

Environment and Transport Sub-group

Update for the N&RN APB

15th June 2011

The purpose of this report is to outline the priorities for the Environment and Transport sub-group and to gain approval for a way forward.

Headline priorities

Based on data from the APB profile and the Our Communities survey the following is a list of identified key priorities discussed by the Environment and Transport sub-group;

- Road repairs are needed according to residents perceptions
- Traffic congestion is seen as an issue
- Residents want clean streets as this is seen as important for a place to be nice to live in
- A significant number of residents use cars to commute out of the area for work causing traffic congestion and pollution
- Recycling rates are low for the area, the lowest of all APB's
- Residents want more information on health walks and environmental/preservation projects.

Key actions already in place

There are a number of key actions already being undertaken or planned for the future, such as:

- A new waste recycling contract and system will be introduced across the area from April 2012
- Highways already hold surgeries for residents to report pot holes and have a good rating for highway condition according to the national cycling association
- CWaC Transport Section already promote use of the train and walks around Northwich and have undertaken some improvements to train stations
- Mersey Forest and partners have been made improvements to Northwich Woodlands and promote the use of the area
- Weaver Valley Regeneration Board has instigated improvements to the wider rural areas.

Major assets

- Northwich Woodlands is the largest green spaced park next to an English town and includes features such as Marbury Park, Anderton Boat Lift and Nuemann's Flashes
- The history of the salt mining with attractions such as the museum and the proposed re-development of the Salt Works at Wincham
- Gadbrook and Lostock Business Parks and Preston Brook Employment Zone just outside the area
- Hartford Campus encompassing a variety of educational establishments at various levels
- The future new cultural centre including the replacement of the Memorial Hall

- Proposed developments at the marina and Baron's Quay sites
- Four train stations within easy reach of Northwich centre.

The last bullet in Northwich's major assets, namely the train stations, is being put forward as the future main focus for the work of the Environment & Transport sub-group.

The basic schedule of work for the sub-group would be;

- prioritise the four stations
- conduct crime reduction surveys and environmental visual audits within the stations, in areas surrounding the stations e.g. 100m, and along key foot and cycle routes. The aim is to make the stations safe
- assist the Transport Section to prepare station travel plans to make the stations accessible and attractive so residents feel encouraged to use them
- undertake the work within each station
- undertake the work surrounding the stations including highways and pavement repairs, pruning of trees and bushes, clean ups, lighting improvements, signage etc
- undertake the work along key foot and cycle routes including highways and pavement repairs, pruning of trees and bushes, clean ups, lighting improvements, signage etc
- produce holistic marketing material to incorporate all attractions/assets by using the train.

The benefits to this approach are;

- the ability to promote use of safe and attractive train service for residents to travel to work or school/college
- the ability to promote the use of the train service to Northwich as a destination to access work, educational establishments, the town centre and tourist attractions
- reduction in traffic congestion and pollution
- brings together all partners in a single approach
- provides the APB with leverage to help improve other public transport facilities and routes
- ability to promote the cost and health benefits of using the train service.

The sub-group will also;

- work with Waste Recycling in the short term to promote and increase mixed plastics recycling and longer-term help to promote the new recycling system
- work with Highways to promote the Road Care Scheme
- other actions to be determined.

The APB is asked to;

- make comment on the proposed approach
- endorse this approach