



NEWSLETTER

February 2025, Issue 88

Introduction

My name is Martin Bishop, and I have been a Parish Councillor for about 10 years.

I have lived in Purley on Thames for approximately 40 years and was brought up in Beenham.

I worked for BT from school until early retirement, as an apprentice and then through varying roles in the company and finally as National Battery Technology Manager.

I am the Chairman of the Recreation committee, the Parish Council Ground Manager at Goosecroft, and serve on both the Barn and Finance & Governance committees.

In my spare time, I have been involved with Purley on Thames Cricket Club for over 45 years. In that time, I have been Club Chairman, Junior Coordinator, Junior Coach, Groundsman, and Fixtures Secretary.

I am also currently a "Walking Cricket" player.

My particular interests on the Parish Council are ensuring the provision and support of sport and recreation in the Village, including that there is up-to-date and safe play equipment in the Parish for our young people.



Councillor Martin Bishop

Local News

Thank you

Purley on Thames Parish Council would like to thank Purley Sustainability Group and everyone that took part in an extremely successful litter pick held on 4th January 2025

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 applications 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](#).

West Berkshire Council has introduced a free online service to allow residents to check to see if planning permission is required for any possible building alterations. This service will make it easier for residents to understand if they need to submit a planning application for items such as solar panels, loft conversions, adding an outbuilding or adding a dropped kerb. You can access this new service on the West Berkshire Council ["Do I need Planning Permission?"](#) webpage.

West Berkshire Council also offer planning pre-application advice service for which a fee is chargeable. More information about this can be found on the West Berkshire Council's [pre-application advice service](#) webpage.

Purley Sustainability Group

We will start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! We also thank the residents of Purley who helped us with the Purley Litter Pick on 4th January 2025. It was cold, but it was dry! We go some steps in, we made new friends, got fresh air and made Purley look more attractive.

We walked Goosecroft, Beech Road, Glebe Road, Westbury Lane, Purley Lane, Colyton, Purley Rise, Sherwood Rise, Bowling Green Lane, Wintringham Way, the railway paths, the alleyways and footpaths and behind the bus stops and collected a staggering number of rubbish bags – about 20!

We picked up general sweet wrappers, cigarette ends, bottles, clothing, takeaway containers, wrappers, stationary, broken umbrellas, amongst other things - some particularly unpleasant unfortunately.

It is so sad that there was so much litter in our lovely village, but we must think what if we didn't pick it up and left it, what damage does it cause?



Village will look awful – no one likes seeing rubbish. Not only that, but we also risk more fires.



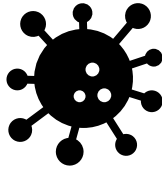
Litter can block drains, which can contribute to waterlogging – we have enough water problems as it is, so reducing this can only be a positive.



Wildlife - litter can look like food, causing problems for animals which then eat plastics and other rubbish, instead of energy-rich foods they need to survive. Plastics may cause choking, airway or stomach obstruction and can ultimately lead to death. Equally worrying is the tiny, but deadly microplastics that build up in the bodies of smaller animals, impacting many more along the food chain.



Animals will search for food, so finding empty food containers can act as a deadly trap. Sharp objects like hard plastics, glass and metals can cause cuts and wounds, which can lead to infection and cause further harm. Things like chewing gum could mean birds being unable to fly due to gum being stuck in their feathers.



Litter may harbour disease that can be harmful when ingested or released into our soils and rivers. The chemicals that leach from microplastics into the environment or animals who ingest them are invisible to us yet cause so many other health problems.

What can we do about it?

- Be careful not to drop litter in the first place – take your rubbish home or use the litter bins that are located around the village.
 - Educate others about the impacts of litter and encourage them to follow your example
 - Check your recycling – secure it reducing the possibility of the wind blowing it away. Use the recycling options we have available in West Berks to ensure correct disposal of items.
 - Think about using items that can be used over and over instead of purchasing single use plastic items
 - Take part in more litter picks:
 - On your own when you walk (ensuring your own safety of course).
 - PSG will schedule more throughout 2025 – check www.purleysustainability.co.uk/events and Facebook
 - Perhaps you can organise your own litter pick with your community group - PSG (and Purley Parish) have the equipment to loan and will help you plan your own litter pick. Drop an email to info@purleysustainability.co.uk to make arrangements.
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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 – 2.00 pm

Thursday 2.00 pm – 5.00 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 telephone on 0118 984 4507 or email the Clerk at clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Local Club Events

Project Purley

Our next meeting starts at 7.30pm on Friday 21st February in the large Barn at Goosecroft.



Our speaker is Katie Amos who is the Local Studies Lead at Reading Central Library and her topic – Tilehurst's Big Houses. Katie will be looking at three properties - Dellwood, an ex-maternity and care home, The Laurels, now the infant department of Park Lane School, and Kentwood Farmhouse, now flats. Each used to be a private house. Katie will reveal the tragedies, scandals and stories behind each one.

As always guests and potential members are very welcome to join us for our talk evenings. We charge non-members £5 to join us at one of our meetings, which is waived if you join on the night.

There is no need to contact us in advance, just turn up, you'll be sure of a warm welcome. Membership of the Society costs £18 for single membership and £26 for joint membership.



SAVE THE DATE - 9TH & 10TH MAY

'A Brief Period of Rejoicing'

Purley Players Murder Mystery & Supper Evening
to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the end of World war II

Venue : St Mary's Church hall , Purley on Thames

So - start organising your 1945 outfit and come along in costume !

more details and for ticket sales to follow soon ...

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](#) with the details.

Other Events



**COMEDY IN
PURLEY-ON-THAMES**

THREE AMAZING TV COMEDIANS
ANDREW MAXWELL
AS SEEN ON I'M A CEEBIE, LIVE AT THE APOLLO,
AND MOCK THE WEEK
PLUS
JESS FOSTEKW
AS SEEN ON LIVE AT THE APOLLO
STEVE HALL
AS SEEN ON
THE RUSSELL HOWARD HOUR
M.C.
**JONATHAN
ELSTON**

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH
DOORS 7:00PM SHOW STARTS 8:00PM
TICKETS £15 AVAILABLE VIA WEDGITICKETS.
SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS
LINE UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE



DO YOU NEED
EXTRA SUPPORT IN
A POWERCUT?

DO YOU LIVE WITH A CHRONIC ILLNESS, CARE
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN OR SOMEONE WITH
DEMENTIA OR HAVE COMMUNICATION NEEDS?

Register for free Priority Services and
we can provide you with:

- Regular updates
- Safety advice
- Communication in large print, Braille, alternative languages
or BSL
- Dedicated 24hour helpline

Everyone has different
needs so scan, visit or
call for more information



Visit us
theprs.co.uk

or call us on
0800 294 3259



REPAIR CAFE

The Mad Duck Café, Wintringham Way, Purley, RG8 8BG

Bring any broken domestic items for advice, repair, and learn how to fix them yourself with help from local volunteers

CLOTHES | ELECTRICALS | BICYCLES | TOYS & MORE

2025 Calendar

Saturday 11th January
 Saturday 8th February
 Saturday 8th March
 Saturday 12th April
 Saturday 10th May
 Saturday 14th June
 Saturday 12th July
 Saturday 9th August
 Saturday 13th September
 Saturday 11th October
 Saturday 8th November
 Saturday 13th December

Monthly - every 2nd Saturday 3pm – 5pm

www.purleysustainability.co.uk
info@purleysustainability.co.uk



You can find further information regarding dates and times for the [Repair Café/Other Events](#) and [Recycling](#) on the PSG website.

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 Word (12 pt Calibri) and/or picture format. Submissions as pdfs may be rejected. Please email your copy to [Cathy](#) by close of play on the 20th of the month.

Many thanks - Editor

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.

Purley on Thames Parish Council is not responsible for the content of third-party websites.

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