

PARTNERSHIPS GOING STRONG

Plans to Redevelop Blacon Parade

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC), Chester and District Housing Trust (CDHT) and NHS Western Cheshire are working together on a project to invest more than £18.8 million to transform the Blacon Parade site. This exciting project will enhance local facilities and become a Blacon landmark providing;

- New enterprise and community space
- Improved shop frontages and shopping provision
- New affordable and open market houses
- New health facility
- Quality outdoor community spaces



CWaC and CDHT will be committing capital funding as well as transferring assets into the project (buildings and land). Funding from the Homes and Communities Agency has now been confirmed. We will hear about the bid to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the autumn.

From left to right: John Denny (CDHT), Martin Carey (Urban Hope), Hugh Evans (Chair), Gus Cairns (resident) and Steve Robinson (CwaC)

The Parade scheme is subject to final approval from the Council and CDHT. This will be sought in October.

Blacon Asset Management Company

The redevelopment of The Parade also ties in with the vision to create an Asset Management Company for Blacon. Operating as a social enterprise this new company will manage assets (including land, buildings and housing) and provide neighbourhood services for the benefit of Blacon residents. The challenge is to generate surplus funds that will be invested to make a real difference to the Blacon community. Hugh Evans was appointed as Chair of the shadow Asset Management Company board in April.

Chester Healthy Living Centre

Over the Autumn, Chester Healthy Living Centre (HLC) will be running a variety of activities and events both from within the centre in Blacon and across the Chester area.

- FREE cookery courses'
- 'Veg-out@Blacon' fruit and vegetable bag scheme
- Tranquillity (Chester) Ltd, will provide holistic therapies,
- Diddi Dance classes for 2-4 year olds



If you have not visited Chester HLC yet why not pop down and have a look around or hold one of your team meetings at the centre?

Community Health Workers

June 2011 saw the arrival of the three Community Health Workers for Chester. Funded by Chester Area Partnership Board, NHS Western Cheshire and Blacon Community Trust this one year funded project aims to work with local people to support them to improve their health and make healthy lifestyle choices. The Community Health Workers are:



- Currently carrying out a mapping exercise of existing healthy living services in Blacon, Lache, Chester City and parts of Boughton ward within Chester.
- Currently liaising with existing groups and services within Chester neighbourhoods to identify health needs and the barriers that prevent people from making healthy choices
- Working with Chester Healthy Living Centre to provide gaps in services identified through the mapping exercise
- Going to provide support to residents within key neighbourhoods to enable them to make healthier choices
- Supporting the Chester Heart City initiative (see article on page 3).

The Community Health Workers are:

- Rose Wild – Blacon (rose.wild@nhs.net)
- Melisa Boughey – Lache (melisa.boughey@nhs.net)
- Leona Walker - Chester City and Boughton (Leona.walker@nhs.net)

Wellbeing Advocate project

The Wellbeing Advocate project is a Community Consultation / Engagement project run by Our Life in conjunction with NHS Western Cheshire and Chester Healthy Living Centre. The consultation was carried out by three Blacon residents during June / July 2011 in conjunction with the Community Health Workers and Chester Healthy Living Centre staff. Participatory appraisal methods were used including opinion lines and mapping tools to identify :

- On a scale of 0 -10 how healthy would you rate your lifestyle?
- Using the number that has been given, what makes it hard for you to lead a healthier lifestyle?
- Can you identify any solutions?

The Wellbeing Advocates carried out the consultation at various events, sessions and venues within Blacon where local people could be found. Our Life are currently writing up this project with results expected towards the end of September 2011.

For more information on Chester HLC, Community Health Workers or the Wellbeing Advocate project please contact Chester HLC on 01244 385035, wc-pct.chesterhlc@nhs.net or pop into the centre on the ground floor of Plas Dinas, Blacon Point Road, Blacon.

Green space improvements planned for Lache



5 acres of green space on the west side of Lache has been unused for the past decade since the landfill site closed. Lache Adventure Playground had been based here until 2008 until its move to Lache Primary School. Problems with fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and mini moto riding have been experienced on the site, known locally as LAPA field.

The site will be cleared and the local community is being invited to get involved and help decide what they would like to see on the site. Whilst the land is a former tip land fill site that does not mean it cannot be put to use for informal recreation. Suggestions so far have included golf, football, a nature / country park and allotments but it will be up to the community to decide on its future use. Lache Cleaner Greener Safer Theme Group will lead the consultation with local residents and work closely with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Environmental and Street Scene teams and partners to improve the site as a community space.

Chester Heart City

Chester has signed up with The British Heart Foundation to become one of 50 national Heart Cities to make Chester residents healthier. The first Heart Health Roadshow was held with the British Heart Foundation outside Chester Town Hall this August. This allowed residents to gain information on how they could improve their own health and heart issues while supporting the British Heart Foundation. British Heart Foundation have taken part in a number of community fun days this summer to promote the ways they can help residents to improve their health and wellbeing and are setting up community gym in Lache Community Centre to help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES WITHIN CHESTER

St Anne's Field: Fun Day in Newtown

Local residents came along with their children and pets to enjoy the Newtown fun day and dog show in their local park, St Anne's Field, on Saturday, 3 September. Young people & children enjoyed the free sports and face painting on offer. Residents had the chance to show off their dogs and puppies in 7 classes of the Dog Show; the prizes and rosettes were provided by the dog warden service, MPM manufacturers of Applaws Dog Food and Pets at Home. The event was funded by the local Councillor and Chester & District Housing Trust and delivered Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Newtown Residents Association.



Hoole Clean Up Day



Young people took time out during their summer holidays to clean up two communities in Chester.

Chester & District Housing Trust's residents, professionals, two Community Safety Wardens from Cheshire West and Chester Council, the local Police Community Support Officer and Cheshire West & Chester Ward Councillor worked together to clean up The Narrows and Walker Street Play Area in Hoole.

Young people also repainted the youth shelter in Limewood Fields opposite Kingsway shops which was covered with graffiti and both clean ups were carried out in partnership by CWAC. It was a great example of how partnership working and young people can really bring about results within an area.

Pocket Park benefits from Summer Project in Garden Quarter

15 young people from across Chester took part in the national citizenship summer of a Lifetime event in Chester and as part of this a small pocket park on Cheyney Road was chosen for a makeover. Working the CW&C Chester Community Engagement Officer and the local Police Support Community Officer the young people learnt how to work together to business plan and fund a project. Tools and equipment supplied by CW&C allowed them to plant new flowers and spruce up the park for local residents and children to enjoy this summer. The event culminated in a picnic in the park for the local community.



Dee Point Centre Make-over

The first weekend in August saw essential works taking place to spruce up some tired rooms and facilities at the Dee Point Centre on Blacon Point Road. Workers



from RG Group, the main construction company on the Greyhound Retail Park site, joined subcontractors to donate their time and materials to refurbishing the Blacon Community Trust centre.

The volunteers decorated, cleaned, repaired classroom walls and floors, replaced toilet fittings and built a screen across the gym hall to create an extra space. Working with the RG-group, who are developers for the new

John Lewis site at Sealand Road, centre users were thrilled to see their spaces revitalised.

Photo: The Kids Community Club at Blacon Community Trust

BMX-Riding Event in Blacon

More than 250 people visited the temporary ramps in August as part of plans to develop a permanent multi-purpose riding facility in the near future. Jointly organised with the Police and funded through Chester and District Housing Trust and the Members Budget, ramps and jumps were available for all ages as part of this 3 day event.



Residents could have a go at the jumps and receive advice and coaching within a safe and supervised environment. Young people are now working with the CDHT young people's officer on a plaza design for a permanent facility which would be suitable for scooters, bikes and skates and hope to secure funding to take this forward. The

group have also set up a Face book page 'Blacon Riders' and now have over 700 friends.

Future Community Forum Meeting Dates

One Voice for Blacon – Tuesday 4th October 2011, 6pm
Blacon High School Community Wing, Melbourne Road, Blacon.

Blacon Community Forum – Tuesday 1st November 2011, 6pm
Blacon High School Community Wing, Melbourne Road, Blacon.

One Voice for Blacon – Tuesday 6th December 2011, 6pm
Blacon High School Community Wing, Melbourne Road, Blacon.

Upton Hoole and Newton Community Forum – Tuesday 4th October 2011
starting at 7.00pm, Upton High School

Lache Community Forum – Thursday 17th November 2011
Lache Community Centre starting at 6.00pm

Upton Hoole and Newton Community Forum – Monday 21st November 2011
location to be confirmed

Handbridge Community Forum – Wednesday 23rd November 2011
location to be confirmed

City Community Forum Date and location to be confirmed for November

Chester Area Working Team

Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager
Email: michelle.talgam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Tel: 0124 972859

Janet Gittins, Blacon Neighbourhood Manager
Email: janet.gittins@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Tel: 01244 305428

Jan Walters Community Engagement Officer
Email: janet.walters@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Tel: 01244 973225

