

PURLEY ON THAMES VILLAGE PLAN 2018



Front Cover

Collage of Purley on Thames scenes

St Mary's Church

Barn decked out for a wedding reception

Mapledurham Lock

Back Cover

The allotments

Mapledurham House

Looking towards Oxfordshire from Purley Rise early in the morning

The Village Plan Steering Group is pleased to present a new Village Plan for Purley on Thames.

The Plan has been compiled using data and comments received from Purley residents using the questionnaire distributed in Summer 2017. All households were given the opportunity to contribute and while just 30% returned their questionnaires, we can assume that they represent 'feeling' across the wider population of the parish. We hope that the resulting Action Points will form the basis on which the Parish Council, West Berkshire District Council and other public bodies can plan for the future of Purley on Thames.

Funding this project has been hard work because we did not want the Parish Council to have to pay for it all. The Parish Council gave the Steering Group £1200 'start up' money which paid for printing of leaflets and the questionnaires. The printing costs for the Plan itself have come from advertisements in the Plan document and donations via The Good Exchange.

The Village Plan Steering Group would like to thank the following:

The local people who volunteered to distribute the questionnaires and the finished Village Plan.

Those who inputted data from the questionnaires.

Margaret Rolfe who patiently and painstakingly proof-read the Plan.

West Berkshire Council officers Jo Naylor, Principal Policy Officer and Sarah Winter, Research, Consultation and Performance Officer for their help and guidance.

West Berkshire Council for loaning us the ballot boxes for collecting the questionnaires.

Everyone who has contributed to the funding of the project.

The Plan has been almost three years in the making but has been an exciting and hopefully valuable project capturing the views of Purley residents as in 2017. We hope all parishioners will find it interesting and that it provides a good insight into life in Purley on Thames!

Purley on Thames Village Plan Steering Group

Karen Bishop, Sue Briscoe, Margaret Dray, Rick Farrow, Barry Kochanek, Marion Maybank, Richard McDonald, Graham Rolfe, Catherine Sampson, Sarah Sinclair, Janice Stables, Suze Stevens-Wood and Marion Venners.

All the above have been members of the Village Plan Steering Group for part or all of the work and have made a major contribution to this project.

We would like to express our thanks to the following who have provided the photographs for the Village Plan:

Jacky Brown, Rita Denman, Ian Nash, Project Purley and Steering Group Members



Letter from the Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council.

The last Village Plan for Purley on Thames was launched in 2004 so, after twelve years the Parish Council decided that it was time to seek the views of local people again.

We are very grateful to the Village Plan Steering Group who volunteered to produce a new Plan without really knowing what they were letting themselves in for! Following months of work, they have produced a significant and historical document that captures opinions of parishioners and describes Purley on Thames in 2017, when the Questionnaire was completed.

The views of residents are very important in the decisions that the Parish Council makes about the future of Purley. Each section of the Village Plan identifies 'actions' which arose from the questionnaire and additional comments made by respondents. All these 'actions' have been compiled into an Action Plan which is on the Parish Council website at www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/village-plan. The Action Plan will be a working document and will be updated as progress is made. It gives a priority level and timescale for completion of each 'action'.

Many of the proposals will be adopted by the Parish Council and, where we have no powers to make changes, we will pass on the suggestions to those with that responsibility. Some changes can be made quickly but others will take a little longer. Whilst funding remains a challenge, even for the most important of projects, endorsement from local people provides important leverage.

The Parish Council will use the Village Plan as a tool to help us ensure that Purley on Thames continues to be a thriving place where people want to live. We hope that the residents of Purley will work with us to maintain and improve our environment, resources and community.

Sue Briscoe

Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

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Purley on Thames Plan Methodology

In 2015 Purley on Thames Parish Council decided that as almost twelve years had elapsed since the last survey, it was an appropriate time for a review of the developments and requirements within the village. The aim was to produce a Village Plan reflecting the views of the community. The new Plan would take into account the considerable changes that have occurred since 2004 such as population and housing growth both in Purley on Thames and surrounding areas.

A Steering Group was formed from volunteers from the local community and a time line of activities was agreed.

Steering Group members consulted with local adults at a variety of community events and with children in schools and at Cubs and Scouts meetings. Topic areas for the Questionnaire were identified from issues discussed in the consultation. Once the Questionnaire was drawn up, the format and content were revised several times including after user-testing and feedback from officers at West Berkshire District Council.

The final version of the questionnaire was made available to every person over 5 years old in every household in the Parish. For those over 10 years old the Questionnaire was in hard copy and for 5-10 year olds it was electronic or hard copy.

The village was divided into five areas for both analysis and distribution:

- A- Oxford Road Area
- B- Tilehurst Borders
- C- Purley on Thames Village
- D- Between A329 and Railway
- E- Lower Village

1300 people completed the Questionnaire, 29.4% of Purley on Thames population. This far exceeded the 8% response rate suggested by West Berkshire District Council to be the minimum to be considered as representative of the village as a whole.

The data from the questionnaires was then entered by volunteers onto the Survey Monkey database and additional comments recorded. The

Steering Group used the data to write the Village Plan document and to identify specific action points. The final document is in hard copy and electronic form.

The Village Plan - Timeline (Conception to Distribution)

- First Purley Plan produced 2004
- New Steering Group formed Autumn 2015
- Terms of Reference agreed, and timeline produced Winter 2016
- Consultation with local people Spring & Summer 2016
- Initial funding from Parish Council agreed Spring 2016
- Core issues identified Summer 2016
- Initial draft questionnaire Summer & Autumn 2016
- Final draft questionnaire Winter 2017
- Questionnaire distributors recruited and trained Winter & Spring 2017
- All households given questionnaire. Collection boxes placed across Purley Summer 2017
- Completed questionnaires collated Summer 2017
- Results analysed, and Plan written Autumn 2017 & Winter 2017
- Plan written and edited Spring & Summer 2018
- Plan seen by West Berkshire officers Summer 2018
- Plan endorsed by Purley Parish Council Autumn 2018
- Plan ratified by WBC Councillors Autumn 2018
- Plan printed and distributed Autumn 2018

History and Geography of Purley on Thames

Much of the history content of this article first appeared in the 2004 Village Plan and has been revised and updated for the 2018 edition. Our thanks go to John Chapman, Catherine Sampson and Project Purley for their kind permission to reproduce this material.

Purley on Thames is situated three miles north west of Reading and one mile east of Pangbourne. Reading urban area is the main social, economic and cultural hub. The boundary of Purley on Thames can be confusing, since the civic and ecclesiastical parishes differ slightly. However, the real confusion is caused by the Post Office allocation of the Tilehurst postcode RG31 to some roads in Purley on Thames.

The physical landscape of the parish varies; in the south, the chalk hills of Tilehurst gently slope downhill towards the water meadows alongside the River Thames in the north. The village is bordered by the North Wessex Downs area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the village has a stunning outlook north across the river to the southern edge of the Chilterns. The key features of the village are:

- the River Thames, which forms the northerly border,
- the railway, London Paddington to the West Country, and
- the A329 road, from Reading to Oxford.

All these features run in an east-west direction. Transport links are good with access to the motorway network (M4, junction 12), the railway at Pangbourne, Tilehurst and Reading, and two bus services in and out of Reading (Thames Travel and Reading Buses). London's Heathrow airport is readily accessible.

The name 'Purley' is thought to derive from Old English words meaning either a 'wood or clearing frequented by snipe or bittern' or a 'wood or clearing with pear trees'. It is most likely that the village has its origins in the Saxon migrations of the 5th and 6th centuries when travellers on the Thames settled on a dry piece of land within the marshes of the flood plain. There is, however, some suggestion from archaeological finds of activity from prehistoric times onwards in the local

area. The earliest known written evidence for the village comes from the beginning of the Norman period, in William the Conqueror's Domesday Survey of 1086. In it, we can recognise Purley as Porlaa and Porlei.

Purley consisted mostly of three medieval manors: Purley Magna (Great Purley), Purley Parva (Little Purley) and part of La Hyde, which straddles the border with Sulham. Each had a manor house or farm and cottages in agricultural estates. These manorial estates created the shape of the village that developed and even today their influence can be seen in the layout of the roads and the development of housing, especially in the 20th century. Estimates suggest that the population of Purley in 1086 was around 80.



Archaeological evidence of Saxon burials in the churchyard

During the war between Stephen and Matilda, 'Purley's' Saxon church is believed to have been destroyed by Matilda's forces and in the mid-12th century it was replaced by a stone church in the Norman style.



**St Mary's Church in 1860, before its redesign
by G. E. Street**

By the 14th century, Purley seems to have developed into a prosperous village able to modernise its church, and to build a road across the marsh so that farmers could take their corn to the mill at Mapledurham, by means of a wooden bridge over the Thames. However, an attempt to drain the marsh and irrigate Purley Magna was stopped by the lord of the manor of Mapledurham because, he claimed, it was diverting water from his mill.

Further upheaval occurred during the traumatic religious changes of the 1500s, and the dissolution of Reading Abbey brought about the confiscation of its property in Purley. Later still, the Catholic family of Hyde, living in Purley Hall or Hyde Hall as it was then known, were taxed out of their estate for continuing to practice their religion.

In the 17th century, the church was again largely rebuilt and a brick tower was added. Soon afterwards, the county was plunged into Civil War and the village and church probably suffered at the hands of both the Royalist and Parliamentarian soldiers who each held Reading at varying times. Soldiers from both sides roamed local villages 'requisitioning' food, horses and anything else that took their fancy and Purley would have been vulnerable. On the opposite bank of the river, Mapledurham House was attacked and ransacked by the Parliamentarians after Sir Charles Blount fought on the side of the King. The St John family, then lords of the manor of Purley Magna, also supported the Royalists and three of their sons were killed in battle.

After the restoration of the monarchy and the established church in 1660, life in the village settled back down to a familiar pattern as one farming season rolled into the next. It was not until the 19th century that events happening locally and nationally started to impact upon this

essentially rural way of life. The first changes were to alter the shape and layout of the village.



**The farmhouse and barns of Home Farm, Purley
before their demolition. Farm Close now stands
on this site**

In 1793, Purley Magna was purchased by Anthony Morris Storer the elder, MP, and around 1800, Purley Park mansion was constructed on the brow of the hill replacing the old manorial farmhouse by the church. A rolling parkland estate was created by enclosing land, closing the old road which wound down the hill from the Roebuck to the church, and diverting further south the turnpike road which ran through the southern part of the parish. One other possible outcome was the demolition of Purley's only known inn, the Red Lyon, which disappeared around this time.



**Purley Park, home to the Storer family in the
19th and early 20th centuries**

Equally dramatic in its impact upon the village was the arrival of Brunel's railway, which opened through Purley in 1840. The cutting split the parish in two and separated Purley Park from much of its lands. From 1920 onwards, pieces of the Purley Park land were sold or leased. The

development of the old Purley Magna lands had begun and is still ongoing.

In 1935, a large field alongside the river, previously part of Purley Park's parkland, was sold to a development trust company who divided it into small camping and caravan plots. The plots were sold for holiday use, mainly to Londoners. This development became known as 'The River Estate'. When the Second World War broke out, many of these families took up permanent residence in Purley to escape the blitz and began to construct more permanent homes. Some of these were made from decommissioned carriages from the Great Western Railway, others from old buses and the like. Many were simply wooden chalets. After the war, many of the plots began to be merged and the old caravans, carriages and buses were replaced by brick structures until, by the early 1970s, almost all had gone.



Just one of many railway carriage 'homes' in the 1950s. this one on St Mary's Avenue



An immaculately tended wooden chalet on Colyton Way, 1940s

From the 1950s, Purley began to become more desirable as a commuter village. Reading, London and Bristol were all accessible by train and later by motorway. Builders exploited fields felt to be no longer suitable for agriculture and redeveloped

some of the larger properties. The population increased quickly, having previously been relatively static. In 1676, there was a recorded adult population of 80 in Purley, by 1801 the population was 153, including children. By 1946, the population had risen to 867, and it is now well over 4,000, even after a significant reduction in the parish area in 1991.

Today Purley on Thames, as the village is now renamed, is a village of more than 1,800 households and still growing. This human landscape changes gradually from east to west, from mostly residential dwellings merging with the western boundary of Reading, to open countryside. The housing stock is predominantly of detached houses, bungalows and semi-detached homes, with some short terraces and flats, ranging in age from early 17th century to current development.

Farming is still practised, in the water meadows alongside the River Thames, with livestock and arable production, and on the slopes to the south and west of the village. Although there is limited supporting infrastructure in the form of banking services, a doctor's surgery, petrol station etc. the village currently has a highly valued Post Office on Purley Rise, a shop on Colyton Way, a car tyre garage on Purley Rise and light industrial units on land at Sulham Home Farm.

Purley on Thames may be fragmented by road and railway and have few amenities in the way of shops and no supporting structure for health needs, however it does have a very strong sense of identity and supports a very large number of special interest organisations and groups. These are described elsewhere in this report and include a range of sporting societies, a local history group, a horticultural society, a drama group, a WI, a ladies' walking group and two singing groups.

The church continues to be an important focal point for the parish and St Mary's remains the only religious building within the village. The recreation facilities at Goosecroft, together with the Sports and Social Club located there, and Bucknell's Meadow are also important community hubs. A second private social club is located on Wintringham Way and a small seasonal café at Mapledurham Lock.

Venues for many organisations and activities are provided by the 18th century Barn at Goosecroft, St Mary's Church Hall and Purley Memorial Hall,

funded and built after the Second World War by the community, as a war memorial.

There are a cemetery, allotments, a bowling green, tennis courts, four playgrounds and an outdoor gym. Pikeshaw, a wild area between Simons Close and Huscarle Way is also popular with local residents. In addition, there are a number of footpaths enabling walks to be taken by the river or through Sulham Woods.

Purley on Thames has a pre-school on the site of Long Lane Primary School and several privately-run pre-schools and nurseries in the area. Two primary schools are within the parish, Purley C of E Primary School and Long Lane Primary School, previously referred to. However, close to the

Purley on Thames boundary, but within Tilehurst, are Westwood Farm Primary School and Brookfields School, a special school for children aged from 3 to 19 years which has achieved national recognition for its achievements. Denefield Secondary School, Tilehurst, is also located close to the Purley boundary, and is attended by many Purley children.

Since the Second World War, Purley Park Trust, an independent charity, has provided homes in Purley for people with learning disabilities. Originally this was in the Purley Park mansion house, but nowadays most live in 'family' groupings in newly built accommodation on the Purley Park land.



Purley Village in the 1950s

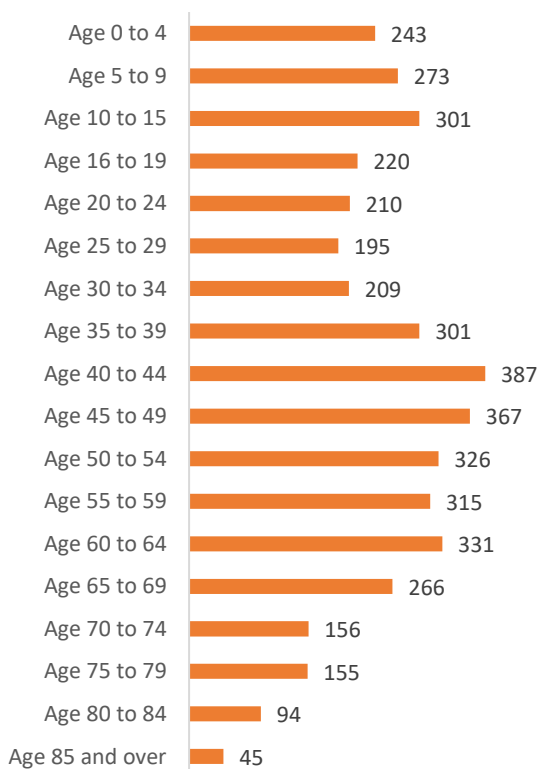
Demographics

This section is a snapshot of some of the demographics of Purley on Thames taken from the 2011 National Census.

In 2011 census forms were analysed for Purley Ward which includes Purley Parish. Records specifically for Purley Parish were extracted in 2013 and put on line by Nomisweeb.co.uk. Unless otherwise stated the data in this section is from www.nomisweb.co.uk.

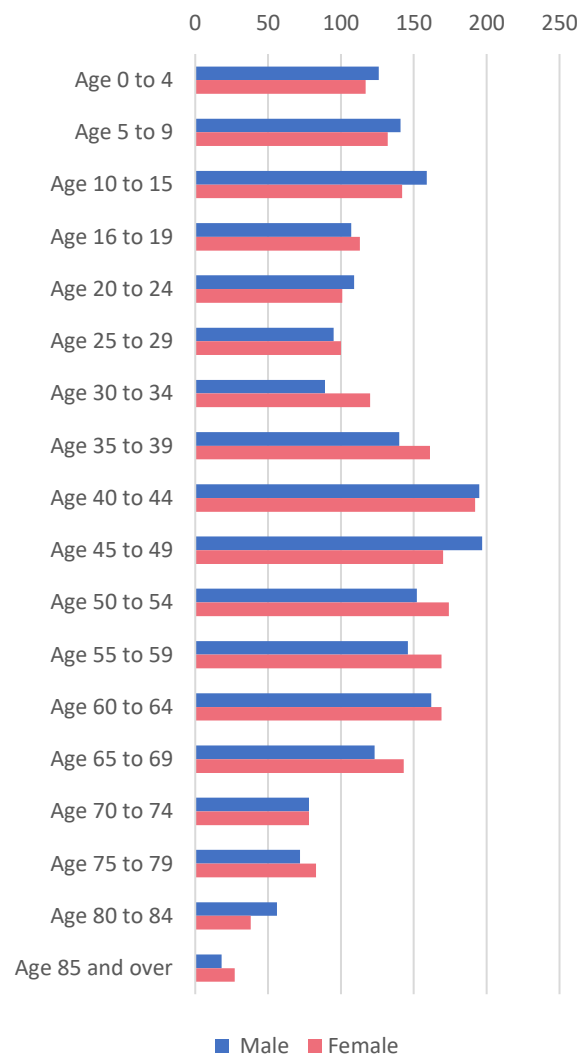
- There were 4394 residents in the parish (based on the 2011 census).
- 50.7 % were female, 49.3 % were male.
- Our life expectancy was 86.5 years for females and 83.6 years for males. The average age was 42.

Purley on Thames - Census 2011



The 30 to 59 age range represent 43.3 % of the population, the 0 to 29 age range, 32.8% and the 60 to 90 age range, 23.8%.

Purley on Thames - Age Profile by Sex



This distribution for the age profile in 2011 shows the gender /age differences.

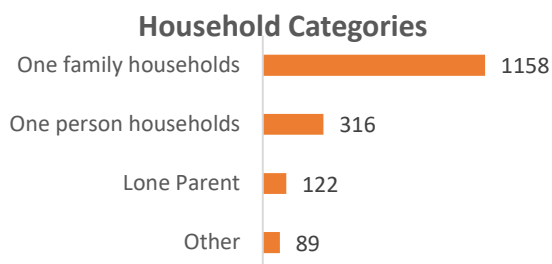
In addition:

- 90.5% of Purley on Thames residents were born in the UK, 86.2% being born in England. 2.6% were born in other EU countries, and 6.4% in countries in the Middle and East Asia, North America and the Caribbean, Africa and Central and South America.
- Of our 4394 residents 2,800 say they are of Christian religion, 1108 have no religion and there are 163 followers of 6 other world religions.

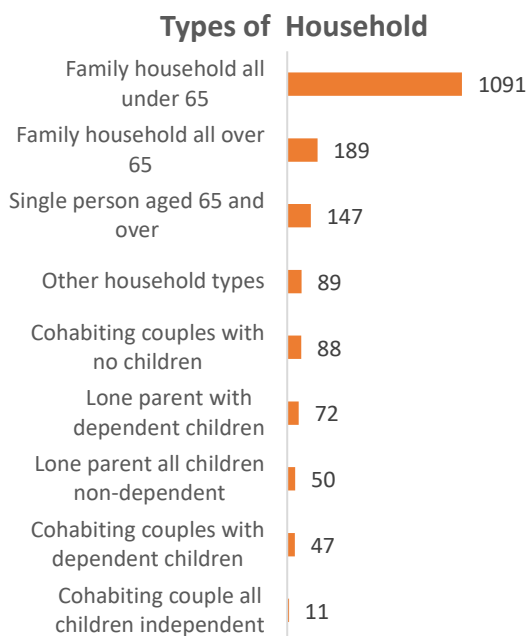
Our Households

In 2011 the average size of households was 2.3 occupants and there were 1685 households.

The data identifies four categories of Household.



Households are further identified as.



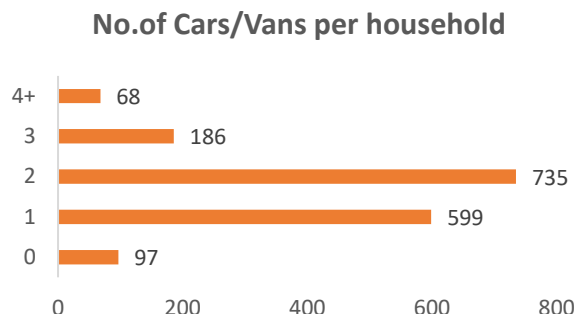
source ONS Census 2011(KW105EW) www.Nomisweb.co.uk page 15

Discrepancies in the totals may be due to the way census respondents identified themselves as one person households and/or lone parents.

25% of households had an adult living alone.

Our transport - see also the *Traffic and Transport* section on page 33.

- 1685 households had a car or van. There were 2919 cars or vans in the Purley on Thames.



NB. The discrepancy between the total number of households and number of households with cars or vans is noted. There is no explanation on Nomisweb.

Changes since the 2001 Census

- The population rose from 4232 to 4394 (3.6%).
- The number of households rose from 1532 to 1685 (7.9%).
- The numbers of people over 65 rose by 222 individuals, 5.05%.
- The numbers of people aged 25 to 63 fell by 3%.
- The numbers of people aged from 0 to 15 years fell from 21% to 18.5%.
- The numbers of households with single adults was 438 out of 1685 or 25 %.
- In 2011 the numbers of homes accommodating the 4394 residents was 1714 of which 118, 1.8% are flats, which, it might be assumed are more suitable for smaller family units.
- There are implications for the need for changes to the housing stock and the social needs of residents, if these trends have continued from 2011 to 2018, which are challenging.

Environment

Local people value their environment:

- 86% of respondents say that the river and countryside are important to them. Comments confirmed that they value green space, wildlife, peace and quiet and the village 'feel' of Purley on Thames.
- 55% wanted more kerbside flowers and 50% better protection of wildlife.
- 71% of the people who answered the environment questions were happy with local footpaths, litter clearance, river maintenance and waste recycling.

Respondents were concerned about:

- The clearance of dog waste brought out stronger feeling, 46% saying that there was a problem. 10% of the children who replied spoke negatively about dog poo. Some people remarked that clearing of dog waste has improved with the provision of dog-poo bags but that there is still a shortage of bins, especially in the riverside area.
- The proximity of a rubbish 'tip'.



Bluebells - Sulham Woods

- Maintenance of hedgerows, grass verges and footpaths. Comments were received about hedges overhanging pavements, forcing pedestrians nearer the road, particularly on the A 329 from Pangbourne to Reading.
- Litter is not seen as a major problem except by the river during school holidays. There is still room for improvement in particular areas

e.g. along Knowsley Rd and Footpath Number 5, from New Hill to Highfield.

- Access to the lock. Many local people enjoy our footpaths (footpath map available from the Parish Office) but there is concern that since the closure of the permitted footpath from Mapledurham Drive to the lock via 'the causeway', access is difficult for mobility scooters, wheelchairs, buggies and pedestrians who prefer more even ground or to avoid grazing cattle.

Actions:

- Campaign to encourage homeowners to cut back their overhanging foliage.
- Review responsibilities for funding of hedge cutting along major roads.
- Provide more bins (dog and rubbish).
- Improved wheeled access to the Lock.

Other suggestions about improving and taking our community into the future include planting more kerb and verge side bulbs and flowers, tree planting, increased seating near bus stops and play areas, an electric car charging point, solar-powered lighting for alleyways and a community solar farm.



Pikeshaw

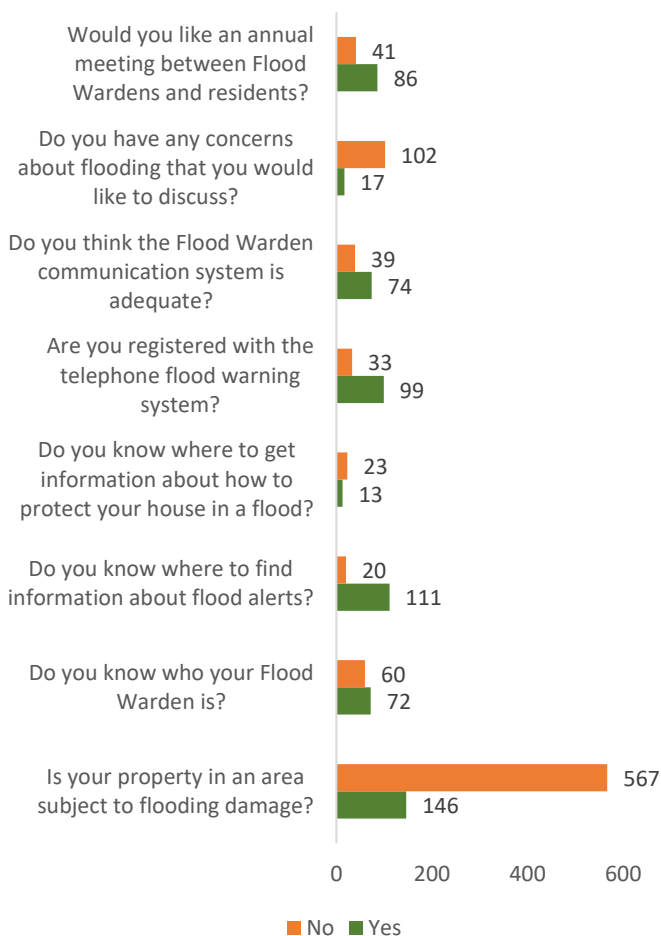
- A significant number of people complained about no longer being able to take rubbish to Reading's 'tip'. They point out that the 36 mile round trip to Newbury (West Berkshire's 'tip') and the consequent potential increase in fly-tipping are not environmentally friendly.

Currently, Padworth can accept all items of waste apart from Asbestos, Bric-a-brac, Bulky waste, Furniture and Gas bottles. Newtown Road will accept these items. There is a charge for Ceramics, Hardcore and rubble, Plasterboard, Soil and Tyres.

Flood

20% of those who responded to the Questionnaire live in an area subject to flooding or the consequences of flooding.

Responses to Questions on Flooding



For the questions relating to our local Flood Wardens, answers showed that 34% of

respondents did not think that the Flood Warden communication with local residents is satisfactory although just 14% had a concern they wanted to discuss with their flood warden. 68% wanted an annual meeting with the Flood Wardens.

Several children expressed concerns about flooding.

Actions:

- Arrange an annual meeting for local people with Flood Wardens where concerns could be discussed, Wardens identified, and information made available.
- A leaflet to be delivered through schools to reassure children and to help them understand about flooding.



Red Kite in a Purley on Thames garden

Scenes from Purley on Thames Life



The River Thames

86% of all respondents to the questionnaire stated that the River and Countryside location was of great importance to them living in Purley on Thames

Mapledurham Lock is situated on the northern border of the village. It is 3.7 km by river from Whitchurch Lock at Pangbourne, upstream and 7.1km from Caversham Lock in Reading downstream. During the summer months a steady stream of boats of many types navigate through the lock. It is a favourite local beauty-spot for residents from Purley on Thames and surrounding area. The Thames Path, which is well used by walkers, passes through and round Purley on Thames. The Lock Cafe is also well frequented by lock visitors.

The river and lock area is a very popular place but amongst the suggestions for improvements from adults and children were:

- Create access across the river at the lock to Mapledurham via a footbridge.
- Create defined picnic areas.
- Improve access to the lock and the café for those with disabilities.
- River access. Make it easier to get a canoe or kayak down Mapledurham Drive, through all the gates and on to the river by the lock, or

from the Social Club at the end of Wintringham Way. Create a put-in/take-out area for canoes and kayaks.

- Improve signposts for the Thames Path at Mapledurham Lock as it goes inland. Display a map of the Thames Path route at Mapledurham Lock.
- Provide more litter and dog-poo bins in the fields either side of the lock and encourage their use.
- Provide an organised outdoor swim annually, recognising a growing interest nationally in outdoor swimming.

Actions:

- Represent the suggestions from local people to land owners and organisations, which manage the river and Thames Path.
- Encourage people to look after our beauty spots by clearing up after themselves and their dogs.

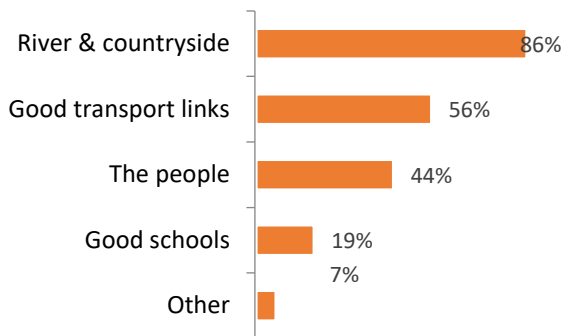


River Thames

Amenities

The people of Purley on Thames appreciate the natural and built environment of the village and the human resources which support the thriving community.

Valued Amenities



Within the village there are two shops (The Village Stores in Colyton Way and The Post Office and Stores on Purley Rise) and there is a parade of shops just outside the village boundary on Knowsley Road. The future of the Post Office in Purley on Thames is under review as changes come into play from the governing body of the Post Office. Judging by its popularity it is a much-valued resource and villagers are keen to see it retained as an amenity in the village. There are a range of shops locally but not within the village itself, including along the Oxford Road into Reading, Tilehurst and Pangbourne.

From 1123 responses villagers would like to see improved retail amenities: -

- Take away food outlet.
- Local Butcher and Bakery.
- Village shop with cafe and soft play area.
- Tea rooms / coffee shop.
- The Post Office and stores to sell home essentials.
- A Cash Point.

Although there is a café at Mapledurham Lock, which is well used, this is not open all year round. Comments suggested that the Lock Café would benefit from a refurbishment to increase its appeal. Suggestions, wishes and comments for improvements included:

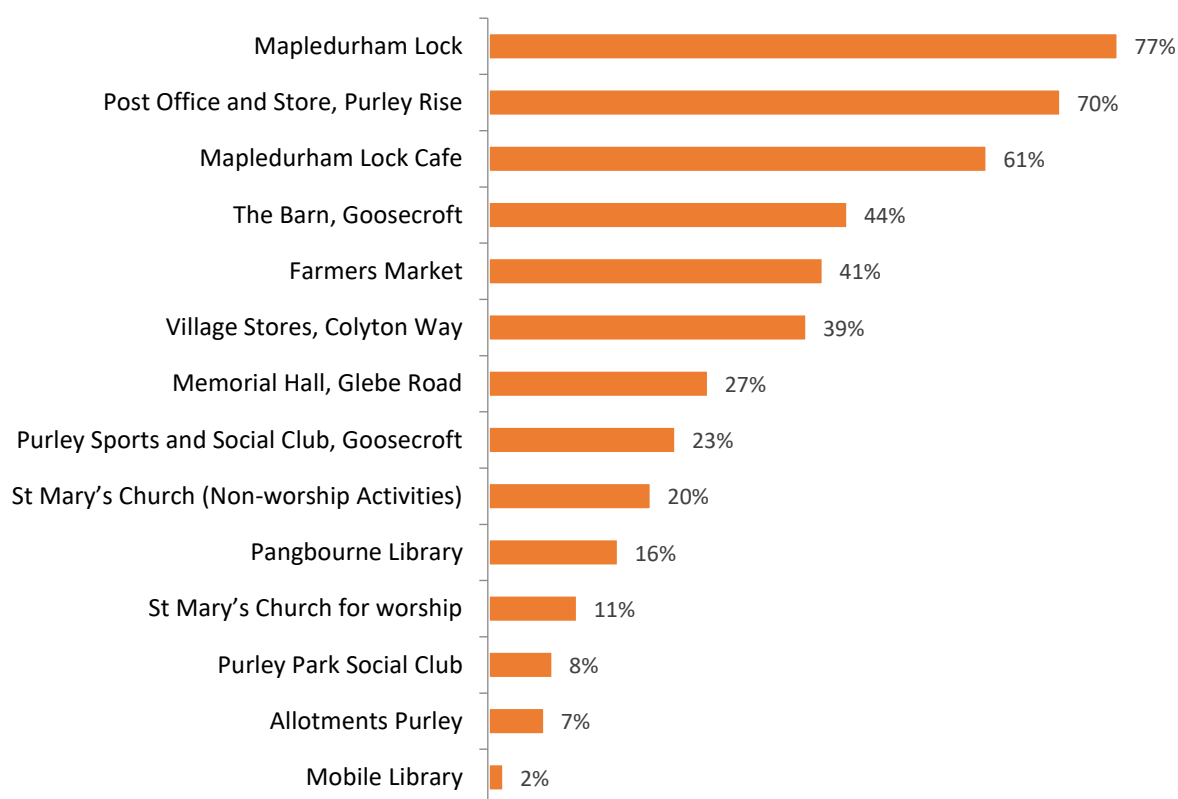
- A local community pub. A family-friendly pub serving good food, hosting a beer festival.
- Coffee bar, or café restaurant or tea rooms as a meeting place in the village.
- A refurbishment of Purley Park Social Club and its environment to make it more welcoming and attractive.

There are a range of venues around the village which are used regularly for one-off events and regular hire.

Action:

- Increase publicity:
 - To promote the venues and their locations within the village.
 - To advertise the activities, events and clubs available at The Barn, The Memorial Hall, St Mary's Church Hall, Purley Sports and Social Club and Purley Park Social Club.

Amenities used in Purley on Thames



Answered by 1101 respondents. People were able to select more than one amenity.

There is a range of venues throughout the village hosting a wide variety of activities (see list on page 42). Respondents said they would like the following activities to be available:

➤ Music related

- Dance, ballroom and Barn. A monthly dance evening.
- Drama studio and drama club.
- Music rehearsal rooms / venue.
- Music events including a festival.

➤ Arts and crafts

- Art appreciation.
- Pottery club.

➤ Social clubs for a mix of age ranges

- Youth clubs.
- Men's Shed – coffee and soup and sandwiches, hosting skills and workshop events.
- Elderly folk social club – with e.g. craft classes, garden advice, flower arranging, needlework.

➤ Evening classes and adult education

- Modern language classes or conversation groups.
- Computer club / training and help.
- Sub group of U3A based in Purley on Thames.

➤ Other activities

- Local history talks and walks.
- Film club.
- Writers guild.
- Whist evenings.
- Antiques collectors fayre.

➤ Outdoor activities

- Outdoor adventure trails.
- Walking groups or club.
- Regatta or Rowing event.

Actions:

- Compile a Directory of clubs and activities.
- Compile a Directory of venues available for hire, scope for use with contact details.
- Make contact with U3A.

The Farmers Market was set up as a consequence of the 2004 Village Plan and continues on a

monthly basis on the 2nd Saturday of the month at The Barn, Goosecroft.

Local provision of Libraries

Libraries offer a range of facilities and electronic



The Farmers Market

books as well as printed texts. Libraries currently are available in Pangbourne, Tilehurst. There is also a mobile library service that visits the village once a month.

Public funding of local libraries is constantly under threat because of increasing pressure on public funds

Actions:

- Monitor the uptake and use of the library services.
- In any, current or to be developed IT support programmes in the village, include help on the use of E Books programmes.
- Investigate the possibility of a book exchange point.

Allotments

Purley on Thames Parish Council provides garden allotments for the benefit of Parishioners. There are some 100 allotments located on the north side of the railway tracks. There is currently a small waiting list. Please see Purley on Thames website for more information.

There were many mentions of the need for recognised cycle paths both for leisure use and for travelling between Purley on Thames and Tilehurst station, and between Purley on Thames and Pangbourne Station and shops.

Action:

- Investigate the feasibility of developing a network of cycle paths as a transport and leisure facility.



PURLEY'S LOCAL DRAMA GROUP

We're a friendly bunch and new members are always welcome. Come and join us. No experience needed. We do annual pantos, comedies and murder mystery dining evenings.

We rehearse at the Barn on Wednesday evenings and we would love to see you. There is lots to do beside being on stage. Stage building, scenery painting, costume making, make up. Contact Chris 0118 9548052, Jean 0118 9424372 or email.

mail@purleyplayers.org.uk

www.purleyplayers.org.uk

The Barn

Goosecroft, Purley on Thames

Historic building available for hire by local groups and clubs; also a lovely venue for family gatherings, concerts, classes, meetings and exhibitions



For further information, contact the Amenities Officer on 0118 984 4507 or

e-mail amenities@purleyonthemes-pc.gov.uk

Web site www.purleyonthemes-pc.gov.uk/the-barn/



PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL

LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO HIRE



Available for hire at reasonable rates

- Two halls
- Two meeting rooms (one large, one small)
- Kitchen
- Ample car parking – secure outside space
- Wifi

Suitable for:

- 1 to 1s and Team Meetings
- Group Events
- Parties
- Weddings – space for a marquee

For further information please see our website:

www.purleyonthemes.org.uk/memhall

or contact:

The Hall Manager on 07772 129 187

Email: purleymemhall@yahoo.co.uk

Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8DP

Registered Charity 3007193

Page 2



stmaryspurley

Connecting people with God

We are a group of ordinary people passionate about Jesus. We believe that life is best when we know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

We cater for people of all ages, from the youngest baby to the oldest adult. We have a range of Sunday services and midweek activities for people with different needs and at different stages in their lives.

We meet together on Sundays at St. Mary's church – a local Anglican church serving Purley and Tilehurst. Everyone is welcome. Just come as you are!

www.stmaryspurley.org.uk

st.mary's avenue | purley on thames | RG8 8BJ

PHS Purley's Gardening Club



• Trading Store

- Talks
- Plant Sale
- Shows
- Outings



Membership £3 per annum

Join at Trading Store next to Purley Memorial Hall

Open Feb to Oct, Sat & Sun from 10:00 till 11:00

Wide range of gardening products

www.purleyonthemes.org.uk/PHS

Purley Tennis Club

- COME AND TRY TENNIS AT OUR FRIENDLY LOCAL CLUB
 - REFURBISHED COURTS
 - ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR PLAYERS OF ALL STANDARDS
 - REGULAR CLUB SESSIONS THROUGH-OUT THE YEAR
- RING COLIN MOSES ON 07495 271906 FOR MORE INFORMATION



Come and play cricket for the Potters

New members of all ages and abilities welcome at the Goosecroft



For more information visit

www.purleyonthemes-pc.gov.uk

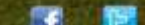
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Recreation and Leisure

There is generally a good level of satisfaction amongst all age groups about the range of local venues and facilities that are available for recreational and leisure activities that are either active, sedentary, individual, team or communal.

The Thames Path, especially around Mapledurham Lock, along with the local countryside are highly valued as excellent areas in which to go walking.

Other identified important recreational and leisure facilities within the Parish, include: -

The Goosecroft Recreation Ground with its various organised sports facilities along with the Community Barn, Children's Playground and the Purley Sports and Social Club.



Tour de Purley - a fun day at Bucknell's Meadow Playing Field (by kind permission of C. Graham)

Bucknell's Meadow Recreation Ground with its playground area and ample space for more informal recreational activities such as the "Tour de Purley" or village "Community Events". Trentham Bowls Club and Pikesaw Wood also provide opportunities within Purley for recreational and leisure activities.

The Cotswold Sports Centre, although just outside the parish boundary, does provide valuable access to a range of sporting facilities.

The Adventure Dolphin Centre in Pangbourne is also a valued facility for water sport activities. Both Long Lane Primary School and Denefield Senior School make their sports facilities available for hire to local sports clubs and groups.

Some respondents remain unaware of all the recreational and leisure options that are available to them. A list of local groups, clubs and societies with their contact details can be found within the Village Plan Report (see page 42).

In general, Purley on Thames has much to offer most age groups by way of both formal and informal recreational and leisure activities. However, some respondents, especially in the 11-25 years age range, do feel that they have only limited opportunities to enjoy informal recreational and leisure activities within Purley. Local teenagers felt that there should be a facility within the village for more informal activities such as a Youth Club or a venue where they could just meet and "hang out" together.

Action:

- To consult with West Berkshire Council regarding their future planning or provision of "Youth Services" within the Purley area.

In response to the question "would you like to see any of the following facilities in, or near to Purley on Thames?"

The following preferences were expressed by the 673 respondents: -

- Swimming Pool 81.0%
- Indoor Gym 46.1%
- Astroturf All Weather Pitch 28.2%.
- Grass Running Track 21.4%
- Skateboard Park 19.6%
- Grass Athletics Area 16.3%

Actions:

- To consult with West Berkshire Council and other local Parish Councils regarding the possibility of having a local swimming pool and whether the Cotswold Sports Centre is supplying adequate indoor gym facilities.
- To consult with local sports clubs to see if a suitable location for an all-weather pitch could be identified within the Parish and what funding streams could be available to finance the installation.

- To consult with relevant bodies about creating a grass running track/athletics area and Skateboard Park within the Parish.

In the Children’s Questionnaire, the playgrounds at Bucknell’s Meadow and Goosecroft were by far the most popular, with the Lister Close and Clarendon Rise playgrounds proving less attractive to local children.

A significant number of young respondents also recorded their involvement in: -

After School Clubs, Junior Football and Cricket, Scouting at junior age levels and Dancing. Tennis was also popular.

The children also expressed an interest in undertaking the following activities, listed in order of preference: -

Climbing, Bowling, Water Sports, Art, Archery, Drama, Singing, Horse Riding, Athletics/Running, Crafts, Youth Clubs and Rugby.

Adult respondents expressed an interest in either taking up or continuing with the following activities: -

Pilates, Cycling on/off road, Dancing, Book Clubs, Music, Wine Appreciation, Photography, Table Tennis, Knitting and Rugby. (See also Amenities, page 13.)



Tennis Courts at Goosecroft

There is currently a shortfall of recreational space per head of population within the Parish, but the Parish Council is hoping to expand the size of the Goosecroft Recreation Ground to try to address this problem.



New Basket Swing at Bucknell’s Meadow

A summary of the likes, dislikes and future aspirations arising from the Village Plan questionnaires in respect of recreational and leisure facilities and activities within the Parish of Purley on Thames: -

- 85.8% of respondents in the Questionnaire said that walking or jogging on the local footpaths, especially in those areas adjacent to the River Thames was particularly important to them.
- 82.1% of the respondents to the Children’s Questionnaire also rated the River Thames and the adjacent countryside as their most popular local attractions.



New Climbing Wall at Bucknell’s Meadow

Bucknell’s Meadow Recreation Ground

Bucknell’s Meadow Recreation Ground is an important facility with its play equipment area being the most popular of the four playgrounds within the Parish. Bucknell’s Meadow also provides space for more informal recreational activities and still has ample space to accommodate new items of play equipment, but the site can be prone to occasional flooding.

Of the 666 respondents who commented on Bucknell's Meadow, 57.5% thought that the facilities were good, 37.1% found them reasonable, with only 5.4% rating them as poor.

Respondents would like to see more exciting items of play equipment installed in Bucknell's Meadow.

Respondents also requested:

- More seating, litter bins and provision for public toilets
- More "Community Events" to be held in Bucknell's Meadow.
- An additional disabled friendly entrance gate to be installed near the end of Mapledurham Drive
- That the grass should be kept shorter to make it easier for buggies and wheelchairs to access the play equipment.
- The provision of a grass running track and facilities for organised sports were also requested.

Actions:

- To seek to increase the range of play equipment in Bucknell's Meadow and to install items that would appeal to a wider age group.
- To install more seating and waste bins in Bucknell's Meadow.
- To amend the grass cutting contract to ensure the grass is kept shorter at Bucknell's Meadow.
- To consult with local land owners in respect of installing an additional disabled friendly entrance gate into Bucknell's Meadow.
- To evaluate whether it would be feasible to provide public toilets at Bucknell's Meadow.
- To consider the feasibility of creating a grass running/jogging track in Bucknell's Meadow.

Goosecroft Recreation Ground

Goosecroft Recreation Ground is the focal point of the Village for both organised sporting activities and a variety of leisure activities. It is also able to accommodate major village events such as the "Queen's Diamond Jubilee".

Its Community Barn is used by a wide variety of local clubs and organisations, including the very active 1st Purley & Pangbourne Scout Group, who



The Barn

currently cater for age groups ranging from 6-17. The Barn is greatly valued by the local community, its "Christmas Market" is a very popular event. The Purley Sports & Social Club is a licensed premises members' club and is used by 23.3% of respondents. It is also a valued local social facility that has close links to the various sports clubs at Goosecroft and provides the opportunity for people to play darts, pool, cribbage and bingo. It also offers a range of live entertainment events with its "Annual Fun Day" being a popular village event.

The upper and lower Goosecroft sports fields provide the opportunity for both organised cricket and football for both adults and juniors.

Both Purley on Thames Cricket Club and Purley Jubilee Football Club provide excellent coaching and match play, especially for youngsters and teenagers.

Purley Football Club caters for adult football. Purley Tennis Club also offer coaching sessions for all ages and the recently refurbished tennis courts are also available for use by parishioners at prescribed times. This facility is owned by the Parish Council and managed in conjunction with Purley (Berks) Tennis Club.

Of the 561 respondents who commented on the Goosecroft Playground, 55.8% thought that the facilities were good, 41.9% thought them reasonable, with only 2.3% rating them as poor.

New items of disabled friendly play equipment have been installed over the last couple of years, but space is very limited for any additional items of play equipment.

The main concern regarding this playground was that there is no means of keeping the entrance gate closed, so that young children could be prevented from exiting into the adjacent car park.

Action:

- To consider fixing a closing mechanism to the entrance gate to the Goosecroft Playground to make it a safer environment for youngsters.
- To consider new items of play equipment for the Goosecroft Playground.

In response to the question “Would you like any of the following improvements at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground?”. The following preferences were expressed by the 611 respondents.

- More “Community Events” 65.1%
- Greater access to existing toilets 58.1%
- Safer pedestrian/car access to Goosecroft 48.8%
- More facilities for organised sports, e.g. all weather playing surface, floodlights, 39.8%
- More land for organised sports and informal recreational activities 38.8%
- New children’s play equipment 30.8%
- A youth shelter 22.1%.

Respondents felt that Goosecroft Lane did not afford a safe pedestrian/car access to Goosecroft and was badly lit.

The signage to Goosecroft was also considered to be inadequate.

Actions:

- To consider if the Goosecroft Recreation Ground could be made available for more “Community Events”.
- To consider if it would be possible to provide greater public access to any of the toilets that are located at Goosecroft.
- To consult with local land owners and West Berkshire Council in respect of trying to

create a safer pedestrian access via Goosecroft Lane to the Goosecroft Recreation Ground.

- To try to significantly expand the amount of recreational land available at Goosecroft for organised sports and community events and to give consideration as to whether an all-weather pitch with floodlights could be located at Goosecroft.
- To evaluate if a Youth Shelter should be located at Goosecroft or at Bucknell’s Meadow.
- To review the current signage to Goosecroft.

Other recreational and leisure facilities: -

Lister Close Playground and Clarendon Rise Playground.

Both these WBC playgrounds were rated as less attractive than Bucknell’s Meadow or Goosecroft. Lister Close playground is considered as being well appointed but very small, whilst Clarendon Rise is in an isolated location with only three items of play equipment that are all designed for 3-7 years olds.

Action:

- To consult with West Berkshire Council over the feasibility of trying to improve or add additional items of play equipment to these WBC maintained playgrounds.

Trentham Bowls Club has excellent facilities which it manages on a long-term lease from the Parish Council, but only a very few respondents seem to use its facilities.

The Bowls Club is very keen to try to recruit new members and does allow parishioners to try out its facilities at prescribed times.

Action:

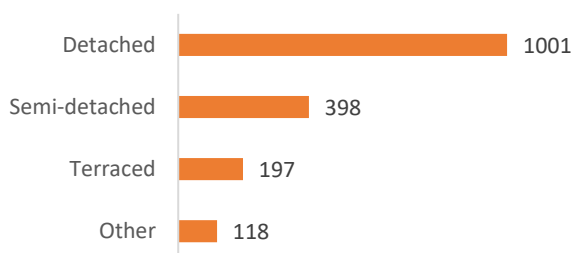
- Trentham Bowls Club to promote itself more within the Parish to attract more parishioners to become members.

Housing

Purley on Thames is predominantly residential with a mixed housing stock ranging in age from early 1600s in the oldest part of the current village to those still under construction.

Our homes

Dwellings by type



Source ONS – 2011 Census (KS404EW)

Other homes include purpose built blocks of flats or tenements, flats as part of a converted house, flats in a commercial building and caravans or other mobile homes.

Two major concerns were raised during the pre-questionnaire stage of this project:

1. An ageing population could well need to move away from their long-established home in order to have appropriate living accommodation to meet their needs.
2. The type and cost of housing locally may exclude first-time buyers and rentals.

Existing housing in Purley on Thames

The majority of respondents (88%) thought that their current housing would probably be suitable for their future needs. Those who thought not gave a similar range of responses – a) needing to downsize, have accessible and level living to promote independent living or b) needing larger family homes to accommodate a growing family. A small percentage (3%) of respondents thought they might have to move because of a lack of facilities and public transport in the immediate area as they became unable to drive.

The need for smaller affordable starter homes was expressed: 35 respondents stated they were living with family / friends but would rather have their own home. They are prevented from doing so by:

- The cost of local housing to buy (86%) or rent (46%).
- The lack of suitable property to buy (33%) or rent (23%).

Future housing in Purley

62% of respondents felt future housing development should be within the present housing settlement boundary (22% disagreed and 16% didn't know)



New Housing Development

Those who expressed opinions felt that 'the green belt' between Purley, Pangbourne and Sulham should be preserved, that Purley should maintain its own identity and not become part of a Greater Reading or overspill to the town. Any future development should be small and sensitive in amount especially if it is developed beyond the current settlement boundary.

When asked what sort of new build was needed respondents could make more than one choice. The responses indicate the priorities of the respondents for new housing: -

- Small family homes (80%).
- Assisted living / sheltered accommodation (50%).
- Bungalows (49%).
- Larger family homes (38%).
- Homes for single people (45%).
- Care / nursing homes (36%) in more or less equal measure.

'As people get older they might wish to stay in the area but downsize so it is vital there is provision of sheltered accommodation/ nursing homes so they can stay in the village in safety and comfort and also release larger homes for families to buy.'

Concerns arising:

- Infrastructure/services – currently poor within Purley on Thames itself.
- Cost of housing locally – not a first-time buyers' market.
- Ageing population – will housing meet future needs.
- Any future development should be appropriate in its setting / location.

Actions:

- Inform organisations responsible for making planning decisions of new Village Plan.
- Consider whether a Neighbourhood Action Plan is advisable.



The object of PRSC is to contribute towards building a resilient Purley-on-Thames community by bringing residents together to help and support each other and create positive community activities. PRSC will achieve this by working with local authorities and groups that share common objectives.

 Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC)

 prscpurley@aol.com

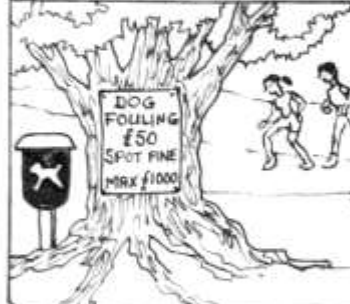
REC RANGERS

of PURLEY ON THAMES

Anyone can be a Recreational Ranger!

"ON POOP PATROL"

A LOVELY DAY IN THE PARK.



THE PARK LOOKS NICE AND CLEAN - WANT TO PLAY FOOTY?



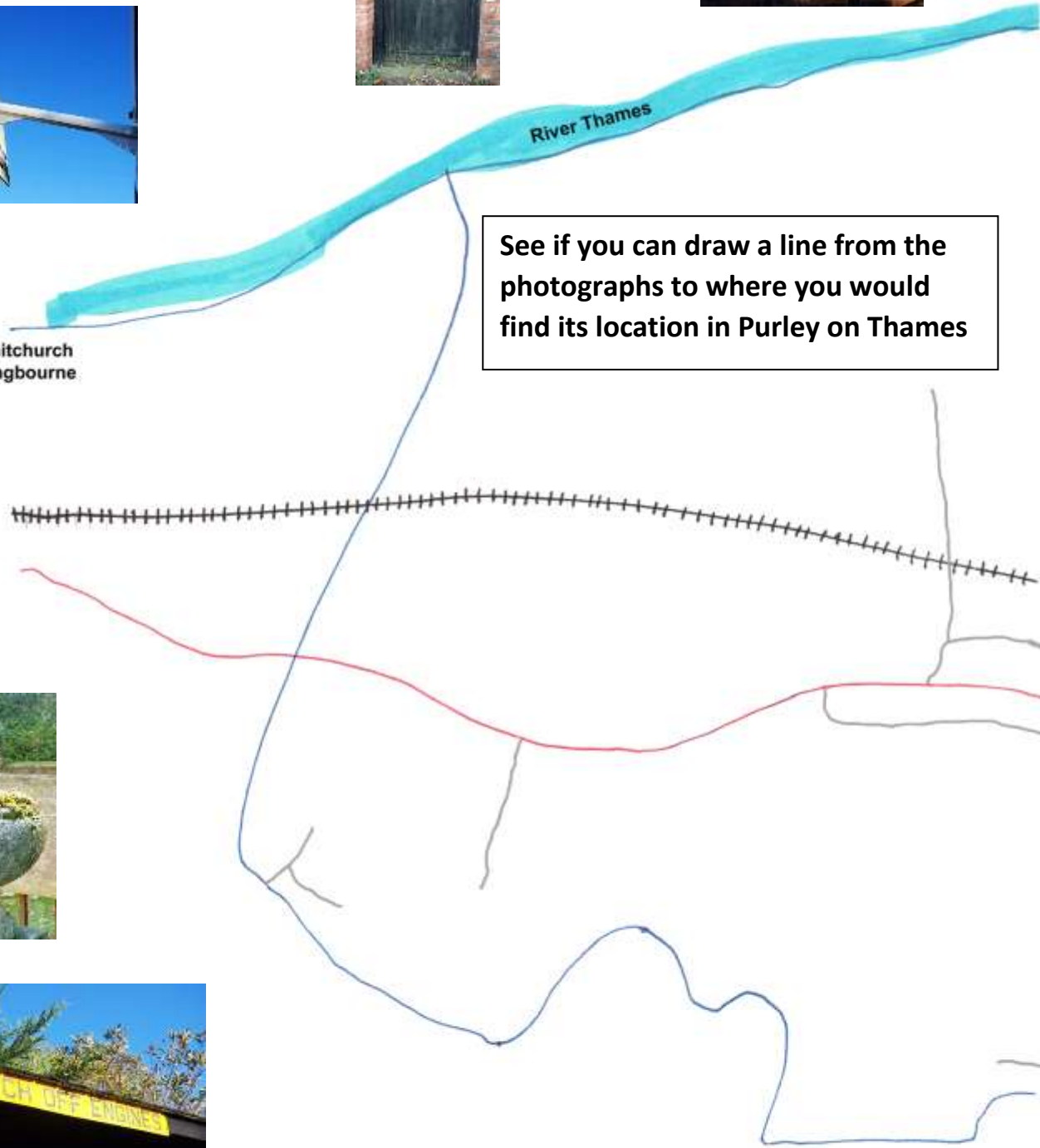
BUSTER FEELS THE NEED.



STORY by MARION MAYBANK
CARTOONS by LORNA WEBBER

© 2018

A Sketch Map of Purley on Thames



See if you can draw a line from the photographs to where you would find its location in Purley on Thames



-  River
-  Railway
-  A329
-  Parish Boundary



TILEHURST

Answers can be found on the Parish Council website at www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk



Spot the Football



Can you work out where the football is in this picture of a football match at Goosecroft?

The answer can be found on the Parish Council website at www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

Purley on Thames

Find the places in Purley on Thames

S	P	D	B	E	L	L	E	I	S	L	E	A	X	S	G	I	Y	C	H
Q	S	H	O	N	A	T	C	G	K	W	T	Z	H	E	F	I	T	G	G
R	R	E	A	I	F	Y	J	N	Y	C	R	T	T	W	A	F	F	P	T
B	I	V	N	V	Y	Q	N	C	R	Z	A	H	I	O	R	K	L	N	D
U	Q	T	S	A	C	X	C	I	Y	P	A	C	X	T	M	X	X	W	V
G	C	N	Y	T	L	L	C	C	T	M	V	R	B	E	U	I	K	O	Y
R	P	Y	J	Y	N	K	O	O	E	U	D	U	L	N	O	A	E	Z	A
C	R	F	G	W	E	E	O	S	V	Z	L	H	M	N	X	P	B	O	W
Y	A	C	C	T	E	F	M	A	E	C	L	C	H	I	K	Z	H	R	L
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H	J	X	K	P	R	B	F	L	Z	Z	C	Y	R	B	A	U	K	W	F
T	H	Q	W	B	Y	J	L	Q	K	S	Z	W	D	M	G	J	Z	A	H
C	C	I	S	L	L	C	L	P	Z	R	K	P	H	V	O	I	C	A	S

- ALLOTMENTS
- BARN
- BELLEISLE
- BOWLING
- BUCKNELLS
- CHURCH
- CLOSE
- CRICKET
- FARM
- FOOTBALL
- FOOTPATHS
- GOOSECROFT
- HALL
- LANE
- LOCK
- PURLEY
- RAILWAY
- RISE
- TENNIS
- THAMES

Health and Social Care

In 2011, almost 1 in every four individuals in Purley on Thames ward was aged 60 or over. Moreover, the census revealed that, since 2001, whilst the total population had only grown by 2%, the number of individuals aged 65 and over had increased by 41%, in contrast to the number of adults aged between 20 and 39 which had decreased by 35%. Purley on Thames 65+ population had in fact increased at more than twice the rate of West Berkshire's as a whole, and four times the national rate.

There will be considerable health and social care implications as the village population ages. Whilst the provision of health and social care is important for all age groups, those in later years often have more needs and more specialist needs.

West Berkshire Council's *Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2018* aims to "help people live longer, healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives". Purley on Thames residents have easy access to local countryside, riverside walks, sporting and social facilities (see Recreation section on page 17). A Singing for the Brain group, which met in the parish, closed during 2017, but a Singing for Fun group now meets weekly, it welcomes adults of all ages, including those with dementia.

Since the last Village Plan, public access defibrillators have been sited at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground and the Memorial Hall.

Access to health service providers

Purley on Thames has no doctors' surgeries, pharmacies or dental practices. Most respondents service needs are met in Pangbourne, Tilehurst, Reading and Theale, although some travel further afield.

The majority view (89%) is that this is satisfactory, many respondents note that travel to a health facility outside the parish is only easy and, in some cases, practical, whilst they have access to a car. Comments from those without a car indicate that many are reliant upon the goodwill of friends and neighbours.

Other access issues include:

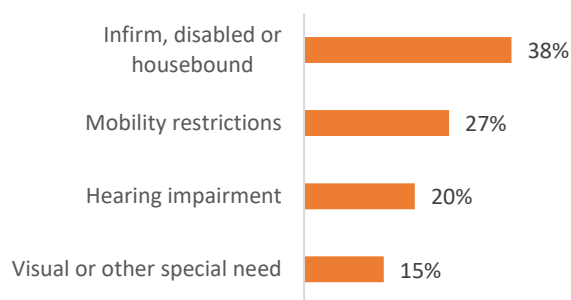
- Limited pharmacy provision for Purley on Thames residents at the Boathouse Surgery in Pangbourne.
- Unreliable private pharmacy services.
- Waiting times.
- Limited local NHS dental provision.

For contact details of doctors, dentists, and local pharmacies see inside back cover.

Special needs.

There were 191 responses to the question on special health needs. The breakdown is as follows:

Breakdown of special needs

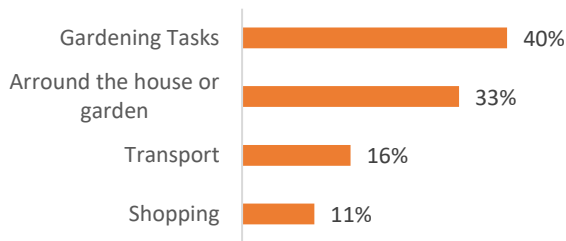


A number of those with special needs commented that access restrictions, inclines and steps prevent them being able to get out and about in Purley on Thames. Access restrictions due to footpaths, roads and public transport are dealt with in the traffic and transport section.

Lack of awareness of what local support is available to those with special needs would appear to be an extensive issue, with no respondent being able to confirm that they were aware.

There were 55 responses to the question on the need for help. These breakdown as follows.

Breakdown of requests for help



A Tai Chi class at the Barn

Actions:

- Better publicity for the transport schemes (Carebus, Readibus and the Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre's service) in place to help those with disability needs.
- Support the establishment of a new volunteers' home to bus stop service, this was in progress as the Village Plan Document was being prepared.
- Approach the Boathouse Surgery Medical Practice, Pangbourne, to see whether it would be prepared to extend in-house pharmacy services to Purley on Thames residents.
- Seek opportunities to encourage the establishment of doctor and dental surgeries in Purley on Thames.
- Seek ways to promote the various support services in Purley on Thames for those in need.
- Purley on Thames Parish Council to set up an informal service to provide support to those in need of voluntary help in and around the home.
- Pursue the engagement of a Village Ambassador.

Employment

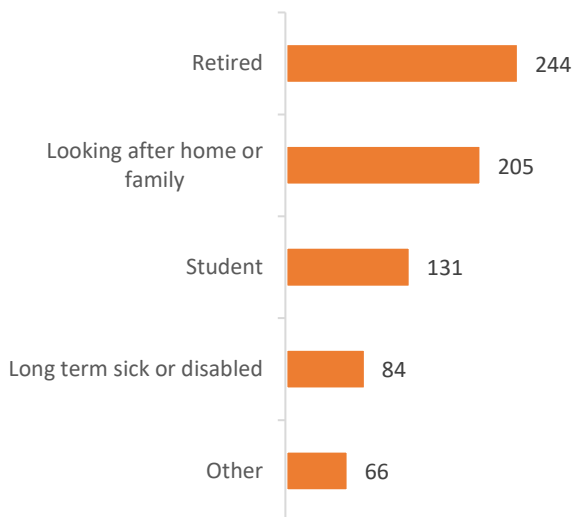
This issue was not surveyed for the previous Purley on Thames Village Plan.

Back ground data

In 2013: a total of 3980 individuals aged between 16 and 64, in Purley Ward, were economically active. Figures for the smaller area of the Parish of Purley on Thames are not available.

(Source: .www.nomisweb.co.uk ONS mid year population estimates)

Data from the 2011 census shows that 3520 people between the ages of 16 and 64 were Economically Active and 730 people were Economically Inactive. Of this 730:



(Source 2011 Census Table DC6107EW)

517 people were self employed in 2011

2017 Purley on Thames Village Plan survey data on employment

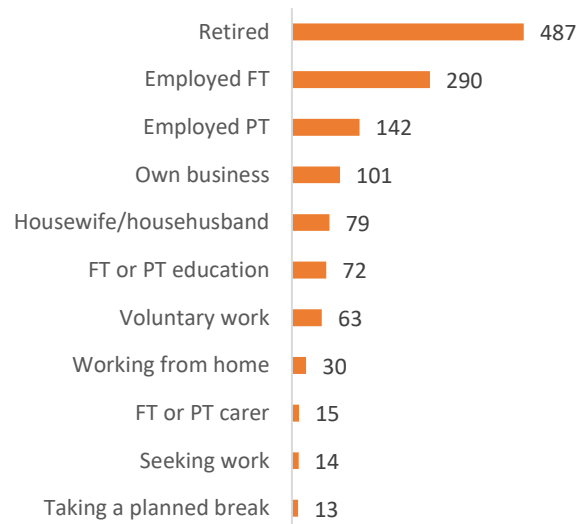
There was a total of 1126 responses to this section.

These results further reinforce the demographic findings concerning Purley on Thames ageing population (see Demographic section on page 7).

Employment profile for Purley

(from 1126 reponses)

(More than one category could be selected)



Employment in Purley

The Village Shop. Post office, Garage, and Care Homes are small sized employers in Purley. Primary schools and Pre- schools, and Purley Park are larger sized employers.

There are many small home-based businesses in Purley on Thames. These include, for example: - pet care, IT design, software and hardware maintenance, house and garden design, build and maintenance, personal health and wellbeing practitioners and legal and financial services.

Retirement plans.

There were a total of 618 respondents to this question: -

466 (75.4%) of these respondents said that they would not be retiring within the next 5 years,

122 (19.7%) would be retiring within five years, and 30 (4.9%) would be retiring within a year.

Within the next 5 years 152 more people could have more leisure time to enjoy life in Purley on Thames.

Education

There is a range of local authority school provision in the area available to Purley on Thames children and a number of fee paying schools in the locality.



Purley on Thames C of E Primary School

Purley on Thames has one Pre School and several Day Nurseries within easy reach of the village. The Pre School provides childcare for children between the ages of 2 and 4 and the Day Nurseries care for babies/children from 3 months to 5 years old. At present the Government provides a childcare voucher scheme which allows families to have free childcare of between 15 and 30 hours a week. Nursery or Pre-school is optional for families until their children are 5 years old, at which point it is mandatory for all children to attend school.

Most primary-aged children (4-11 years old) resident in Purley on Thames attend Purley Church of England Primary School or Long Lane Primary School.

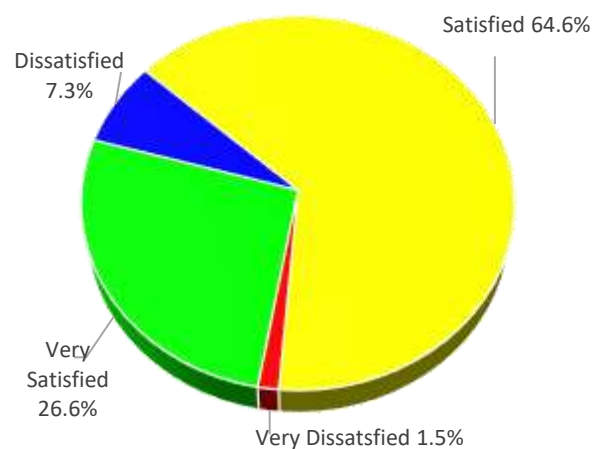
When the village school in Purley on Thames first opened in 1875 it served local children of all ages. By the time Long Lane Primary opened in 1966 Purley on Thames children were attending schools further afield and school places were much needed. From 1966 Purley C of E school educated only infants whilst Long Lane took infant and junior children. In 2013 Purley C of E was granted primary status and a major building project began to enlarge the tiny school. However, due to oversubscription to our village schools, Purley on Thames children still need to go to schools further away, i.e. Birch Copse, Springfield, St Pauls RC. Village primary age children have also been offered places even further away.

Children aged 11 - 18 can go to Denefield School which is in the neighbouring parish of Tilehurst. Other local West Berkshire DC secondary schools are Little Heath and Theale Green Academy School.

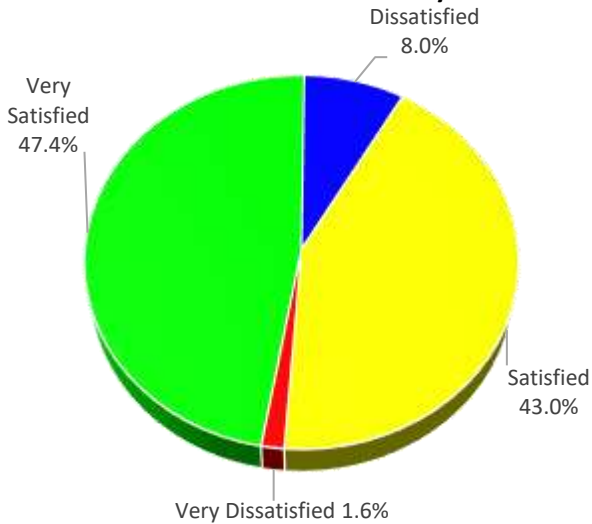
In the informal consultation with local people preceding the questionnaire, the availability of school places in Purley on Thames and outdoor play facilities at Purley C of E school were concerns.

The questionnaire invited responses from people with interest in or with strong views about the education of children locally. There were questions addressing the degree of satisfaction with pre-school, primary and secondary education. 274 adults completed the questionnaire regarding pre-school education, 312 regarding primary education and 314 regarding secondary education. An average of 90% of these respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the pre-school, primary and secondary education available to 0 – 18 years in Purley on Thames. Several children commented that they enjoyed going to school and none said that they did not!

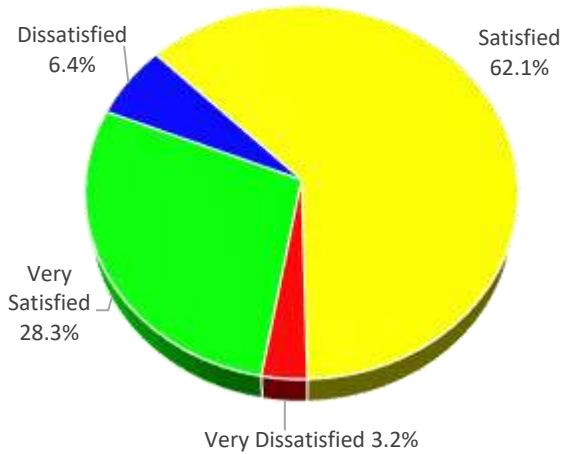
Satisfaction with pre-school



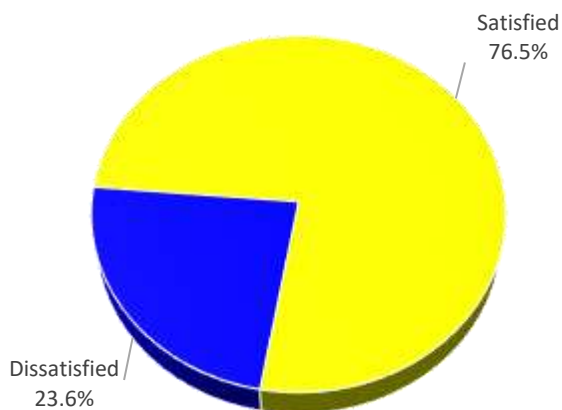
Satisfaction with Primary



Satisfaction with Secondary



Satisfaction with places in catchment area



Availability of Places

76% of the 259 respondents who answered this question are very satisfied or satisfied about the availability of places in the catchment area. Although no specific comments were made, nearly a quarter of the respondents are not satisfied with the available places in the catchment area.

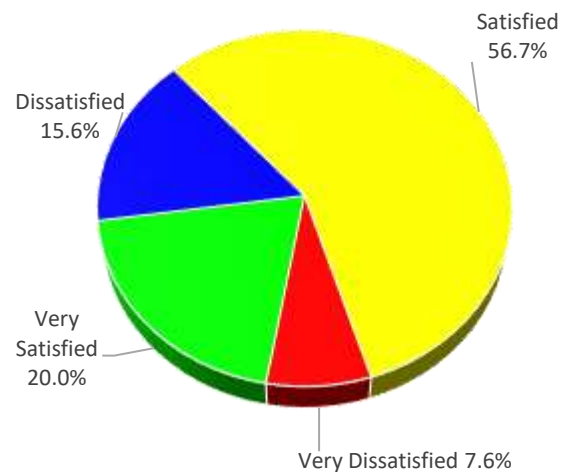
Outdoor Space

77% of the 275 respondents who answered the question are very satisfied or satisfied with the amount of space for outdoor play.

This question prompted a large number of individual comments. 52 respondents (19%) made comments including that the play areas had been built on when Purley Primary school was extended, there is no green space at the school, there is too little outdoor space for running around and for playing or for sport.

Nearly 8% of the total respondents to this question are very dissatisfied with the space available for classes to play together.

Satisfaction with outdoor space





Long Lane Primary School

Actions:

- To buy/rent more local land for the school to use as outdoor play space.
- To create more places in Purley on Thames schools.
- To investigate building a toilet at Bucknell’s Meadow to allow the field to be used by the school. It could also be used on Village event days.

Newsletter

Did you know that the Parish Council publishes a monthly Newsletter for parishioners to keep them informed about village life and events taking place? The Newsletter is only distributed by email but past copies are available from the Parish Council website.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter please email the Assistant Clerk on asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk with your name and email address and she will add you to the distribution list.

Alternatively, if you popped into the Parish Council offices on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 2:30pm and 5:00pm or Thursdays between 9:30am and 2:30pm, they will print you a paper copy.



NEWSLETTER
September 2018, issue 19

Parish Council matters

Earlier in the year we asked for nominations for Purley's Villager of the Year 2018. This award recognises any parishioner for making an identifiable, individual contribution to all or part of the community over a year or more. It's intended to thank those who contribute to the "greater good" of Purley on Thames. A number of nominations were received and a panel of local people selected the winner. I am now pleased to announce that the 2018 Villager of the Year is Christine Mackie.

Christine was nominated as someone who has contributed to improving the lives of many in Purley. Although most of Christine's work has its roots at St Mary's Church, she has also supported people of any faith or no faith. She set up and ran Oasis, a group for mums and their pre-school children, and also helped at the baby clinic in the church hall. St Mary's is a part of Reading Foodbank and Christine's efforts to ensure local families in need received food aid have been invaluable. She's also been a regular volunteer at Purley Park Trust, working with the riddons. Overall, Christine has been a kind and supportive friend to many and recogniser of this is well-deserved. She will be presented with her award at the Chairman's Reception in October.

Our other "good news" is that the Purley on Thames Village Plan is now finished and, when it's been approved by West Berkshire District Council, will be distributed to every household in Purley. Thank you to those who have already offered to help deliver the Village Plan - if anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact purleyvillageplan@gmail.com.

Each home in Purley will receive a hard copy of the Village Plan free of charge. Local companies are advertising in it, and are paying for inclusion via the Good Exchange, formerly Greenham Common Trust. All the payments are being match-funded and the money raised is going towards covering the costs of printing. If you feel that you too would like to make a contribution, please go to app.thegoodexchange.com and search for Purley Village Plan - the amount you give will be matched. Thank you.

Sue Hiscoe
Chair of Thames Parish Council

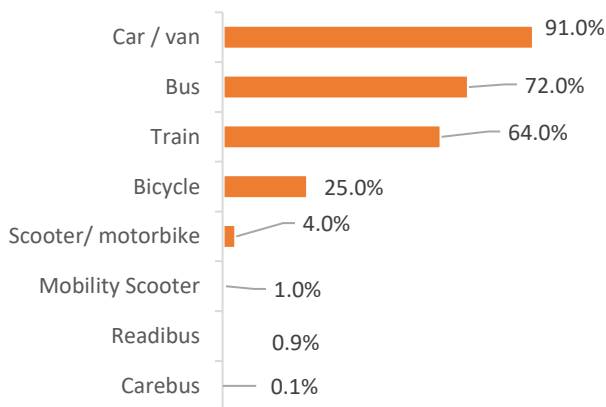
Traffic and Transport

Purley on Thames is considered to have good access to the transport network both for the private motorist and public transport, with proximity to a comprehensive road network and the railway.

There is access to the rail network in Reading and at Tilehurst and Pangbourne Stations.

Purley on Thames is served by two bus routes, Reading Transport's route 16 and Thames Travel's route 143.

The overall response to the various methods of transport used:



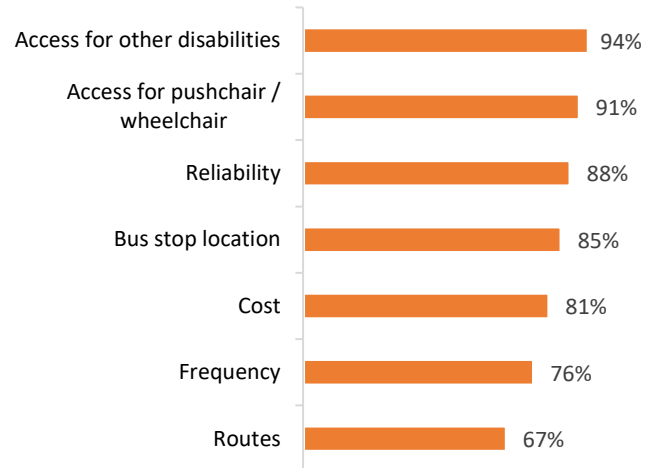
Bus travel

Purley is served by two bus routes, the 16 and the 143.

The route of the 16 service is a bit circuitous to Reading, but this is what renders the service commercial and therefore needing no subsidy from West Berkshire Council. The 16 service operates Monday to Sunday and also on Bank Holidays (except Christmas day)

The 143 service requires subsidy for its operation. Currently this service is operated by one bus. The frequency of the service could only be increased by introducing another vehicle & driver into the schedule. This would require further subsidy which is not available.

The table below shows the percentage of respondents who were satisfied with aspects of the service provided by the bus companies.



Concerns raised about bus travel locally:

Route 16

- Circuitous route into Reading taking up to 40 minutes.
- Residents living in the Long Lane area and West of New Hill have a long and unpleasant walk to access route 16.
- On- road parking frequently blocks bus route.
- Passengers upstairs on double decker buses can see into gardens on the route.

Route 143

- 2 hour wait between buses but runs directly into Reading and Pangbourne along A329.
- Timetable changes poorly advertised.
- Uncertainty about whether this service will be withdrawn in future.

Other concerns

- Poor service to Pangbourne and all the shops and services there.
- Cost of fares too high, no discounts on return fares, high costs for family travel.

Suggestions

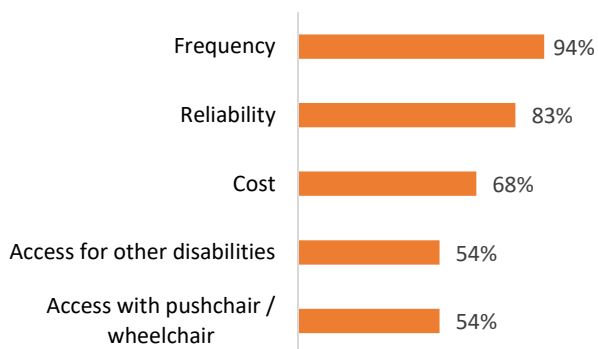
- More regular direct route to Reading and Pangbourne.
- A bus service for Long Lane area.
- A bus service to Theale / IKEA / Savacentre complex.
- Single decker buses.
- A better service would promote increased use of the bus and reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Action:

- To represent the concerns and suggestions of local people to the bus companies.

Train travel:

The table below shows the percentage of respondents who were satisfied with aspects of the service provided by the train companies.



Concerns

- Cost of train travel.
- Poor value for money / quality of service.
- Cancellations, delays, reliability.
- Infrequency of trains in the evenings and weekends.
- Cost of parking at stations.
- Overcrowded trains.
- Ticket office not manned full time, ticket machine often out of order.
- Waiting room closed.

Suggestions

- Lift to access all platforms at the local stations.
- Linked bus and train services.
- More direct trains to London.

- Reduced fares to encourage more use of trains.

Action:

- To represent the concerns and suggestions of local people to the train companies.



Electrification of railway with new electric train

Road Safety and Access

Overall there was satisfaction with road safety and access to the roads and pathways.

However, there was concern shown about New Hill and Oxford Road in particular.

Concerns

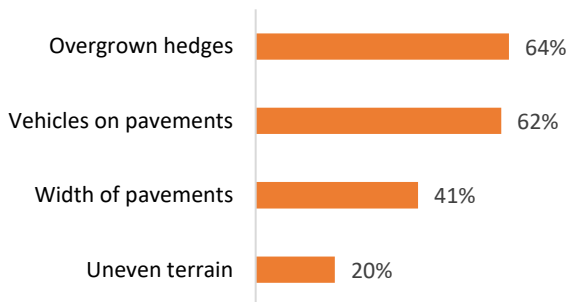
- Bridge on New Hill, bend at the bottom of New Hill and the crossing at the top of New Hill are dangerous.
- Pavements are too narrow along Oxford Road
- Narrow pavement along Purley Village by the school and no pavement in Purley Lane.
- Speed bumps and chicanes in Long Lane dangerous and traffic too fast.
- More speed control in Oxford Road, Hazel Road and Purley Rise needed. Speed is a problem throughout Purley on Thames.
- Overgrown hedgerows cause poor visibility particularly in Purley Lane.
- Parking is an issue in many roads particularly outside schools, in Purley Rise, St Mary's Avenue, the 16 bus route and on pavements throughout Purley on Thames.
- Lack of cycle paths.

The concerns from children included holes in the road, pavements too narrow and overgrown, too much traffic around Denefield School and speeding generally. They asked for a zebra crossing to assist crossing the Oxford Rd at the top of New Hill. They

were unhappy with the amount of dog poo on paths.

Access Restrictions

Each figure below represents the percentage of the 800 respondents who felt that their access was restricted.



Concerns:

- Overgrown hedges and vegetation.
- Uneven surface and holes on pavements and roads.
- Roads with no pavements.
- Cars on pavements.
- Narrow pavements.
- Lack of parking generally but particularly with access to Mapledurham lock.
- Access for wheelchairs to the lock.
- Lack of footpath signs.

- Cows in Blount's Meadow.

Action:

- To represent the concerns and suggestions of local people to West Berkshire District Council.



A329 Oxford Road – Our Green Corridor

Crime

Purley on Thames lies in the east of the West Berkshire Local Police Area which is one of twelve in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire covered by Thames Valley Police.

It falls in the Pangbourne Neighbourhood which has a neighbourhood policing team headed by an inspector and is currently based in Pangbourne Police station. The team will move to new facilities in Theale in the near future. They liaise with community leaders such as Parish Councillors, Head Teachers, Youth Workers and Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Purley on Thames belongs to a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) that also includes the local parishes of Sulham, Tidmarsh, Pangbourne, Streatley and Basildon. The NAG consists of Police, Parish Council and West Berkshire representatives

and meets 4 times a year to discuss current crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

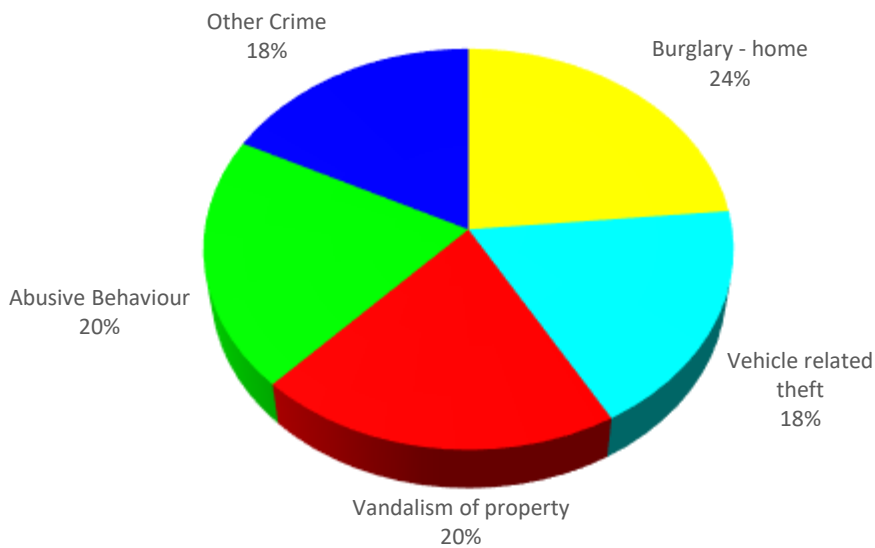
West Berkshire Council's responsibilities include community safety projects and Parish Councils have guidelines and information to help on Crime and Disorder matters.

Findings

Of the 1052 adult respondents to the Questionnaire 97.7% considered Purley on Thames to be very safe or safe. For children this percentage fell slightly to 93.3%.

From additional comments the issues that most influence residents' view of safety was road safety (67.5%) and antisocial behaviour (17.5%).

Incidents of Crime & Antisocial Behaviour over last 5 years



Responses to the questionnaire indicate that there were 285 incidents of crime or antisocial behaviour over the last five years, an average of 57 per year. The chart shows the number of incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour split by type. The crime areas that were mentioned most by respondents were vandalism, drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Of those who suffered crime in the past five years, 139 had reported it to the police.

Only 11.8% of respondents indicated that they were a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Actions:

- To reduce all types of crime in Purley on Thames by encouraging more members of the community to take an active part in crime prevention initiatives backed by the police e.g. Neighbourhood Watch.
- To work with the NAG to improve community involvement in the safety and security of Purley on Thames residents.
- To encourage residents to report crimes to the police.
- To ensure that information on crime, local crime prevention initiatives and outcomes are provided to local residents.
- To support education about the effects of misuse of alcohol and drugs.

101 or 999 – which one should you call?

999 is a number that everyone knows, children from a young age are taught to call 999 if there is an emergency, but do you know when you should call 101 instead?

Advice for calling 999:

- call when it's an emergency
- a crime is in progress
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- when there is danger to life
- when violence is being used or threatened

If you don't need an emergency response, then you should call 101. This could be to report a crime or to seek advice, for example your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged or you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood. Calls to 101 incur a 15p charge but this is a flat fee for the entirety of the call [mobiles included].

Incidents can also be reported to Thames Valley Police on line via our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk – just click on Report and follow the instructions. This should not be used to report incidents requiring a more urgent attendance.

The neighbourhood policing team can be emailed pangbournhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Technology

Purley on Thames is very IT literate with 98.3% of respondents having access to some form of computer, be it a PC, iPad or tablet, with only 4.3% indicating that they would like some help with using the computer. Of these 58.6% require help with individual issues as they arise or basic tuition on how to use a computer. Basic skills mentioned are Windows 10 and iPad operation. Also 24.1% expressed an interest in courses on various topics such as spreadsheets, photography, Excel and Publisher.

Broadband

Currently there are two ways to obtain a broadband service in Purley on Thames. These are through either a fixed telephone line or through a cable media connection. It was our understanding that the whole of the village, apart from one black spot, had access to speeds of 20Mb/s or better via one of these options. However, when looking at satisfaction with broadband speed in the Purley on Thames only 69.6% of respondents were satisfied with their current broadband speed. This means that 30.4% were not. We are not sure whether the reason for this is because our understanding of the speeds available is incorrect or whether respondents have chosen not to purchase or are unaware that a faster service is available to them.

The only area that we are aware where only speeds below 20Mb/s are available are in the Hazel Road, Marshall Close and Skerritt Way.



Computer Training in the Barn

Actions:

- Further survey and analysis work to identify any areas of Purley on Thames where a broadband speed of 20Mb/s or better is not available.
- Follow up with broadband service providers any areas that do not benefit from a 20Mb/s broadband service.
- Identify ways computer education needs can be provided.

Communication

Information, events and activities are communicated through a variety of channels. Purley Parish News has been serving the community of Purley on Thames since 1938 and is produced ten out of twelve months of the year by St Mary's Church. An annual subscription costs £5 per year (as at February 2018). This aims to "publish information, articles, reports and notices, and advertisements that inform, entertain or relate to St. Mary's church, the community and individuals and organisations within it." Both Reading and Newbury have weekly newspapers which promote local events, although the size of Purley on Thames in comparison to these much larger towns invariably means that limited local material is published. A free weekly newspaper is received by some parts of the village, a free monthly magazine RG8 by others, whilst most receive the free monthly Round & About. Several daily shows on BBC Radio Berkshire include details of activities across the whole county.

Purley on Thames Parish Council set up its website following feedback received during the 2004 Village Plan and this contains regular updates on both Parish Council activities and also information considered to be pertinent to parishioners, such as flood alert updates. A growing number of village societies and organisations have their own communication channels which include mailing lists, newsletters, websites, Facebook pages and twitter accounts. Several independent informal Facebook and internet forums also cover Purley on Thames together with adjacent parishes. Seven parish noticeboards are regularly updated with posters and event notices. In addition, several parish businesses such as Purley Post Office and the Lock Café allow posters to be placed on their premises, as do all three village halls.

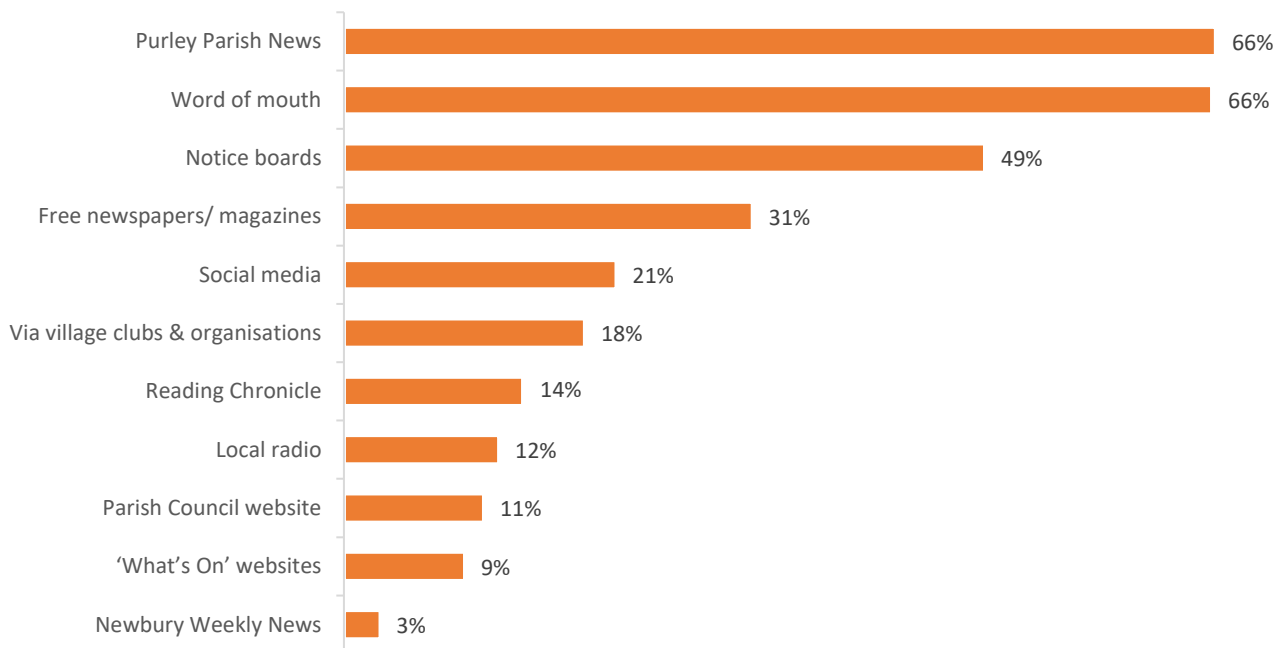
As one might expect, despite the range of local communication channels available, awareness of what is going on in Purley on Thames varies considerably from one individual to the next. Just over half of all respondents to the Village Plan questionnaire are aware of all of the facilities in the village (58%), whilst a slightly lower majority believe that they are largely or fully aware of most events and activities. In contrast, 45% of respondents are unaware of any, or aware of only a few, events and activities in Purley on Thames. This suggests that overall awareness of village events and activities could be higher and that current communication channels are not wholly effective.

The majority of individuals find out what is happening in Purley on Thames via Purley Parish News (66% of respondents, although its circulation is only to about 50% of all households in the Parish) with word of mouth and parish notice boards being the next most popular mediums. Although free newspapers and magazines are much valued, traditional media such as purchased weekly newspapers and local radio are of comparatively little importance.



www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Where do you usually get information about what is going on in Purley on Thames?



This contrasts with the position back in 2004 when the last Village Plan survey was published.

Instead, the importance of social media and e-based communication was reflected both in its use as an information source by at least 20% of those surveyed, and also in the suggestions for how communication in Purley on Thames may be improved. Over half of all comments suggested improved use of the Parish Council website, social media or monthly email updates. Parish notice boards, whilst valued as a source of information by many, are also considered by some as being too small and too few in number.

Other ideas included a free magazine delivered to all households, funded by advertising; better promotion of the parish website, and a welcome pack for new residents.

Actions:

- Review the location and size of Parish notice boards to cover more of the village.
- Add an events section to the Parish Council website - already actioned.
- Every club, society and social organisation in Purley on Thames to be given the opportunity to be listed in this Village Plan Document.
- Expand the current electronic newsletter to include a 'what's on' section.
- A village clubs and societies day to be held to enable parishioners to find out more about activities they may be interested in.
- Consideration to be given to setting up a separate regular free news journal to all households in the village.
- Consider a "Welcome Pack" for new residents.

St Mary's Church

Responses suggest that Purley on Thames people value the fact that the village has a twelfth century church even if they are not church goers. 93% of respondents to this question felt that the church is an important part of the village and as such should be adequately maintained. The following points were made in the section about possible improvements to the church.

- The churchyard particularly needs care and attention and listed memorials need repair.
- Access to the church could be improved as the slope of the path makes it difficult for wheelchairs.
- The church is locked too much, preventing people from going there for personal quiet and contemplation.
- Facilities could be improved e.g. provide Wi-Fi, a nappy bin, improve catering facilities and improve/enlarge/light the carpark.



St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames

A number of local residents attend places of worship outside Purley on Thames but 776 of the 843 respondents to the question 'Does the church provide all you require from it?' answered that it did.

Suggestions of what the church could offer include

- More 'traditional' services.
- Interdenominational services.
- 'Drop-in' sessions for coffee and a chat/help and support with life changing events.
- Outreach to local people in need.
- The church and church hall as a more focal part of Purley on Thames by offering space and facilities for community and non-religious groups.
- Improved advertising of church-based events.
- Be more welcoming and 'visible' in the community.



St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames

Actions:

- Conduct a 'Community Needs Assessment' to more fully understand how the community would like to see the redeveloped church used i.e. meeting rooms for business people, a coffee-shop, drop-in centre, clothing bank, etc.
- Identify a suitable site, preferably on the A329 (Oxford Road-Purley Rise) for a dedicated St. Mary's noticeboard advertising the church and its events.
- Plan to floodlight the church tower, to raise its visibility within the immediate community and further afield.
- Plan to install Wi-Fi within the church so that it can be offered as a community service.

Local Groups and Organisations

Local Group	Activities	Contact
1st Purley Brownies & Guides	Fun indoor and outdoor activities for girls aged 7-10 Brownies and 10-15 Guides. We meet weekly in term time and also go on day trips and holidays.	brownies1stpurley@btinternet.com 0118 984 5943
1st Purley and Pangbourne Scout Group	Local Scouting for 6-25 yr olds, both boys and girls, providing fun, friendship & adventure through arts/crafts to games & exploring the outdoors in order that they gain skills and confidence for their futures.	gsl@1stPandP.org.uk 1stPandP.org.uk
Berkshire Family History Society	We help people trace and preserve their family's history. Our Family History Centre is in Reading Central Library. Members enjoy quarterly journals, discounts on products and events, monthly talks and online support. Find us online at www.berksfhs.org.uk or on Facebook at Berkshire Genealogy.	0118 950 9553 centre@berksfhs.org.uk
Berkshire Gardens Trust	We promote the appreciation and conservation of historical gardens and landscapes in Berkshire through garden visits, lectures and research. Please join us.	bgtmembership@gmail.com www.berks-gardens-trust.org.uk
Hand of Friendship	Small friendly group meeting in the vestry of St Mary's Church on Tuesday afternoons 2-4p.m for cakes, tea and friendship. All welcome. Please note we do not meet on the first Tuesday of the month – Tuesday Lunch Club.	sheila.adnett@ntlworld.com
Jeanette Cole's Art Courses	Drawing and painting classes suitable for all levels of ability. Demonstrations and individual tuition of new techniques in a friendly atmosphere. Subjects vary from still life, landscape and animals.	art-course@hotmail.com 07500 862 025
Lingotot Reading	Spanish classes for children aged 0-11	reading@lingotot.com

Local Group	Activities	Contact
Oasis, St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames	Oasis welcomes anyone caring for babies and toddlers to St Mary's on the first and third Thursdays of the month between 9.30 and 11.00am. We offer tea, coffee, cake, good company, toys and a story/rhyme time.	Marjorie Butler 0118 941 8856
Project Purley	We research and preserve the history of Purley on Thames and have an extensive archive. Members enjoy a programme of talks, outings and social activities and a twice-yearly journal. We also organise visits by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company.	Catherine Sampson 0118 942 2255 or 0118 942 6999 chairman@project_purley.eu
Purley Art Group	A friendly ART GROUP meeting in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. Thursdays 7pm-9pm. All adults welcome. Bring your own materials. Untutored – we help each other. Termly fee £15 only to cover costs.	purleyartgroup@gmail.com 0118 942 4379 (Alf)
Purley Barn Quilters	Patchwork and quilting activities. General sewing and crafts (inc. knitting and crochet) All activities welcome.	karen@therunningchicken.co.uk 0118 942 4085
Purley Football Club	The club plays high level football in the Reading Sunday League and our home ground is the Goosecroft. We welcome new players and spectators.	Tony O'Connor 07828 638140 oc_1985@hotmail.com
Purley Horticultural Society (PHS)	The local gardening group with a Trading Store run by volunteers selling gardening supplies. With four winter evening events and two seasonal shows each year. www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS	Paul Humphreys: 0118 972 7030 or Margaret Rolfe at phs@rolfe.me.uk
Purley Jubilee Football Club	Purley Jubilee is a F.A. Charter Standard junior football club based primarily at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground. PJFC offers the opportunity for local children from U6's to U18's to receive coaching by F.A. qualified coaches and to play football in a safe environment.	PJFC Secretary at:- pjfcsecretary@outlook.com
Purley Pathfinders Ladies Walking Group	A friendly group of ladies who walk weekly savouring the beautiful local area whilst enjoying the fitness, companionship and safety. We also have trips to areas such as The Cotswolds, New Forest etc. Walks of 4-6 miles take place on weekday mornings.	Nicki Woodward: 0118 984 2112 www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

Local Group	Activities	Contact
Purley Pilates	Pilates classes for all ages and abilities. 1 hour class - £6/session in Purley Barn, Wednesdays 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. One to one session's also available.	Liisa Carey 07900 937 834 liisac@hotmail.co.uk
Purley on Thames Cricket Club	Purley on Thames Cricket Club is an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Clubmark club offering cricket training, coaching (by ECB trained coaches) and matches for 4 year olds through Junior and Adult teams (including senior citizen players). The club runs 7 junior teams (including girls) and 5 adult teams playing a mixture of league, friendly and midweek games and are based at the Goosecroft (off Beech Road), Purley on Thames. www.purleyonthamescc.co.uk	Karen / Martin Bishop 0118 945 3117
Purley Players	Purley on Thames local Drama Group. We are a friendly bunch and always welcome new members. Come and join us at the barn on a Wednesday evening. No experience needed. We start at 7.30 pm	Chris Lang 0118 954 8052 chris.lang1@ntlworld.com or Jean Chudleigh 0118 942 4372 jeanchudleigh@btinternet.com
Purley Memorial Hall	Available for hire on weekdays and weekends. Suitable for classes, 1:1 meetings or social functions. Various size rooms and office space. Reasonable rates, ample parking. See our website at www.purleyonthames.org.uk/memhall .	purleymemhall@yahoo.co.uk 07772 129 187
Purley Pop-In	From 12.30-2.30 p.m. every Wednesday you may enjoy the convivial atmosphere of the Purley Pop-In. On offer is a hot drink with cake and biscuits and usually a Quiz for £1.00. Bar available.	Purley Park Social Club 0118 942 7047
Purley Sports and Social Club	Members club, family and visitors welcome. Links to local sports clubs. Available for private hire Website: www.pss.club	Phil Winchcombe 0118 984 3061 psscforhire@hotmail.com

Local Group	Activities	Contact
Purley Tennis Club	Friendly Tennis Club with 3 newly refurbished courts. Regular club sessions throughout the year – weekdays and on Saturday mornings. Men’s/Ladies’ and mixed teams. Play in local leagues. Have ball machine and coaching provided by experienced club members.	Colin Moses 07495 271 906 mosescd@btinternet.com
Purley Women’s Institute	The W.I. offers a varied programme of events. Visitors are very welcome. Purley Memorial Hall 7.30 p.m. 2 nd Wednesday of each month.	Alison Lewis purleyonthameswi8@gmail.com 0118 941 3868 / 07900 420 758
Silver Surfers Computer Club	A computer club for those who want to master their PC or iPad. We aim to provide a mix of talks, bespoke training sessions and one to one problem resolution. We meet on the 2 nd and 4 th Thursday of each months from October to June in the small Barn at Goosecroft Recreation Ground. Visit our website at www.inspire4life.me.uk .	Graham Rolfe 0118 941 7247 club@inspire4life.me.uk
Silver Surfers Tai Chi	We offer Tai Chi classes every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm lasting for one hour in the large Barn at Goosecroft Recreation Ground. There is then an opportunity for social interaction and tea until 3pm.	Geoff Chivers 0118 941 2080 taichi@inspire4life.me.uk
Singing for Fun	A welcoming group offering a fun afternoon of singing familiar songs, friendly repartee, tea and biscuits. Every Thursday 2-4p.m. at St Mary’s Church, Purley on Thames.	Sandy Chapman 0118 961 4190 or Ina Elliott 07867 863 932 - Inaelliott@aol.com
Tuesday Lunch Club	Meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) in St Mary’s church hall for a light two course lunch enabling folk to make new friends and meet up with old ones. A very relaxed, friendly atmosphere. All welcome.	sheila.adnett@ntlworld.com
T.Y.A. & Mukti Hatha Yoga	Weekly Yoga Class held at Purley Memorial Hall on Thursday evenings 7.30pm to 9.00 pm. Beginners welcome	Jitesh Patel 0118 942 4545

Local Group	Activities	Contact
Tylehurst Lace & Needlecraft Group	The traditional craft of bobbin lace making and any type of needle craft e.g. knitting, crochet, cross stitch.	Mrs D. Mattison 0118 942 7574
West Berkshire Countryside Society	W.B.C.S exists to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire countryside by its residents and visitors and all other groups and businesses involved in its care and management. The organisation also carries out practical work with teams of volunteers to further these aims.	Ed Cooper enquiries@westberkscountryside.org.uk www.westberkscountryside.org.uk
West Berkshire Scrabble Club	We are the home of Scrabble in West Berkshire, meeting in The Barn in Purley on Thames every Tuesday evenings and on the afternoon of the 2 nd and 4 th Thursday of the month. Full details on our website www.westberksscrabbleclub.org.uk	info@westberksscrabbleclub.org.uk 0118 984 5045



Interested in historical gardens? Join the Berkshire Garden Trust to celebrate and protect them. Garden visits, lectures and research opportunities. Visit www.berkshireregardenstrust.org or email bgtmembership@gmail.com



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Andy Hodgson

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Musculoskeletal pain
Sports injury
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Headaches

07792 962934

Email: andyosteo@outlook.com

0118 9841330

2 Purley Rise, Purley on Thames, RG8 8AE

Your friendly families

f un f amilies



f riends

Purley Park Social Club
82-84 Wittingham Way
Purley-on-Thames
Berkshire RG8 8BG
0118 942 7047
after 7.00 pm

f unctions



We are Purley's local history society and we meet monthly at The Barn for a stimulating talk programme.

Visitors are always welcome. Our members also enjoy outings and visits to interesting places and regular social events.

Twice a year we host the Rain or Shine Theatre Company.

Our archive of historical material about Purley is substantial and still growing. Perhaps you have memories you could share with us?

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Useful Numbers

Community Safety:

Police Non-Emergency	101
Lock Keeper	0118 941 7776

District Council:

West Berkshire Council	01635 55 11 11
WBC emergency out of hours	01635 41261
Streetcare	01635 519080

Halls

Purley Barn	07917 453187
Memorial Hall	07772 129 187
Church Hall	hall.bookings@stmaryspurley.org.uk

Social Clubs

Purley Sports & Social Club	0118 984 3061
Purley Park Social Club	0118 942 7047

Schools

Purley C.E. School	0118 984 2384
Long Lane Primary School	0118 942 7187
Pangbourne Primary School	0118 984 2315
Denefield School	0118 941 3458
Theale Green Community School	0118 930 2741
Westwood Farm School	0118 942 5182
Westwood Farm County School	0118 942 6113
Brookfield Special School	0118 942 1382

Doctors

Pangbourne Medical Practice	0118 984 2234
Tilehurst, Overdown Rd	0118 942 5432
Tilehurst Surgery Partnership	0118 942 7528

Dentists

Woodborough Hse Practice	0118 984 3108
Dentalcare Pangbourne	0118 984 5894
Triangle Dental Practice	0118 942 7113
The Elms Dental Surgery	0118 942 7951
Park Lane Orthodontics	0118 941 1628

Travel

Reading Buses	0118 959 4000
ReadiBus	0118 931 0000
Carebus	0118 930 4837
Great Western Trains	0845 7000 125
Thames Travel	01491 837988

Hospitals

Berkshire Independent Circle	0118 902 8000
Dunedin Spire	0118 922 6888
John Radcliffe	0118 958 7676
Prospect Park	0300 304 7777
Royal Berkshire Townlands	0118 960 5000
West Berkshire Community	0118 322 5111
Wexham Park Wokingham	01865 903 709
	01635 273 300
	01753 633 000
	0118 949 5000

Chemists

Asda (Meadway)	0118 951 4710
Boots (Broad Street)	0118 957 1135
Boots (Meadway)	0118 958 0477
Boots (Oracle)	0118 958 7529
Grovelands Pharmacy	0118 957 2389
Lloyds (Pangbourne)	0118 984 2935
Tilehurst Pharmacy (7 School Road)	0118 942 7353
Overdown Pharmacy	0118 942 8990
Lloyds (Sainsburys Calcot)	0118 938 2265
Tesco Portman Road	0118 990 4803
Triangle Pharmacy	0118 942 7523

Other

Age UK	0118 950 2480
Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1306
Dentist (emergency)	0118 958 8883
Macmillan Cancer Support	0118 942 9665
Maternity Triage Line	0118 322 7304
NHS Direct (medical advice)	111
Samaritans	0118 926 6333

or 116 123 (free call)

