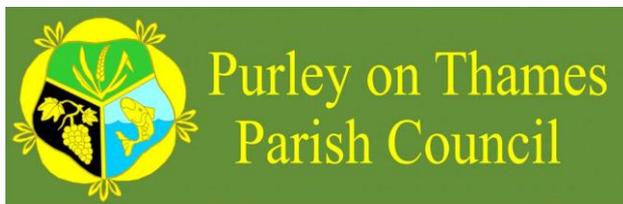
We are so lucky to live in this beautiful part of the country and, of course, that means that other people want to share it too. The hot weekend before Easter brought locals and visitors to our recreation areas and the river bank in droves! It's great to see so many people having a good time but NOT to see all the litter they left behind. Thank you to those residents who helped to clear up. With more good weather to come, the Parish Council has been reviewing how best to deal with this problem. We have plans to increase the number or size of bins in the popular areas of Bucknell's and Blount's Meadows. We will also be encouraging people to take their litter home. If you have ideas about what else could be done or would like to volunteer as a litter picker (equipment provided), please let us know via the contact link on the website or by phoning 0118 984 4507.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 20th April. A fuller update will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.



New Village Plan

As you are no doubt aware from our previous updates, a team of volunteers from across the village has been working on building a new Village Plan for Purley for some months now. Purley's first Village Plan was made in 2004 and much of the subsequent planning for the village was based on this. However, this plan has now run its course and a new one is urgently needed. If all residents are involved in identifying community priorities, this new plan will provide a valid and acceptable basis for decision making and expenditure at Parish and District level and also the evidence to support grant funding. Local people therefore have an opportunity to shape their future.

Many of the elements of the new Village Plan will be similar to our last one, just updated to 2017, but there will also be some significant new features. It will be a statement of how we all hope to see Purley develop over the next few years, and:

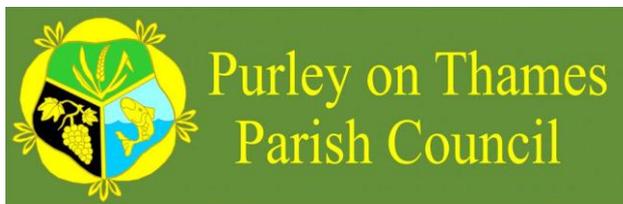
- Reflect the views of all sections of the community;
- Identify the features and characteristics of Purley which local people value;
- Identify local problems and opportunities;
- Identify how the residents of Purley want the community to develop;
- Produce an Action Plan to achieve this vision.

To gather the views of each member of your household over the age of five years of age, a Village Plan volunteer distributor will deliver a Village Plan questionnaire for your household during the last two weeks in May and the first week in June. They will also answer any questions you may have. There will be one main questionnaire, capable of collecting feedback from up to six household members over the age of 11, and a separate shorter children's questionnaire for those aged between 5 and 10 years. The children's questionnaire will also be available via the Purley on Thames Parish Council Website if they would prefer to complete it online. Extra questionnaires are available through the same website or via the distributor. A flyer will be delivered through your letterbox a few weeks prior to the questionnaire arriving to tell you a little more about the plan and the approach we are taking.

Please look out for both the flyer and questionnaire and take the time to complete the latter as fully as you can. Only by doing that can your views be represented in the Village Plan. Your answers will be completely anonymous. Once you have completed the questionnaire there are various ways in which you can return it, including a series of ballot boxes across the village. The questionnaire will tell you all about these. Questionnaires need to be back by 10th July.

Thank you very much for your support.

Purley on Thames Village Plan Steering Group



Tennis courts

Work to refurbish the tennis courts at Goosecroft will start in early May. The existing surface of the tennis courts is about 20 years old and, following a detailed survey, it was felt that it was near the end of its life expectancy and the courts should be resurfaced. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies are being used to fund the refurbishment project and Purley on Thames Tennis Club is also contributing to the cost of replacing three sides of the existing perimeter fence.

We have been advised that the contractors are due to arrive on site during the week commencing Monday 8th May, although this could be subject to change as the work is very weather-dependent.

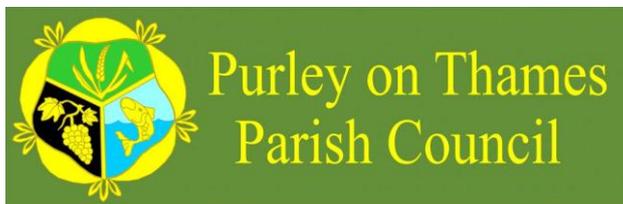
The works should take around six weeks but, again, this might vary depending on the weather as certain works can be carried out only in dry conditions. It is estimated that the tennis courts will be out of action for a total of eight weeks, so re-opening around the end of June. It might be necessary to close the courts again if there are very high temperatures, however, as the new playing surface could be easily be damaged while it is bedding in.

We would ask that all users of the tennis courts observe any site closure notices and, when the resurfaced courts do open, please make sure to wear appropriate footwear when using them.

Vandalism

Sadly, we have to report that there has been a spate of vandalism over the past few weeks. There have been various examples of abusive, destructive and anti-social behaviour at Goosecroft and in the village. This costs the Parish both in terms of the time Officers and Councillors have to spend reporting and dealing with problems and also, of course, because of all the damage which has to be repaired. We are liaising with the police in looking at ways to increase security and to address the problem.

We strongly encourage anyone who sees an incident to report it to the police on the non-emergency number, 101. It would be a help if the Parish Office could also be advised so that we can keep as complete a log as possible.



Village matters

Villager of the Year

Now is the time to send in your nominations for Villager of the Year Award 2017.

This award is given in recognition of a villager who has made outstanding efforts, in any capacity, which have benefited the community of Purley on Thames over the last year (or more).

The closing date for nominations is Monday 26th June 2017. Forms are available in the Parish News magazine, on the Parish Council web site, from the Parish Office, or from the Post Office.

Please get voting!

Feedback

We are still interested in your thoughts about funding of Pangbourne Library and the 143 bus service. If you would like to submit your views, there is a survey form on the Parish Council web site – under Council Matters there's a "Council Surveys" option on the drop-down menu.

Alternatively, you can send an e-mail via the web site, write or ring the Parish Office (details below), or speak to a Parish Councillor.

Contact

Information on matters raised here and other local issues is available on the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

Villagers are also welcome to come and see us during Parish Council office public hours, which are:

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

Our telephone number is 0118 984 4507, or e-mail 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 giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.