

## NEWSLETTER

April 2018, issue 14

### Parish Council matters

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 16 April, and the guest speaker was Paul Thomas, Station Manager for the West Division of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – there is more on Paul's talk about the proposed relocation of the Dee Road and Pangbourne fire stations to Theale below. Paul explained that fire crews do a great deal of preventative and educational work across the community, including offering Home Fire Safety Checks. Anyone over 65 years, or who has mobility issues, receives assistance in their home, or has sight or hearing impairment might be a priority for this free safety check; for more information, call the Home Fire Safety Check Freephone number, 0800 587 6679. For those who don't meet any of these criteria, further information about self-assessment of risks is on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue web site: [www.rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/safety-at-home/](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/safety-at-home/)

Should Purley on Thames create a War Memorial to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1? We'd like to know your views so please do complete the survey on the Parish Council web site: [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/marking-the-centenary-of-world-war-1/](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/marking-the-centenary-of-world-war-1/)

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

### Villager of the Year 2018

It's time to nominate your candidate for Villager of the Year Award 2018. The nomination form is can be downloaded from the Parish Council web site – <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/voy/> – or hard copies are available from the Parish Office or the Post Office on Purley Rise.

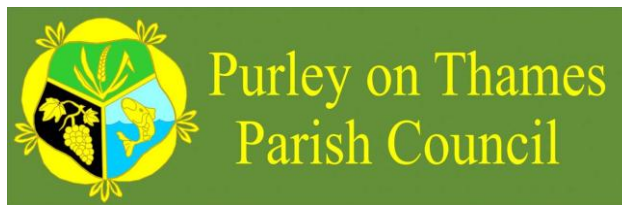
This award is intended to recognise any outstanding efforts by a villager, in any capacity, over the last year, or even several years, which benefit the community of Purley on Thames.

The closing date for nominations is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and they should be posted or hand-delivered to the Parish Office or e-mailed to [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

### Road resurfacing

The A329 Reading Road from Knowsley Road roundabout to Long Lane has been scheduled for resurfacing; work is due to take five days from 18 July 2018. Working hours will be restricted to 9.30am to 3.30pm and traffic lights will help maintain access throughout.

The scheduled start date is only indicative and might change, for example if there is bad weather, but updated information will be available at [roadworks.org/](http://roadworks.org/)



## **Annual Parish Meeting - proposed new Fire Station in Theale**

The guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 16 April was Paul Thomas, Station Manager, West Division, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Paul gave us more information about the proposal to close the fire stations in Dee Road and Pangbourne and replace them with a new fire station in Theale, a proposal based on results from various risk studies and research into the location and effectiveness of fire stations.

Pangbourne is a part-time station so, although the fire fighters live locally, they have full-time jobs which take them outside the village, making them unavailable for much of the time. Paul explained that this is an old model which worked when most people lived and worked locally, and businesses would let staff go to attend incidents as necessary. Nowadays, this arrangement is not suitable and incidents in Pangbourne are often attended by engines from Dee Road, Newbury and Burghfield, which is not effective or a good use of funds. Overall, given the areas covered and a study of attendance at incidents, having one fire station in Theale is expected to improve effectiveness and efficiency and reduce response times.

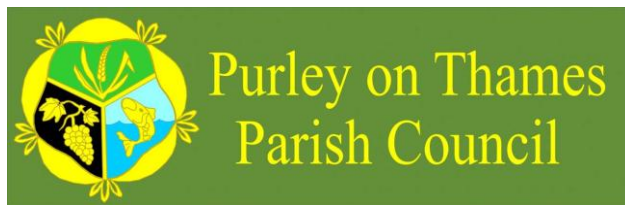
The site chosen for the new fire station is on the Theale side of the roundabout where the A340 from Tidmarsh joins the A4 Bath Road. It is proposed that the station be located between The Green and the A4, and that it have access straight on to the roundabout so as to give the quickest access to the widest area.

The proposal is still in the planning stage, but the idea is that the new, purpose-built fire station would be fully accessible to those with disabilities. It would be a 24/7 station which would also house the Thames Valley Police Community Team as well as an ambulance station. There would also be a community room facility which could be hired by local residents.

Improvements in technology have had a big impact on managing attendance times. All fire engines are now tracked constantly and, when a call is received, the system locates the six engines nearest the site of the incident, and the most appropriate is then diverted to deal with the issue. As a result, fewer vehicles are needed, and the intention is to have one standard fire engine and one specialist heavy-lifting engine for moving concrete and so on. There will, however, be bays for four engines in case additional vehicles are required at any time.

## **Antisocial behaviour**

Sadly, there were some incidents of antisocial behaviour in the Mapledurham Drive, Bucknell's Meadow, Wintringham Way area over the weekend of 19-22 April. The Parish Council has now heard that a community group is being set up in the lower village with the aim of bringing together agencies to help tackle the problem of antisocial behaviour. We hope to be able to give more information in the next Newsletter.



## **West Berkshire Council**

As we are fairly often contacted by parishioners wishing to report issues with footpaths, roads, road signs and streetlights, we thought it might be helpful to give some information on how to report issues to West Berkshire Council via its web site.

On the home page of WBC's web site - <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/> - there is the heading "Most requested services" on the left-hand side. The first item on the list under this heading is "Report a Problem" and clicking on this brings up various options as to the type of problem being reported. It's then simply a matter of giving the information about the issue, including giving a brief description and showing where it's located on a map, and submitting the report to WBC. You will receive an e-mail confirming receipt. You will also have a reference number to use should you need to follow up on the report.

## **Sulham Lane**

For most of this month, Sulham Lane has been closed from the A329 to Mill Lane so that Gigaclear can install fibre optic cables. It is due to reopen on 27 April, after which it is likely that Mill Lane will be closed for these works. Again, updated information is available at [roadworks.org/](http://roadworks.org/)

## **Village matters**

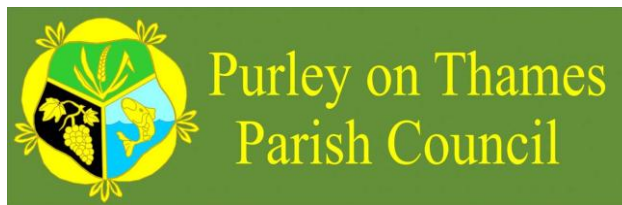
### **Sunflowers**

Now the weather's slowly improving, we have at last been able to sow our sunflower seeds in the pot by the Parish Office. We do still have a few seeds left if anyone else would like to try growing some – and don't forget to send pictures of the flowers to [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) so that we can include them in the Newsletter!

### **Volunteering**

A big "thank you" to everyone who quietly gets on with helping to keep Purley clean and tidy, and also to those who contact us (or West Berkshire Council) to report when bins are full, salt bins are empty, paths need clearing, and so on. Your support is a great help and very much appreciated!

One suggestion we've received is that we could hold a community clear up day (or even days), perhaps with the opportunity to share food and meet other residents at the end. Would this be worth organising? If you'd like to be involved, please contact the Clerk.



## Post Office update

The last we have heard on the possible move of the Post Office is that the existing PO on Purley Rise is likely to close some time in June. It's not yet been decided whether a new PO will open in the shop on Colyton Way.

## Cycle routes

If you enjoy cycling, there's a couple of web sites you might find of interest and help.

West Berkshire Council's web site - [info.westberks.gov.uk/walkingandcycling](http://info.westberks.gov.uk/walkingandcycling) – has a set of maps which can be downloaded.

The GPS Cycle and Walking Routes web site is another useful source of routes around Berkshire – [www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/county-cycling/Berkshire](http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/county-cycling/Berkshire)

## What's on ...

Don't forget to check the "What's On" page on the Parish Council web site for a range of events being held locally – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/).

If you are holding an event and would like it included on the listing, please complete the form on the web page.

## Contact

Further 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).

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). You are also welcome to come and see us during the following office public hours:

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

If you know of anyone who might like to receive this Parish Council Newsletter, please ask them to notify [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.