



NEWSLETTER

July 2023, issue 71

Introduction

A Neighbourhood Action Group, or NAG, is a UK initiative, set up to deal with key issues identified by a community's first public consultation and has been defined as "a multi-agency problem-solving group consisting of relevant partner agencies".

Each year, every NAG should identify the 3 priorities, primarily crime issues, which affect the Parish Councils represented on the NAG, and which they want the neighbourhood policing team to address, with the assistance of NAG members.

Currently the priorities identified by your NAG are Anti-Social Behaviour in various forms, and speeding. Anti- Social Behaviour is a bit of a catch all, including public order, violence, criminal damage, theft, drunkenness etc. In the past at different times priorities for this NAG have been litter, fly -tipping, flooding, dog control, rogue traders, parking as well as various types of "crime".

The last meeting of the NAG took place on 22 June in the Barn here in Purley. Your NAG currently has representatives from the Parish Councils of Pangbourne, Tidmarsh with Sulham, Basildon, Streatley and of course Purley on Thames together with representatives from West Berkshire Council and Thames Valley Police. In other words, it is made up of members of the local community who should be able to identify the main issues and priorities on behalf of their local residents.

As the focus is very much on crime it is important that we report any "crime" to the police, even if we do not expect an arrest or conviction. By reporting crime, we allow the police to create a picture of where unwanted activity is taking place and this may impact on the resources allocated to an area or a problem. Not all crime needs to result in a conviction or even a court appearance, there are a range of other options available to the police which we may not see or realise have taken place, but which might have the desired effect in improving someone's behaviour.

So, if you want to help the police to help you, please report any crime that you are aware of. The best and simplest way to make a report is online, although it goes without saying that if you are witnessing a crime and there is a risk of harm to someone or something the options of 999 in an emergency or 101 in other cases remain.

Graham Rolfe, Chairman

Pikeshaw

You may or may not know about all the things that the Parish Council has or has responsibility for, so over coming editions of the newsletter I hope to feature some of the things we have and some of the things we do.

I am going to start with Pikeshaw. This, in case you don't know, is a small area of woodland that was given to the Parish Council just off Huscarle Way with access also from Simons Close, Apple Close, The Hydes and Highfield Road by footpath.



There are a wide variety of trees, and the area is popular for dog walkers, and is also used by local schools on occasions.

The Parish Council provides dog waste bins and a noticeboard at the site.

Unfortunately, on occasions the area also attracts groups of youths misbehaving, in the past there have been reports for motorcycles, fires and damage to trees and plants as well as general anti-social behaviour. Also, sometimes it has been used as dumping ground for rubbish.

If you live nearby or are walking in Pikeshaw or nearby and become aware of any issues, please let us know either telephone us on 0118 984 4507 or email clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

Whilst the trees are a real positive asset for the Parish Council and the community they do not look after themselves. We have regular surveys carried out by a tree surgeon who has worked with the Parish Council for many years. Our latest survey has just been carried out and shows quite a lot of work is required some of which is a priority and other work is more long-term maintenance. So, it is quite likely that in the near future there may be a need to restrict access into Pikeshaw temporarily whilst work is carried out – this will include removing some trees particularly some that have suffered from ash dieback. Wherever possible the Parish Council and our tree surgeon act to preserve the trees that we have and if they are diseased and need to be felled steps are taken to replace them wherever possible.

Christopher Thompson
Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Drowning is Preventable

Stay safe in the water this summer

Did you know?

- More than **300 people** accidentally drown in the UK and Ireland every year.
- Inland waterways, such as **rivers, lakes and canals**, are where most drownings happen.
- Alcohol and drugs are a factor in almost **one-third** of all UK accidental drownings.
- Anything **below 15°C** is defined as cold water. Average UK and Ireland sea temperatures are just 12°C. Rivers and canals can be colder.

Our Advice:

- If you are in trouble in cold water, remember **'Float to Live'**. Try not to panic. Float on your back for up to **90 seconds** until the shock passes, swim to the edge or call for help.
- If someone else is in trouble - **Call, Tell and Throw** - Call 999, tell the person to float on their back and throw something to help them float, like a throwline.

Safety around water:

- If you are thinking of entering the water, consider your **exit point** before you enter.
- 'Tombstoning' - **Do not jump into open water from bridges or ledges**. There may be hidden dangers beneath, such as sharp objects, reeds and strong currents which could pull you under.
- Avoid swimming alone. **Join a group** if taking part in sports such as paddle boarding or kayaking.
- Tell someone **where you are going** and when you are likely to return.
- Stay clear of the water's edge if you are running or walking. **Riverbanks and cliff edges can be unstable**. Keep an eye out for slip or trip hazards.
- Never enter the water to try and save someone or an animal, **even if you are a strong swimmer**. Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if you are inland. If you are at the beach or near the sea, ask for the Coastguard.

Local News

Reporting problems

West Berkshire Council deal with the resolution of all sorts of problems from potholes, dog fouling, streetlights, graffiti, etc. You can report any issues that you have online via the WBC website. Just follow this link: [Problem Reporting](#).

Planning Applications

West Berkshire Council invites Purley on Thames Parish Council to comment on planning applications within the parish. The Parish Council's input is not binding upon West Berkshire Council, but comments may be considered in reaching a decision.

You can also see the details of any planning application via the [Planning Portal](#) on the WBC website. If you scroll down to the bottom of the Planning Portal webpage you will find a map showing recent planning application in WBC. You can zoom in on the map to just see Purley on Thames. Also, an orange notice should be displayed at the boundary of any property/location subject to a planning application.

Any individual can comment on a planning application, both for and against, direct to WBC by [email](#).

The Parish Planning Committee meets about every two weeks. The meeting is open to the public and there is opportunity for you to comment on any particular application. To see the agenda for the next meeting, which details the planning applications to be considered, see [Planning Committee meeting](#).

Allotments

Our waiting list for allotments for parishioners has reduced significantly over recent months, so if you are interested in becoming an allotment holder, please download an application form from our website and send it in to The Parish Office, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BW. You will then be added to the list and contacted when a plot becomes available. Please call/mail the Amenities Officer if you need further information on amenities@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.



From Your Parish Office

Don't forget the team in the Office are happy to help where we can. Office opening hours are now:

Monday 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Thursday 2.30 pm – 6.30 pm

(except for Bank Holidays)

However, it is a good idea to phone ahead if you want to see someone to avoid a wasted visit in the event of the team having other commitments.

Alternatively, you can call telephone on 0118 984 4507 or email the Clerk at clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Local Sports Activities

Purley on Thames Cricket Club



Women's Cricket Team - Sponsored by Purley on Thames Parish Council

Follow this [link](#) to see forthcoming cricket fixtures.

Local Club Events

We would like to provide information of any activities that local clubs or societies are undertaking within the village or that might be of interest to residents of Purley on Thames. These can be regular or one-off events. If you would like us to include a bit about your event, please email [Cathy our Administrative Clerk](mailto:Cathy.our.Administrative.Clerk) with the details.

Purley on Thames WI

Guests and new members are always welcome at our regular meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Alternatively, our programme is available via our webpage on the WI's national website thewi.org.uk or get in touch via purleyonthameswi@berkshirewi.com or by telephone: 0118 9428448, Marilyn Hoare (President)

Other Events

Purley Memorial Hall – Coffee Morning

Open for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Come and have a chat, exchange a book or meet up with friends

Every Tuesday from 10:30am till 12:30pm

Family Activity Days & Messy Museum



Join us at Shaw House and West Berkshire Museum throughout the summer for our Family Activity and Messy Museum days!

10am-3pm | No need to book, just drop-in | £2.50 per child

Family Activity Days: Wednesdays 26 July | 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 August | Shaw House

Messy Museum Days: Fridays 2 June | 28 July | 4, 11, 18 & 25 August | West Berkshire Museum

Summer Fair



Share all the fun of the Summer Fair in the beautiful surroundings of Shaw House! Out on the lawns you can browse over 45 craft stalls of local makers and visit our caterers offering a variety of hot food and drinks.

To entertain we will have live music, craft activities with Ugly Duckling Pottery, performances from Mr Muddle the Magician and Shetland ponies and children's rides. In addition, there will be a dog show so remember to bring along your four legged friend!

Sunday 16 July | Shaw House | 11am – 4pm | Adults £2, Children £1 (Free for children aged 3 years and under) | Pay on the day

[Click here for more information](#)

Outdoor Theatre: Twelfth Night



Multi award-nominated Immersion Theatre have developed a reputation for producing first class, fast-paced adaptations of Shakespeare's plays.

This is Shakespeare as it's meant to be: interactive, fun, and highly accessible!

Saturday 22 July | Gates 6pm | Performance 7pm | Adults £13, Child £9

[Click here to book](#)

Outdoor Theatre: The Wizard of Oz



You are invited to click your heels and ease on down the yellow brick road as Immersion Theatre proudly presents a brand-new adaptation of The Wizard of Oz, a magical family show guaranteed to have you in stitches from beginning to end.

Monday 14 August | Shaw House | Gates 5pm | Performance 6pm | Adults £13, Child £9

[Click here to book](#)

Arts Award Explore



As an explorer, your child will take part in arts and crafts and find out more about West Berkshire Museum and the Romans as they complete their Arts Award Explore. This programme is aimed at 7-12 year olds, and is a combination of led workshops and a self-led project.

To sign up and collect an introduction pack, please come to the museum reception and pay £30 (per child).

For information please contact Clare Bromley, Learning and Participation Officer:
clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk

Open Air Sculpture Exhibition



From Saturday 30 July – Sunday 25 September the Orangery Lawn at Shaw House will be transformed into an open air sculpture exhibition where you can discover artworks by acclaimed sculptors in the grounds of this lovely historic setting.

Shaw House | Saturday 29 July – Sunday 24 September | 11am – 4pm | Free (no need to book)

Dressed For Shaw Children's Workshop



Travel back through time with Really Rural Productions to meet the past residents of Shaw House and learn about the costumes that feature in the 'Dressed for Shaw' exhibition! Feel the characters come to life and experience their stories as you join them on a journey through history. Find the hidden clues to uncover their past and the secrets of Shaw House with games and educational story telling.

Friday 4 August | Shaw House | 10am – 12pm | £5 per child, one accompanying adult free

[Click here to book](#)

Workshop: Have a go at weaving



Try your hand at stick weaving and learn about simple weaving techniques on our table and heddle looms. Experts from the Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Saturday 26 August | West Berkshire Museum | 11am - 2pm | Free, drop-in

Repair Café



The Repair Cafe in Purley on Thames operates monthly on the second Saturday of each month from 3 – 5pm at the Mad Duck Cafe where refreshments are available

If you have feedback to give Your Parish Council or wish to provide an article on what interests you: an item or person of interest, a plea for a Charity or Not-for-profit business but not a commercial business, your input would be most welcome, subject to editorial rights. It would be very helpful, if possible, if you could supply any copy in Calibri, 12 point and Word and send you copy to the Parish Office by close of play on the 20th of the month.

Many thanks - Editor

The Purley on Thames Parish Council does not take responsibility for articles provided by non-Council Members and would encourage you to go to the website for the article provider and check dates, times and details.

The Editor is Cathy Gainsford – Administrative Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council