

You said, we did

....your local voice

Gowy and Eddisbury Feedback News

January 2010

Welcome to the third edition of the Gowy and Eddisbury Community Forum Newsletter.

This newsletter gives you an update on items discussed at the Forum meeting held on 24th November 2009.

Role of Your Community Forum

Community Forums have been introduced by Cheshire West and Chester Council as part of its commitment to being responsive to those issues and concerns within local communities.

In addition, Community Forums provide residents with the opportunity to find out more about what the Council is doing locally, what priorities are being focussed on for action, and how residents can get involved.

Community Forum Update

Area Manager for Winsford and Rural East, Ewan McHenry, provided an update on issues raised at the Community Forum in September:

- The Council has recently launched a £200,000 fund, the Rural Support Programme, under which small organisations, community groups and charities can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 for improvement projects in rural areas. Grant applications must be match-funded 50% from another source. For more information and an application form please email: ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Problems over the length of journey times between Cuddington and Manchester.
- The delays on this line are due to bottleneck caused by the Manchester Hub around Picadilly Station. Proposed solutions are currently being explored by the rail operators which will be subject to consultation during 2010.
- Request made to the Council to move the 30mph speed restriction sign on the outskirts of Cuddington. All decisions on speed restrictions zones are based on criteria including number of houses within length of road, concentration of houses and number of road traffic incidents in the specified area. Unfortunately this request does not meet the criteria and therefore the Council is unable to move the sign.
- Links had now been made with Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust, through the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Team, to ensure that the interests of residents in Northwich and Winsford are represented in the areas covered by Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust.
- Investigations are ongoing into the regular maintenance of footpaths in and around Cuddington and the footpaths highlighted will shortly be receiving attention from the Public Rights of Way Team.

Consultation on Council Strategies

A presentation was made on three major strategies currently being developed by the Council –

- **Sustainable Communities Strategy** – an overarching strategy that sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- **Local Development Framework Core Strategy** – a series of documents that will form the basis of planning decisions in the area, setting out the Council's vision and objectives for Cheshire West and Chester until 2026, and addressing key issues such as where development should go.
- **Local Transport Plan** – sets out the Council's plans and strategies for improving and maintaining all aspects of the local transport system between 2011 and 2026.

These three strategies are being developed at the same time so the Council can plan better on how to integrate local land use and transport planning activities alongside broader community aspirations.

Extensive consultation would be taking place until 13 January 2010, comments were invited at the meeting, and residents were advised of the various means by which they could have their say on these strategies

Issues Raised

Question: Is it the Council's strategy for development in rural areas to select villages with existing services such as a school, post office or shop?

Answer: The Council has not yet set its strategies on such issues, which are part of the current consultation exercise. These are the sort of questions on which the Council wishes to engage with local communities to find out their views, to ensure that policies and strategies are developed in accordance with what local communities want.

Question: Would it be possible for any current planning applications to be put on hold, pending the outcome of the consultation on the Council's future strategies?

Answer: No, planning applications will have to carry on being dealt with under the existing Local Plan policies inherited from the former Cheshire authorities.

Question: What is the status of parish plans and village design statements in the planning process, as they do not appear to be taken into account by the Council when determining planning applications?

Answer: These documents are taken into account and are a material consideration in the planning process.

You said.... Concern was expressed that planning applications are being approved by Cheshire West and Chester Council, despite objections having been lodged by local parish councils.

We did.... Information on the grounds for public objection to planning applications sent to the clerks of all parish councils.

Question Time

Question: Would the services currently provided by parish councils, but funded by Cheshire West and Chester, such as litter picking and community cleansing, continue to be so funded in the future and, if they are to be provided directly by the Council, would they be carried out to the same high standard?

Answer: Confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester Council will continue to fund the Street Orderly Grants in the financial year 2010-2011. During the next year a review of all grant funding will take place to ensure value for money and priorities are achieved.

You said.... Signs for roadworks are being left on the highway and not removed after the roadworks have been completed

We did.... Council has just completed a scrutiny exercise of the highways maintenance service and introduced measures that should prevent this happening in the future. In the meantime, the Area Highways Engineer would check the sites reported and arrange for removal of redundant signs.

Question: What is the position on Cheshire West and Chester's waste disposal strategy?

Answer: A progress report, including the issue of the Council developing a renewable energy strategy, will be submitted to the next meeting.

Tarporley Community Youth Group

Tarporley Community Youth Group has been set up to complement the other youth facilities being provided in Tarporley. The group meets at Tarporley Community Centre on Monday evenings, and is in need of more support for both the management committee and volunteers for the club.

Anyone wishing to become involved, or wanting further information should contact Gemma Gerrish at gemmagerrish@gmail.com.

It's good to talk...

You Said: The Council's wheeled bins are being blown onto the highways and footways, causing a dangerous obstruction in the dark. It was suggested that the bins be fitted with luminous bands to make them visible at night.

We did: Streetscene are investigating possible solutions as to how to improve the visibility in rural areas.

Your Six "Community Champions"



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Next meeting

Thursday 11 March 2010, at
Tarpoley British Legion,
starting at 7 pm.

Topics for Future Meetings

- Update on Cheshire West and Chester Waste Disposal Strategy and renewable energy strategy
- Update on regeneration projects in Chester, Weaver Valley and Ellesmere Port
- Issues around planning and affordable housing in rural developments

Contacts

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Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Drugs Line: 0800 854181

Home Watch: 01606 49000

Fire Service Home
Safety Assessments: 0800 389 0053

All Services: 0300 123 8 123

For any information about your Community Forum contact Jane Binyon

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We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.

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