

NEWSLETTER

June 2017, issue 4

Parish Council matters

No one likes to be the bearer of bad news, which I was last month regarding the 143 bus, so this month I am pleased to share some good news on that subject! Parish and District councillors were very concerned about the effect discontinuing the 143 bus service would have on Purley residents. Councillor Rick Jones represented our views to the West Berkshire officer who liaises with the bus companies and, as a result, there is a change of plan! As of Monday 3 July, there will be a new, return service stopping at all the usual places between Reading and Goring. Surveys by West Berkshire showed that very few people used the bus at peak times, so finances have been focused on providing an off-peak service, allowing the same vehicle to be used for school transport. This is a cost-effective solution, and the Parish Council will continue to contribute to funding the 143 bus in the knowledge that it is valued by local people. The new timetable, which starts on 3 July, is on the Parish Council website – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/buses/

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you might be interested and would like to learn more before making a decision, I am happy to meet and have a chat with you about the role. If you have an interest in what is going on locally, want to contribute to the running of local amenities and services and have a little time to spare, maybe this is for you? You can email chairman@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk or phone 0118 984 4507.

Don't forget that everyone can have their 'say' about the future of the village by completing the Village Plan Questionnaire – all views are important so do fill in your questionnaire.

Sue Briscoe

Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

Amenities Manager

Dan Wisniewski, the Amenities Manager, has resigned and will be leaving in mid-July. We'd like to thank Dan for his hard work and wish him all the best for the future.

Update on tennis court refurbishment

The major refurbishment of the three tennis courts at Goosecroft is well under way, and the new macadam surface has been laid and the old chain link fence has been replaced. The new surface is now being allowed to "cure", after which the courts will be sprayed and re-marked and new nets and net posts will be installed. We hope the refurbishment will be completed and the new courts will be ready for use by late July/early August but, as the work is all highly weather-dependent, timings might change.



Village Plan

Completed questionnaires are due back by Monday 10 July – please don't leave your questionnaire on your dining room table with good intentions to complete it one day, complete it now and make sure your views will be represented in the Village Plan.

For further information and for detail of the various ways you can return your questionnaire, please see the web site: <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vpnew/>

Calling all photographers

We are now planning ahead to the actual Village Plan document and would like Purley's budding photographers to help us visually represent the village and its many activities, places and facets. Please send us any photographs you would like to be considered for inclusion in the Village Plan. Photographers of all ages are encouraged to submit photographs and all contributors to the final plan will be acknowledged. Please send your photographs to Purlevillageplan@gmail.com

Thank you very much for your support.

Purley on Thames Village Plan Steering Group

Library service

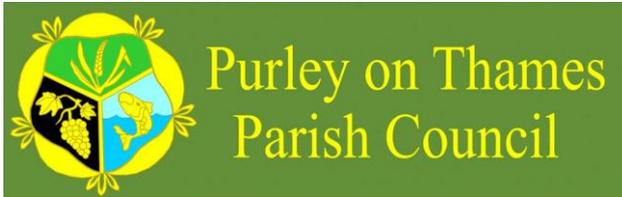
From Monday 3rd July 2017 there will be a new library service in place. Due to budget cuts, there will be fewer staff, greater reliance on volunteer support, and shorter opening hours. The service in Reading Road, Pangbourne will be available as follows:

Monday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
Tuesday	10.30am to 6.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30am to 12.00 noon
Friday	10.30am to 5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am to 12.30pm

The library may be contacted on 0118 984 4117, pangbournelibrary@westberks.gov.uk

Additionally, the mobile library will be at St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm on Wednesdays 12 July, 2 and 23 August, and 13 September.

Further details may be found online at www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries



A329 Oxford Road

The pavement along the Oxford Road has, at times, been almost impassable in places because of overgrown hedges. In wet weather, the matter is worse as branches weighed down by water hang across the pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk out into the road to pass by which is very dangerous. We have reported the overgrown hedges to West Berkshire Council and, by the time this issue of the newsletter is sent out, they should have been cut back making the pavements useable again.

The problem has, however, raised a question as to whether work could be carried out to “reclaim” parts of the pavement where the hedge has encroached on paving, making it narrower than intended. Although maintenance is the responsibility of West Berkshire (and any work would need permission from West Berkshire Council), we are wondering if this is something a group of volunteers might help with.

If you have any feedback on this or would be able to help clearing the pavements, please contact us by e-mailing asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk or calling on 0118 984 4507.

Bucknell’s Meadow

In addition to carrying out ongoing repairs and maintenance to the multi-play unit and outdoor gym equipment, we have ordered two new items of playground equipment for Bucknell’s Meadow. They are a basket swing similar to the one in the Goosecroft playground and an ant hill climbing unit – this is a three-pronged climbing wall suitable for youngsters up to 12 years of age. The swing is designed for use by people with or without disabilities. Disabled access to Bucknell’s Meadow is via Radar padlocks on the gate from Wintringham Way to Mapledurham Drive and on the large gates into the meadow itself.

The two new items of playground equipment are due to be installed in early August 2017.

Village matters

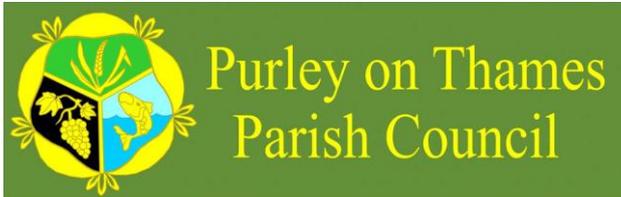
Notice Board Locations

There are six Parish Council Notice boards in the village, located as follows:

- Purley Rise outside the Post Office;
- at the end of Mapledurham Drive;
- Colyton Way shop;
- Long Lane opposite the primary school;
- Clarendon Rise; and
- Pikeshaw.

There are also two map boards:

- Purley Rise between the top of Nursery Gardens and the bus stop; and
- at the end of Mapledurham Drive.



Volunteering

A big thank you to everyone who helps keep the village clean and tidy by stocking up the bags for dog mess and/or picking up rubbish left by the river and in the recreation areas.

We do need extra help over the summer months when more people like to enjoy the great outdoors. If you can spare some time to help collect litter in Blount's Meadow, in Bucknell's Meadow or in Pikeshaw, please do think about joining the **PURLEY ON THAMES SUMMER CREW** – we'll provide the equipment if you can give the time.

As well as assisting your community, this is a good opportunity to meet other villagers while (hopefully) enjoying the summer sunshine.

Your community needs YOU!

If you can help, please contact the Parish Office on 0118 984 4507 or e-mail asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk – any time you are able to give will be a great help.

Thank you.

Contact

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

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

Our telephone number is 0118 984 4507, or e-mail asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

If you know of anyone who might like to sign up to our newsletter, please ask them to contact asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.