

## NEWSLETTER

November 2017, issue 9

### Parish Council matters

Now is the time of year for looking back on things achieved and looking forward to what's to come. You may be wondering what has happened following the completion of the Village Plan questionnaires in the Summer? The Village Plan Steering Group is progressing well collating all the information received from the questionnaires and putting it into a format to present to residents next year. Many action points are coming out of the data, so the finished product will be an interesting and useful document.

The Parish Council has been pleased to learn from comments from the questionnaires that the Council's website gets approval with some suggestions that more information be put there. One thing we have been able to action immediately has been to add a "What's On" page; it can be found on the drop-down menu under the "Local Information" tab. We understand that it is not currently possible to get this if you are using an i-Pad but we will address this. If you are organising a community event locally and would like it listed, please let us know by completing the form also to be found on "What's On" page.

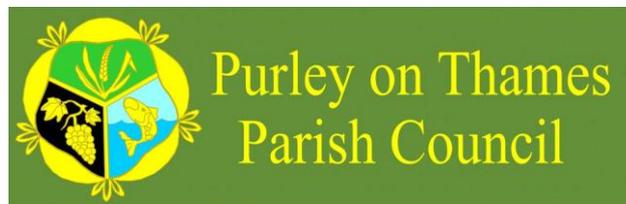
The Parish Council will very soon be setting its budget for 2018/19 so it is important for us to know the scope of future projects. We are aware that public footpaths will need some attention. Many of you made comments about footpaths on your completed questionnaire and we will be using these to help us plan the work required. If you have a view about maintenance of or improvement to a footpath, please let us know.

A map detailing footpaths in Purley may be downloaded from the Parish Council web site - [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Purley-Walking-Map.pdf](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Purley-Walking-Map.pdf).

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

### Temporary closure of footpath

Springs Farm has applied to West Berkshire Council for permission to temporarily close a section of footpath PURL 1/1 so that extensive works can be carried out to hedges and security fencing. The closure would last for up to six months from November while the existing Leylandii are removed and replaced with other types of tree. In order to carry out the work safely, the path would need to be closed from Westbury Lane to the permissive path. Springs Farm is aware of the inconvenience this might cause and will keep any closure time to a minimum. Further information in the form of Q&A is available on the Parish Council website at <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SpF-HedgeWrks.pdf>



## **Thames Valley Police**

Over the last few years, Thames Valley Police (TVP) has been reducing non-staff costs as far as possible. Part of this has involved enabling officers and staff to be more mobile in their work through the use of smart phones, laptops and Wi-Fi connection in vehicles. As a consequence of this, a number of police stations have been closed and, two years ago, Pangbourne Police Station was identified as suitable for replacement by a more modern, less expensive building. Various options have been considered in order to maintain a policing base in this part of West Berkshire.

Work on a new Fire Station in Theale is due to begin in the summer of 2018, and the new building will include accommodation for the Pangbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team. There will also be a base for Emergency Response officers from Newbury when they are working in the area. Pangbourne Police Station will remain in use until the new building is ready.

If you wish to receive updates, you can follow TVP on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Vine or by signing up to Thames Valley Alert via <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk>

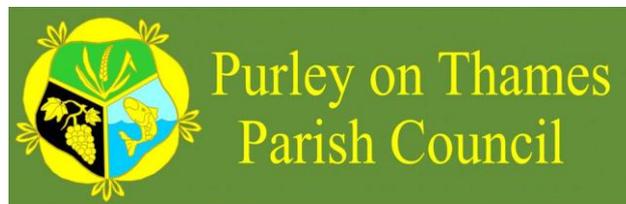
## **West Berkshire Council**

With colder weather potentially on the way, West Berkshire Council (WBC) is ready to keep people on the move with its Winter Plan for key routes across the district. From Monday 30 October, the Council will monitor the weather and grit roads whenever road temperatures are forecast to fall below 0°C. Further information about WBC's Winter Plan is available on its web site - <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=34636>. The site also offers advice and helpful links to useful information - <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/winterprep>

The salt bins in Purley will be monitored and top-ups arranged by our Amenities Officer, Colin Moses. If you notice a bin is low on salt or has been damaged, it would be a great help if you could contact the office to let Colin know.



Falls and slips are a risk for everyone, but the possibility of falling – and of being seriously injured as a result – increases as we age. As part of its Falls Prevention campaign, WBC has put together some practical advice, tips and guidance on minimising the risk of falling in your home, together with a RoSPA video showing how to get up after a fall. This and more information is available on WBC's web site at <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/fallsprevention>



## Village matters

### Flood Wardens

There will be an opportunity for anyone who lives on a road vulnerable to flooding to meet their Flood Warden between 8.00pm and 9.00pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the back room of Purley Park Social Club.

Why not drop in to meet the wardens and discuss what they can do to help in the case of flooding.

*David Briscoe*  
*Flood Warden Co-ordinator*

### Events in the Barn at Goosecroft

By popular demand, there will once again be a Christmas Market held in the atmospheric setting of the Barn; this year's event will be from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 26 November.

As well as a wide range of stalls (ideal for finding one-off, handmade presents), you can enjoy refreshments, mulled wine, a grand raffle and the Pangbourne Silver Band. And, of course, no seasonal market would be complete without Father Christmas!

The event is organised by the Friends of Purley Barn as a way of raising funds to support the Barn itself. Entry and parking is free and there's good access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

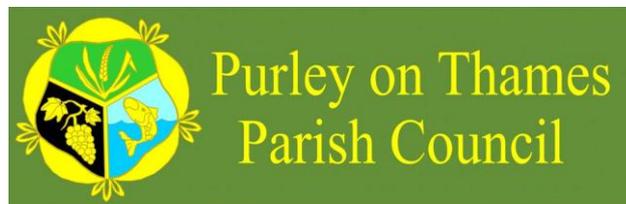
We'd like to thank Sulham Estates for supporting the Christmas Market by allowing the field adjacent to Goosecroft to be used for overflow parking.



On Friday 8 December, the Rain or Shine Theatre Company is holding its annual Christmas performance at the Barn, Goosecroft; this year they're staging Dracula and doors open at 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start.

This local performance is hosted by the village's local history society, Project Purley, and tickets cost £10.00 for an adult and £6.00 for a child under 15. For further details about the show, see [www.rainorshine.co.uk/autumn\\_2017.html](http://www.rainorshine.co.uk/autumn_2017.html) - and if you'd like a fang-tastic evening with lots of bite, tickets can be booked by calling David Downs on 0118 942 4167. As always, profits will go to help local good causes.





Friends of Purley Barn has also organised a Birds of Prey Evening in the Barn on Friday 9 February 2018. This will be a one-off opportunity to discover more about falconry, its history and the current status of birds of prey in the UK. Goshawk expert and breeder John Courton will be sharing his life-long love of these magnificent birds and you can enjoy an up-close experience, and even be photographed, with one of John's goshawks. Children very welcome.

Doors will open at 7.00pm and the ticket price (£5.00 for an adult, £2.00 for a child) includes one glass of wine/beer or a soft drink; you can buy additional drinks at the bar. As this is likely to be a very popular event and space is limited, tickets must be bought in advance – they'll be on sale at the Christmas Market on 26 November, and at the December and January Farmers' Markets, or you can call the Box Office on 0118 941 2322.

See [www.fopb.org.uk](http://www.fopb.org.uk) or e-mail [BirdsOfPrey@FoPB.org.uk](mailto:BirdsOfPrey@FoPB.org.uk) for more details.

## Contact

Further information on these and other local issues is available on the Parish Council web site – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

If you would like to contact us, our telephone number is 0118 984 4507, or you may e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). Villagers are also welcome to come and see us, the office public hours are:

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

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.

## Parish Office public hours over Christmas and New Year

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 25 December to Monday 1 January 2018, inclusive. We will, however, be picking up messages and e-mails during this time.