

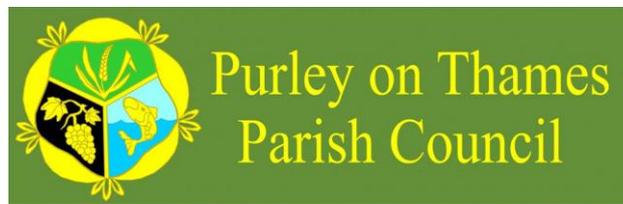
NEWSLETTER
December 2019, issue 34



*We would like to
wish everyone
in Purley on Thames a
very Happy Christmas
and New Year!*

The Parish Office at Goosecroft will be closed from Monday 23 December 2019 until Monday 6 January 2020 when it will open at 2.30pm as normal.

Please note that, from January, the office will be open for its standard public hours on Mondays and Thursdays.



Parish Council matters

In the New Year, people using the Barn at Goosecroft will be able to benefit from newly refurbished Ladies' and Gents'. Thanks to a generous donation from Friends of Purley Barn, match-funded by The Good Exchange (formerly Greenham Common Trust), the Parish Council has been able to fund the much-needed improvements to the toilet facilities in the Barn. The work will be done over the Christmas break so as not to inconvenience(!) too many people and should be finished by 7 January.

The public opening hours of the Parish Office will return to normal from 6 January ... 2.30pm to 6.30pm on Mondays and 9.30am to 2.30pm on Thursdays. Thank you for bearing with us over the last couple of months when we have had reduced staffing. In January we will be welcoming Claire Thompson, our new Clerk, and we look forward to working with her.

The Parish Council and Officers wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sue Briscoe
Chair of the Parish Council

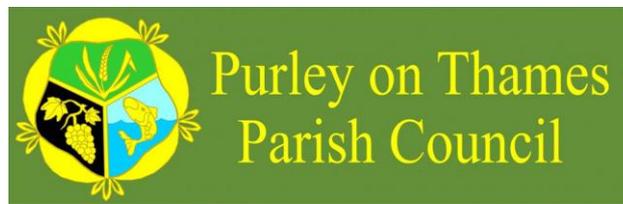


Countryside Code

The Christmas holiday is a time when a lot of people decide to walk off the excesses of the season. If you are planning a Winter stroll in our countryside, don't forget that footpaths sometimes cross fields where there is livestock. Some people are not comfortable in close proximity to cows but farmers have a right to use their grazing land. There is a lot of guidance on the internet about how to pass cows safely.

There have been a couple of reports recently of dogs worrying cattle locally so here's just a reminder of what the Countryside Code says, 'It's always good practice (and a legal requirement on 'open access' land) to keep your dog on a lead around farm animals and horses, for your own safety and for the welfare of the animals. A farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner.'

Please follow the guidance and enjoy your walks!



Christmas and New Year rubbish collection

Rubbish and recycling collections over the Christmas period will be as follows:

Monday 23 December – as normal on Monday 23 December
Tuesday 24 December – as normal on Tuesday 24 December
Wednesday 25 December – will be collected on Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December – will be collected on Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December – will be collected on Monday 30 December
Monday 30 December – will be collected on Tuesday 31 December
Tuesday 31 December – will be collected on Thursday 2 January
Wednesday 1 January – will be collected on Friday 3 January
Thursday 2 January – will be collected on Saturday 4 January
Friday 3 January – will be collected on Monday 6 January
Monday 6 January – will be collected on Tuesday 7 January
Tuesday 7 January – will be collected on Wednesday 8 January
Wednesday 8 January – will be collected on Thursday 9 January
Thursday 9 January – will be collected on Friday 10 January
Friday 10 January – will be collected on Saturday 11 January

Collections are expected to return to normal from Monday 14 January 2020.

Real Christmas trees will be collected with recycling from Monday 6 January until Friday 31 January. If you have a real Christmas tree, you may put it out for collection even if you have not subscribed to WBC's garden waste service, but please make sure all lights, decorations and pots have been removed. Please note that it is not possible to collect trees from flats or other communal properties.

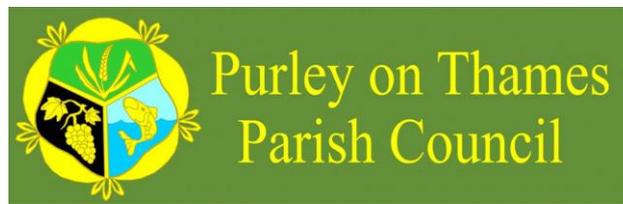
For further information, please see <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/30715>



Government consultation

The Government is carrying out a public consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. The consultation period will run from 5 November 2019 to 5 March 2020, and local authorities, police forces, the general public, and Gypsy, Roma and Travelling communities are all invited to take part.

Further information may be found on the [Government web site](#) and the consultation paper is available [here](#).



West Berkshire Council

The WBC meeting scheduled for Thursday 5 December has been moved to Thursday 9 January 2020, when there will be a special meeting to consider a proposal to appoint an honorary alderman from former members of the council who did not stand or were not re-elected in May 2019.



From time to time WBC, via the Local Government Association (LGA), invites officers and councillors from other local authorities plus LGA representatives to conduct reviews into specific WBC services or elements of services and, once in a while, there is a larger scale review of the council in its entirety. The idea is that these are peer reviews where representatives of other councils nationwide and the LGA give friendly but critical feedback on a council's strengths as well as areas where it might improve.

There had not been one of these peer reviews since 2014 until last month, when eight officers and councillors from other councils, together with representatives of the LGA, visited to assess how WBC is doing overall. Among other things, they considered whether WBC is being ambitious enough for its residents and whether it has the resources to deliver its ambition.

The initial, positive feedback is to be followed up with a formal report early next year, and this will be published.



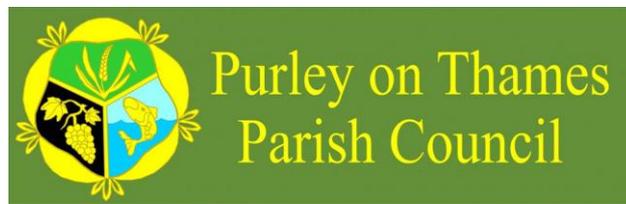
Following the Climate Conference in October, WBC's draft Environment Strategy is due to go out for a six-week public consultation early in 2020. The consultation has been delayed as a result of purdah because of the recent General Election; this meant WBC was restricted in what it could issue from the time the election was announced until the results were known.



The West Berkshire Directory – <https://directory.westberks.gov.uk> – is a free resource which makes a wide range of information, advice and support available online for adults, families and children, and provides a first point of contact for many support networks

Thames Valley Police

Matthew Barber, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, is conducting a short online survey to collect feedback on policing in the Thames Valley area. For more information and to respond to the survey, please see www.matthew.barber.co.uk/haveyoursay



Rail track renewal at Tilehurst

Network Rail has advised that it will be working in and around the Tilehurst area to remove old, worn railway track, and to lay a new stone base and new track. This work will involve heavy machinery and is likely to be disruptive and noisy.

The work is scheduled to be carried out between 10.00pm and 10.00am on the following dates (although dates might change):

Sunday 5/Monday 6 January 2020
Saturday 1 February to Monday 3 February
Sunday 9 February
Saturday 15/ Sunday 16 February
Saturday 7/Sunday 8 March

If you have any queries or concerns about the work, please call the dedicated 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 114141 or see the web site www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus

Village matters

Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

On Friday 10 January, there will be a Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. This occurs when the Sun, Earth and Moon are imperfectly aligned so the Moon moves through the faint, outer part of the Earth's shadow (the penumbra). This type of eclipse can be difficult to tell from a normal Full Moon.

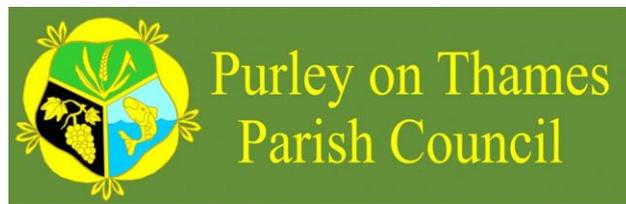
If you're interested in finding out more, further information and advice on how to see a Penumbral Lunar Eclipse may be found [here](#).

Local news and events

The first farmers' and craft markets of 2020 will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 11 January.

For more information see www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/





On Friday 24 and Saturday 25 January 2020, Purley Players will be performing its annual pantomime in the Barn at Goosecroft. This year there'll be plenty of swashbuckling fun and excitement for the family as the Darling children head to Neverland in a festive production of *Peter Pan*.

Performances will be at 7.30pm on Friday and at 2.00pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, and tickets cost £9.00 for adults and £7.00 for concessions. Please call the Box Office on 0118 941 3259 to book tickets.



On Saturday 25 January, [Village Concerts](#) has organised a performance by Jake Morley at St Mary's, Purley on Thames. Doors and bar open at 7.00pm, and the concert starts at 8.00pm. For further information and to book tickets, please see [here](#).



Village Concerts has also arranged a performance by Sam Kelly and Jamie Francis on Saturday 8 February. More detail and information about booking tickets may be found [here](#)



For information about these and other events, please see the "What's On" page of the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/

Contact

More information about local issues may be found on the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

If you would like to contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or send an e-mail to asstclerk@purleyonthames.net. You are also welcome to come to see us, and the office is open at the following times:

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



If you know of anyone who might like to receive this Parish Council Newsletter, please ask them to notify asstclerk@purleyonthames.net giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.

