

**MICKLE TRAFFORD COMMUNITY FORUM  
CHURCH HALL, ELTON  
4 NOVEMBER 2009  
(7:00pm – 9:00pm)**

Present: Councillor Eleanor Johnson (Chair)  
Councillor Brian Crowe (left at 7:15pm)  
Councillor Andrew Storrar

Speakers: Dermot Lacey, Head of ICT  
Gavin Butler, Community Safety Manager  
Rob Callow, Area Manager

Officers: Helen Davies, Area Working Team  
Patrick Sebastian, Democratic Services

Also in attendance 15 Members of the Public & visiting Parish Councillors.

## Meeting Summary and Action Points

### **Welcome from Councillor Eleanor Johnson**

The Chair, Councillor Johnson declared the meeting open and welcomed members of the public and speakers.

### Customer services: Out of Hours Help

Dermot Lacey, Head of ICT informed those present of the work currently being undertaken to provide a comprehensive out of hours helpline service to the residents and businesses of Cheshire West and Chester. The forum was apprised of the difficulties faced in 'standardising' working practices from the four constituent authorities Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Vale Royal and Cheshire County.

Mr Lacey informed that the out of hours service was currently provided by an external agency that covered a number of local authority and public service organisations nationally. It was noted that the current service was underperforming under the terms of the agreed contract, and actions were being taken to address the failings.

### Safer Stronger Communities: Rural Priorities

Gavin Butler, Community Safety Manager provided an explanation to the forum about local actions and interventions undertaken by CWaC under the remit of the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership.

Mr Butler informed how the Council and its partners (Police, Probation Service, PCT and Fire Service) were working together to reduce re-offending and focus on the following priorities.

Priorities and focus on:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Likelihood of re-offending
- Offender Management
- Domestic Abuse
- Alcohol

Tactics relevant to:

- Rural Probation
- Road Traffic Accidents / Collisions
- Domestic Incidents
- Wildlife / Trespass Crime

Actioned by:

- People - Police
- Place - PCSO's ,Community Safety Wardens, Warden First Responders

## Rural West Area Partnership Board Priorities

Rob Callow provided an explanation of the 4 key elements of the Area Working Framework. Namely:

- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP);
- Thematic Groups – partnership bodies covering key topics borough wide;
- Area Partnership Board (APB) – providing a spotlight on geographic communities; and
- Community Forums – established as a Local Authority led entity for engaging with communities, but also providing opportunity for engagement with partnership organisations.

## Open Forum

As short question and answer session followed, covering topics raised by visiting Parish Councillors and members of the public.

A number of Parish Clerks / Councillors commented on the proposed removal of Street and Amenity Grants, and the Taxi Travel Grant Paid to Mickle Trafford PC (para 2.2) of a report under consideration at the meeting of the Executive that same evening. The Forum was informed that the Taxi Travel Grant (Mickle Trafford) was agreed with the Parish Council to compensate for / alleviate the impact of the removal of bus services in the area.

On the broader matter of Street and Amenity Grants - Parish Clerks and visiting Parish Councillors stated that the timing of this action (they have, or are the process of budget setting) will result in the cutback of services. A comment was made, would CWaC be making arrangements to administer these services itself ?

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

**Date of Next Community Forum Meeting**

**To be confirmed**

**Forum Contacts:**

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