

Thurrock

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Trevor Batchelor
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Organisation Name: Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum, Purfleet Heritage & Military Centre, High House Production Park (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: The Purfleet-on-Thames part of the West Thurrock & South Stifford Ward

Purfleet-on-Thames sits in the western corner of Thurrock. Currently it is part of West Thurrock and South Stifford Ward. Residents have often asked at meetings why our name is not included in the Ward name. This lack of identity shows when it comes to voting. A short while ago our election turn out was just 17%. Purfleet-on-Thames is a fractured community, without a community heart or building that makes it very difficult to unite residents. Purfleet-on-Thames is at the dawn of a major regeneration. Residents need the full attention and support of its councillors to help guide and be supportive during this period of change and beyond. The existing Ward is currently too big and this shows when there are issues in other parts of the Ward that need our councillors attention.

In 2020 I lead the name change from Purfleet to Purfleet-on-Thames. <https://purfleet-on-thames.org/petition/> This was well supported, united the community and received unanimous support from Thurrock Council. This was done at a time the plans for our regeneration had been agreed and started, with a high level of input from existing residents. Regrettably the developers failed. This is the second time a regeneration scheme has failed. Currently our council are in discussion with Homes England to take forward the existing plans. This time there is sound financial backing. As an area Purfleet-on-Thames will grow.

I and Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum lobbied our previous administration. Former leader and former MP were fully supportive of Purfleet-on-Thames being its own Ward. I am pleased to say our existing councillors continue with this support.

As to the northern boundary this I believe should follow the place boundary. Using the A1306 on the West, up to the Mardyke river. Along the river up to junction 30 with the M25. I can understand using the A13 as the northern boundary but I am aware existing Aveley residents wish to remain in that ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached