

You said, we did

....your local voice

Frodsham, Helsby and Weaver Feedback News

April 2010

Welcome

Local residents welcomed the opportunity to find out more about the issues affecting their local area at the Frodsham, Helsby and Weaver Community Forum held on 14 April at Crowton Village Hall.

The agenda included Weaver Valley Partnership, Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge Frodsham Wind Farm and an update on the Gypsy and Traveller Study.

Review and Gypsy

Catherine Fox, Special Projects Team Leader at Cheshire West and Chester Council presented the forum with an overview of the four key areas of focus for the Weaver Valley Partnership:

Northwich Vision

Winning Winsford

Weaver Valley Regional Park

Middlewich Vision

The Council are still committed to the Northwich Vision and are looking at better quality retailers for the area.

Northwich Vision – Baron's Quay

Developer Agreement until May 2012

Ongoing talks with Wilson Bowden

Project Manager post

Transport Infrastructure – key junction, more detailed work

Key site development – feasibility studies for other sites – Warrington Road and Civic areas

Riversdale Bridge

Contractor selected

Start on site – April 12th

Hunts Lock – Option

Linked footpaths – Summer 2010

Northwich Clean Up

Waterside

Car Park

Station

The regeneration of Northwich, Winsford, Middlewich and the surrounding rural areas is the primary aim of Weaver Valley Partnership, along with the successful delivery of Northwich Vision, Winning Winsford and Middlewich Vision.

The Vision sites, Riversdale Bridge, Clean Up, Empty shops and local improvements, urban design strategy and public realm along with events development are part of the current projects taking place within Northwich.

Geoff Hope-Terry, the newly appointed Chair of the Weaver Valley Partnership is looking for people to join the partnership and develop the vision of the Weaver Valley from a community perspective.

Weaver Way walking and canoe projects are key health promoting projects, there is scope for working with the Primary Care Trusts and Area teams to further develop these projects.

Q/ Do you work with parish councils?

A/ Yes, we work with and welcome input from parish councils.

Q/ What are Cheshire West and Chester Council doing to regenerate Northwich?

A/ There is a Northwich Improvement Plan in place with a focus on sustainable improvements.

Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge

Richard Flood, Area Highways Manager, Cheshire West and Chester updated the forum on the status of the Sutton Weaver swing bridge.

For many years the swing bridge has been a problem, it is an old structure which was built during the 1920's. British Waterways own the structure and Cheshire West and Chester own the decking and road surface.

A partnership approach to the swing bridge has been established between Cheshire West

and Chester Council and British Waterways and will work closely with partners and parish councils.

Q/ Will Cheshire West and Chester Council consult with local businesses.

A/ Cheshire West will consult with businesses and parish councils.

Q/ Will Cheshire West and Chester involve the Highways Agency.

A/ Yes, the Highways Agency will be involved in this process.

Wind Farm Update

Council officers are currently assessing the proposal which we have been consulted on by DECC (Department of Energy & Climate Change). This involves relevant in-house specialists and some limited external consultation, but the main statutory consultation is being undertaken by DECC.

When this process is complete a report will be put to the Strategic Planning Committee for consideration of the Council's views on the proposal. At present it is not possible to advise when that will be. Anyone with comments on the proposal should send them direct to DECC.

At January's Forum Meeting many residents spoke against Peel's proposal to build a wind farm on Frodsham Marsh. Some of them objected because the turbines would:-

- Be in a Green Belt designed to protect wildlife and preserve an open space between the industries of Ellesmere Port and Runcorn / Widnes
- Be too big and would totally change the character of the whole area.
- Emit a disturbing low frequency sound that would add to the problem of noise from the M56.
- Block out the wide open views over the Marsh and the Mersey to the skyline of Liverpool.
- Would interfere with TV reception and the radar control system for Liverpool Airport.
- Be far too close to our homes and our schools and would devalue our property.
- Produce only a small amount of electricity (less than 1% of Fiddler's Ferry Power Station) and would save only less than 1% of the carbon dioxide emissions of that plant.

Gypsy and Traveller Update

The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpersons Site Identification Study is moving forward. We are currently working with our appointed consultants, Ekosgen, to appraise a shortlist of sites in terms of their availability and deliverability.

The sites on the shortlist have already been assessed in terms of their planning sustainability. This has involved looking at where sites are in relation to a range of services and facilities. In terms of assessing the availability and deliverability of sites, this will include establishing whether landowners of privately owned sites may be prepared to release their land for development.

The Council is looking to identify sites to meet the need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpersons Accommodation Assessment (2007) and the emerging targets that will be set by the Regional Spatial Strategy. The next steps by the Council will be the formal endorsement of a short list of sites for public consultation. It is anticipated that consultation will then follow in the summer. We will take into account the holiday period particularly in August. We're particularly mindful that Parish and Town Councils will need adequate time to respond taking account the summer holiday period.

Your Six "Community Champions"



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It's good to talk...

Community Forums are a great place for all members of the community to have a say on what's happening in the Area. Anyone can ask a question on the night, but to ensure answers are available, people are advised to register their question before the meeting. These can be registered in a number of ways:-

Telephone: Fiona Dunning on 01606 353526

Write to: Fiona Dunning, Community Engagement Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Northwich Information Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5AS

e-mail: fiona.dunning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The next meeting

Thursday 15th July 2010,
Frodsham Scout Hall, Hillside Road,
Overton, Frodsham, WA6 6AN

Contacts

Area Manager: 01606 353537

Member Budgets: 01244 976989

Community Safety Wardens:
0300 123 7033

Cheshire Police: 0845 4580000
(Non urgent calls)

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Drugs Line: 0800 854181

Home Watch: 01244 614291
western.watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Fire Service Home
Safety Assessments: 0800 389 0053

All Council Services: 0300 123 8 123

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Council information is also available in Audio, Braille and Large Print formats. If you would like a copy in any of these formats or in another language, please email us at equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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

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email: equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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