

## NEWSLETTER

May 2017, issue 3

### Parish Council matters

At our May meeting the Chairs of all the Parish committees were elected for 2017/18. The results: Chair of the Parish Council – Sue Briscoe, Vice Chair of the Council – Graham Rolfe, Chair of the Recreation Committee – Rick Farrow, Chair of Highways and Footpaths – Bill Ayling, Chair of Planning – Graham Rolfe. We currently have a vacancy for the Chair of the Barn Committee who will be appointed at the next Parish Council meeting. All the committees have plenty of work to do in the coming months.

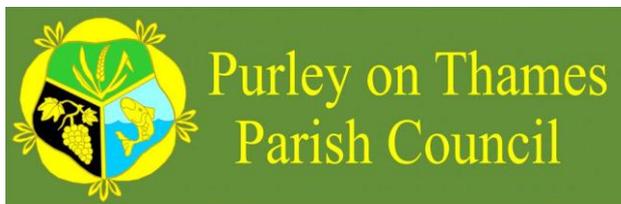
We have received the resignation from the Parish Council of Bernard Nix who leaves us for personal reasons. Bernard has been a dedicated and enthusiastic councillor who has given much to our community and we will miss him. So we have a vacancy for a new councillor. If you are over 18, are a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and live in the parish or within three miles of it, you are eligible to apply. If you'd like more information, please contact the Parish Office via our website or telephone 0118 984 4507.

By the time you read this you will probably have received your Village Plan Questionnaire, which I hope you will take time to complete and return. It is really important that we know how local people feel about such issues as leisure amenities, local transport, housing development, etc, in our area. Your views will steer our planning for the future and make requests from Purley on Thames Parish Council to West Berkshire Council much more powerful.

One way you can tell us your views about services we are currently being asked to fund is via our quick and easy online mini survey, which we have just launched. To find the survey go to the Parish Council website [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) then click on 'Council Matters' at the top of the Home page and scroll down to 'Council Surveys'. The current questions are about funding for the 143 bus and support for the continuation of Pangbourne Library. There will be more surveys in future so take a look!

If you care about the 143 bus your views are vital right now. Thames Travel has just announced that this service will be discontinued from 2<sup>nd</sup> July because Whitchurch and Goring Parish Councils have withdrawn their funding. We know that will be very bad news for some local people. District Councillor Rick Jones has written more on this topic and is trying to achieve a reduced service, at least. We will keep you informed.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council*



### 143 bus service

West Berkshire Council subsidises many bus services for the benefit of residents. West Berkshire is largely rural and spread out and we rely on public transport companies continuing to provide services they would not provide without subsidies – those with marginal custom. The 143 service through Purley on Thames and Pangbourne is one of these services supported not only by WBC but also by the parishes it serves. Recently, however, South Oxfordshire and the villages there have set up a new Community Interest Company providing a rival service using mini-buses and volunteers. As a result, Thames Travel would like to withdraw the 143 service because the new competition makes the bus unprofitable. Local Councillors and Council Officers will now look into the possibilities for providing public transport for the West Berkshire villages most affected.

*Rick Jones*  
*West Berkshire District Councillor*

### Village Plan

By now you should have received a Village Plan flyer and probably also your household's questionnaire. The main questionnaire can take feedback from up to six household members over the age of 11, and a separate shorter children's questionnaire is available for 5 to 10 year-olds. The children's questionnaire and extra questionnaires are available online at [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vpnew](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vpnew) or from your distributor.

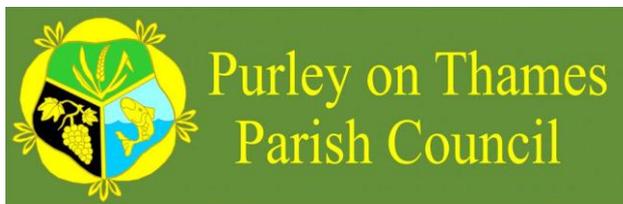
Please take time to complete the questionnaire as fully as you can. Only by doing that can your views be represented in the Village Plan. Your answers will be completely anonymous.

Questionnaires need to be returned in the envelope provided by **10<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. There are various ways in which you can return your completed questionnaire:

- To your questionnaire distributor, who will collect it at a mutually agreeable time.
- By hand to the Parish Office at Goosecroft (off Beech Road).
- By hand to the collection points at The Memorial Hall, St Mary's Church, Post Office, Parish Office, The Barn, Purley Park Social Club, Purley Sports & Social Club and Sansome and George. Each location will be available only during its normal opening times. Please see the Village Plan webpage – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vpnew](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vpnew) – for details.
- By hand to the collection points at Purley Primary School and Long Lane Primary School for parents of children attending the schools.
- By post to the Parish Office. Please ensure the correct postage is affixed before posting it and mark the envelope "Village Plan".

We will also be at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June and are happy to answer any questions you may have as well as take in your completed questionnaires.

Thank you very much for your support.  
*Purley on Thames Village Plan Steering Group*



### **West Berkshire Council – new contact number**

We have been notified that West Berkshire Council has changed its telephone number to 01635 551111. The old number, 01635 42400, will run alongside the new number until the end of March 2018 in order to minimise disruption and ensure customers continue to be able to access services.

Many services can also be accessed via the web site – [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk) – and the Council has an ongoing programme to provide more online services, thereby allowing customers to do more at a time and place convenient to them while reducing costs for the Council.

West Berkshire Council's out-of-hours emergency number remains 01635 42161.

### **M4 J14-15 road closures**

As well as weekend closures of the M4 between Junctions 12 and 13, resurfacing work is scheduled over the next few months between Junctions 14 (Hungerford) and 15 (Swindon). Overnight traffic management restrictions will be in place from 10.00pm to 6.00am on the following dates:

Eastbound Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (not weekends) – lane closures only  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – full eastbound road closures

Westbound Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May (not weekends) – lane closures only  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – full westbound road closures  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June – full westbound road closures  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (not weekends) – lane closures only  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – full westbound road closures  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – full westbound road closures

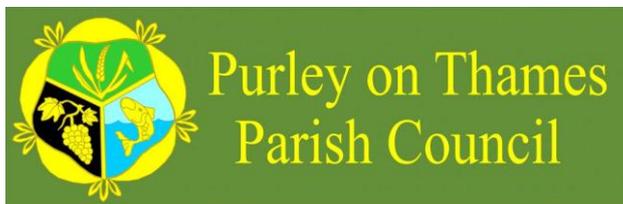
There will be signs on the M4 confirming the dates of closures and a clearly signed diversion (via the A338, A4 and B4192) will be in place during the overnight road closures.

### **Village matters**

#### **Villager of the Year**

Don't forget to send your nominations for Villager of the Year Award 2017 by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Forms are available in Purley Parish News, on the Parish Council web site, from the Parish Office, or from the Post Office.

Please do get voting!



## Volunteering

### Why we need Speed Indicating Device (SID) volunteer operators

Cheryl Evans, Senior Road Safety Officer at West Berkshire Council's Traffic and Road Safety Team, talked to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting about the important role communities play in tackling concerns about excessive speeding in local areas.

Cheryl delivered these important messages:

1. Residents need to work with their Parish Council to identify dangers caused by excessive speeding in their community.
2. Concerned residents should contact their Parish Council first before contacting West Berkshire Council.
3. To be effective at tackling excessive speed, a community needs a small team of Speed Indicating Device (SID) volunteers.
4. The Parish Council can collect vital speeding data through their SID volunteers.
5. Once a picture of speeding in an area is gathered, the Traffic and Road Safety Team can work with the Parish Council to gather more data or recommend actions as required.

The Parish Council currently has two SID operative volunteers but we need at least six. If excessive speed is something that concerns you, please contact the Parish Office to find out more about becoming a SID volunteer. Training is provided by West Berkshire Council and can be arranged through the Parish Council. Training takes approximately three hours.

## Contact

Information on matters raised here and other local issues is available on the Parish Council web site – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). Villagers are also welcome to come and see us during office public hours:

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](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

If you know of 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.