

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to this month's news and activity from the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework.

Firstly, a **date for your diaries**..... We are pleased to announce details of our next West Cheshire Together partnership **Network Event** which will take place on **Monday 6th June** at the **Civic Hall** in **Ellesmere Port** (9.30am – 1.30pm finishing with a light lunch).

As one of our series of bi-annual events, we aim to continue to develop working relationships across the sectors and communities by facilitating discussion on topics of current interest and importance.

One year on from the launch of our Sustainable Community Strategy “*Together we can Aim High*”, this event will be an important opportunity to re-state our commitment to taking forward this shared vision for improving the services and quality of life of all our communities.

The full document and a summary version can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/>

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Following on from this, we will have a focus on supporting the delivery of **Childrens Services**, particularly around the Safeguarding agenda, and we will be joined by Gerald Meehan, the new Director of Childrens Services for Cheshire West & Chester Council (a shared arrangement with Halton Borough Council). We will be looking at priorities for the delivery of Childrens Services, particularly how this is being taken forward through locality working and what more partners can do to support this.

We will also be looking closely at the new arrangements for the delivery of **Health services** locally, examining what the new landscape for Health will look like and the significance of this for greater collaborative working.

We are sure you will agree that these themes should form the basis for some very interesting discussions and we hope that you will be able to join us. To register to attend, please contact Lyn Brown, Partnerships Information Officer on 01244 972370 or e-mail: lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

(Please note: this event was originally planned for 17th May so, if you had this date in your diary, please update to 6th June!).

Progress with observational research exercise

Over the last 12 months, Rebecca Mead, Chester University Gladstone PhD student (jointly funded by the University and NHS Western Cheshire) has undertaken an observational research project entitled “*Exploring Local Delivery to Improve Health and Reduce Inequalities: A Sociological Study of One Local Public Health System*”. The aim is to understand how the local public health system works in translating public health policy aspirations, such as improving population health and reducing health inequalities, into local delivery plans and activities.

As part of a series of public lectures and seminars, Rebecca will give an overview of her research and progress made during the year, on **Wednesday 11th May**, 12.30 – 1.30pm, at Chester University’s Binks Building. Whilst admission is free, capacity may be limited and so pre-booking is necessary. Please contact Jess Hitchcock on 01244 511740 or e-mail: j.hitchcock@chester.ac.uk to register to attend. Further information about the seminar series can be viewed at: <http://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/cphr/news/sem>

Feedback from Thematic Leads meeting

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Thematic Partnerships met with the Chairs of the five Area Partnership Boards on 4th April – the low attendance it was felt was due to the significant transitional period we currently find ourselves in with the rapidly changing context for partnership working. There is now a need to respond and adapt to this changing context and ensure our partnership structures are aligned with those at the local and sub-regional level.

Those in attendance considered a report which outlined suggestions for a revised structure of the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework for a transitional period of 12 months, to be more fully reviewed in Spring 2012. A meeting of the LSP Steering Group on 14th April would consider the suggestions and recommend a way forward.

In addition, a position statement was presented on our Sustainable Community Strategy “*Together we can Aim High*” a year on from its launch. It was agreed that this document be revisited to reconfirm its fitness for purpose and also be considered in the context of a new Health & Wellbeing Strategy which will need to be in place by April 2013.

Those at the meeting also received feedback from the recent “*Building a Big Civil Society*” event held on 7th March, where much intelligence and information was gathered which will be distilled and worked up into an Action Plan to be taken forward by the Stronger Group (sub-group of the Safer & Stronger Communities Group).

The minutes of this meeting will shortly be available to view on the West Cheshire Together website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes.aspx

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnerships Adviser, on 01244 975561 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Talking Together: Spring edition hits the streets

The spring 2011 edition of Talking Together – the partnership newspaper produced by the large public agencies in West Cheshire – was recently published with copies being delivered to every household across the borough. This, and previous editions, can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news.aspx>



Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board appointments confirmed

Christine Gaskell, Member of the Board of Bentley Motors in Crewe, has been named the first Chair of the new **Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**. She was elected at the inaugural meeting of the Board which includes senior figures recruited from both the public and private sectors. The new private sector-led body has set a clear vision to drive economic growth across Cheshire and Warrington. The organisation will also champion bids to the £1.4bn Regional Growth Fund, set up by the Government to assist businesses and stimulate economic recovery across the country.

Speaking after her appointment at the first LEP meeting held on 12th March, Christine said: *"I am very proud to be chosen as the inaugural Chair of this new organisation. We have a very clear mission; create jobs. Every member of the Board will do their utmost to ensure every opportunity is taken to boost the local economy, creating high value employment which will improve the prosperity of the region."*

The LEP Board will also play a vital role in building upon the success of the Cheshire economy ensuring businesses have the right skill base to grow. To deliver this growth, a Stakeholder Forum will be established to capture the skills and enthusiasm of a wide range of partners. Other board members include:-

Howard Hopwood	<i>Chairman of Harman Technology Ltd (elected Vice Chairman)</i>
Robert Davis	<i>CEO of EA Technology</i>
Graham Ramsbottom	<i>Managing Director of Grosvenor Estates</i>
Mike Jones	<i>Leader of Cheshire West & Chester Council</i>
Wesley Fitzgerald	<i>Leader of Cheshire East Council</i>
Ian Marks	<i>Leader of Warrington Borough Council</i>
Nigel Schofield	<i>Managing Director of Northenden Travel Group</i>
Martin Ashcroft	<i>Managing Director of Brunner Mond</i>
Pete Waterman	<i>Pete Waterman Entertainments Ltd</i>
Louise Morrissey	<i>Director of Peel Holdings</i>
Alison Roylance-White	<i>Chief Executive of Cheshire Community Action</i>
Timothy Wheeler	<i>Vice Chancellor of Chester University</i>
Sara Mogel	<i>Principal of West Cheshire College</i>

The Cheshire & Warrington LEP was given the green light by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills at the end of last year to create the partnership, which brings together the public and private sectors to create sustainable economic growth.

For further information, contact Fil Prevc, Policy Manager, on 01244 972885 or e-mail: fillip.prevc@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from individual Thematic Partnerships

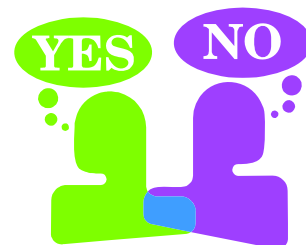
Safer & Stronger Communities Group – met on 11th March and has recently been allocated Area Based Grant funding to be utilised in 2011/12. The Partnership agreed contributions towards developing Integrated Offender Management, specifically around education/employment & training and accommodation for offenders. The initiative aims to secure five stable accommodation units for offenders across the borough in order to provide a stable home life that will encourage ex-offenders to make positive life choices. Funding will also be used to set up an initiative to provide employment/volunteering opportunities for offenders, this will provide work experience, skill development and training to enable ex-offenders to sustain employment in the future.

In addition, the Integrated Offender Management Unit was successful in winning the Local Crime Justice Award for effective partnerships. The Unit was invited to attend Cheshire Police HQ to be awarded the commendation from Chief Constable David Whatton.

Finally, Cheshire West & Chester Council has joined forces with Cheshire Police to find new ways to tackle alcohol related crime in and around Chester. The Council can apply for a *Responsible Drinking Zone* which is officially known as a *Designated Public Place Order* (DPPO).

A Responsible Drinking Zone is a power local authorities can apply for, to give uniformed police officers (and the Council's Community Safety Wardens) the ability to ask a person to stop drinking alcohol in a public place where they have reason to believe that alcohol related nuisance and annoyance is likely to occur. The police can also confiscate alcohol. It is NOT a criminal offence to drink alcohol within this designated area. An offence is only committed if a person refuses to obey an officer's request to stop drinking.

Chester already has some areas that are designated by the Order, however these are ad-hoc, and the partnership would like to include the whole area to ensure officers have this power available to them wherever they are in the Chester area.



A consultation began on 1st April to gauge whether this is a power you would like the Council to adopt. There are many ways you can get involved in the consultation and give your views - consultation forms will be available in the following locations:-

- ⇒ Visit: http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/community_and_living/community_safety.aspx
- ⇒ Write to: Community Safety Team, HQ, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP
- ⇒ Visit: The Forum Offices, Chester
- ⇒ Call: 01244 973941

Consultation forms are also available in the following libraries – Blacon Library (Western Avenue), Lache Library (Lache Lane) and Chester Library (Northgate Street).

The consultation runs **until 20th May 2011**. For further information, contact Joanne Byrne, Safer Stronger Partnerships Officer, on 01244 973 941 or e-mail: joanne.byrne@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

HOT OFF THE PRESS..... *Great news for West Cheshire*.....Crime and anti social behaviour have been reduced dramatically across the borough in the past twelve months. More than 2,000 fewer people were victims of crime and 2,800 fewer incidents of disorder were reported, compared to figures for 2009-10 (see article on page 10).

For further information about the Safer & Stronger Communities Group, contact Jane Makin, Safer Stronger Partnerships Team Leader, on 01244 973464 or e-mail: jane.makin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Children's Trust – met on 17th March and also held a joint away day with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in early April with the purpose of ensuring that the two Boards are aligning their programme to respond to the outcomes of the recent OFSTED inspection of Children's Services; to clarify roles and responsibilities; and to agree future roles, responsibilities, tasks and identify and agree priorities to take work forward.

The outcomes from the day will form the main agenda item for the next Children's Trust Board meeting scheduled for 4th May, which will be chaired by Moira Swann, new independent Chair of the Children's Trust Board.

For further information, contact Sarah Blaylock or Isabel Noonan on 01244 972373 or e-mail: noonan.blaylock@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

West Cheshire Together for Health & Wellbeing – held its last meeting on 31st March (before the new Health & Wellbeing Board comes into being) and considered the following:-

- ⇒ a joint response from Cheshire West & Chester Council and Public Health to the Public Health White Paper consultation;
- ⇒ the Health Inequalities Action Plan which was endorsed by the Group;
- ⇒ the current information to inform the indicators on the Risk Register. It was agreed that the items still need to be held on a Risk Register and picked up by the new structure. For some indicators there is an overall improvement in health but the health gap has in fact widened;
- ⇒ a presentation on the Springboard project - a data sharing project between Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Age UK – and what this has meant for providing more tailored services;
- ⇒ a presentation on the ‘Big Drink Debate’ which highlighted the key issues around the alcohol agenda and next steps for the future.

All partners contributing to the West Cheshire Together for Health & Wellbeing Thematic Partnership were warmly thanked for their support over the life of the group and commitment was given to continue sharing information and ideas. The new emerging Health & Wellbeing Board is currently being developed and further details will follow in the next edition.

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Talking Food, Taking Action – Westminster residents recently set out their plans for better access to healthy food locally at Ellesmere Port’s Healthy Living Centre. The residents were part of the “*Talking Food, Taking Action*” project led by the health campaign “*Our Life*” and supported by NHS Western Cheshire. Over three months, 20 residents came together to investigate food issues and set out their priorities for gaining better access to healthy food and agreeing local and national changes they’d like to see.

Senior representatives from the Council and local health bodies were on hand to offer help to make residents’ plans a reality. Top of the list was agreement to try and develop a local food co-op on Westminster, selling healthy local grown produce. With help from local agencies, residents will meet again, assess local demand for a food co-op and investigate premises.

Another idea that gained support was local cookery classes with residents themselves being trained and certified in food hygiene. Residents are also investigating if these local cookery classes and the food co-op could be supplied from a local allotment. Learning how to “grow your own” could be one part of improving access to healthy food locally.

Participants in “Talking Food: Taking Action” projects across the North West joined a campaign weekend on 12th March to tackle some of the national barriers to accessing healthy food. Look out for more information locally on the next steps for a local food co-op, cookery classes and locally grown fruit and veg.

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5 Ways to Health & Wellbeing – Following on from the 5 Ways to Health & Wellbeing “Making it Real” event held in February, the Council’s Supporting People service, in partnership with Public Health and Adult & Social Care intend to hold similar events for their Providers and support workers, to demonstrate how the five ways to healthy living - *Connect; Take notice; Keep learning; Be active; and Give* – can improve wellbeing. Four new Five Ways Practitioners events are currently being arranged for the following dates/areas (from 9.30am – 4.00pm):-

24th May	- Ellesmere Port
14th June	- Winsford
21st June	- Chester
30th June	- Northwich



Venue information will be published in next month’s edition. For more information, contact Angela or Bev on 0151 356 6464 or e-mail: capstickwalsh@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

It's a Goal! – This is a peer group self-development programme which, in particular, helps men open up. It is based at Chester Football Club and meets on a Thursday afternoon. The project coaches people to support each other as a team and to further their goals using football as a metaphor. The 11 week programme is called a 'season' and each session a 'match'. The programme covers issues such as roles, feelings, motivation, assertion/aggression, problem solving and relaxation techniques. Those referred may have some degree of depression or low self-esteem. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.nacro.org.uk/services/merseyside/nacro-its-a-goal-programme-at-chester-fc/>

The next 'season' will begin soon – for more information or to make referrals, contact Kieran Hatton from Nacro on 07789 716479 / 0151 643 3020 or e-mail: kieran.hatton@nacro.org.uk

Mindfulness Conference: Wednesday 18th May – Bredbury Hall Hotel, Stockport

For more information or to book a place, contact Debbie Stanley on 0161 474 3870 or e-mail: debbie.stanley@stockport.gov.uk

Weaver Vale Housing Trust: Neighbourhood Strolls

Weaver Vale Housing Trust will be conducting neighbourhood strolls throughout the year with the purpose of helping to identify environmental issues which are causing concern. This may include graffiti, rubbish, external repairs and environmental improvement works which have a positive impact on our neighbourhoods.

Residents are encouraged to join staff in the strolls to share their knowledge of the estates where they live. Each stroll will begin at 10.00am and will last between 1 and 2 hours. If you would like to take part, please come along to any of the following strolls:-

AREA	DATE	MEETING POINT
Danefields	Weds 4 th May	Corner of King George Avenue and Binney Road
Castle	Tues 10 th May	Methodist Church, Beeston Street
Frodsham	Tues 17 th May	Meadow Court, Clifton Crescent
Barnton	Thurs 19 th May	British Legion, Meadow Drive
Grange	Tues 24 th May	Grange Court
Crook Lane	Tues 7 th June	Games area on Esk Road (Willow Wood)
Dene	Thurs 9 th June	Dene Drive Garage site, opposite Crossfield Avenue
Leftwich	Tues 21 st June	Wakefield Court, Clifton Drive
Rudheath	Tues 28 th June	Corner of Cotebrook Road / Malpas Road
Over	Tues 5 th July	The Edge, Cheviot Square
Wharton Gardens	Tues 12 th July	Entrance to Wharton Gardens
Greenfields Park	Tues 9 th Aug	Community House, Finsbury Walk
Greenbank	Thurs 11 th Aug	Shops, Greenbank Lane
Weaverham Lime	Tues 6 th Sept	Moretons Meade, Walnut Avenue
Weaverham Farm	Weds 7 th Sept	Front of Farm Close flats, Farm Road
Lostock Gralam	Tues 13 th Sept	Entrance to Park, corner of Townshend & Fryer Road

For further information, contact Kirk Gannon-Hollis on 01606 813420 or e-mail:

kirk.gannon-hollis@wvht.co.uk

“Adopt a granny, in reverse” is a key feature of a successful watch scheme protecting homes alongside a country road in mid-Cheshire.

Retired people living on **Cuddington Lane** carry out regular checks on the houses of younger people who are out at work or away for the weekend. They also keep an eye open for any suspicious activity around the homes and on the derelict factory site which is nearby.

Police Community Support Officer, Sophie Baxter, says that these residents know the area well and are instantly aware if anything is amiss. Then they get in contact in what has become known as **“Adopt a granny, in reverse”**. Some houses have been burgled and there have been some break-ins involving garages, sheds and farm buildings. With this initiative, local people have adopted a really positive attitude to tackling the issue, sharing ideas and experiences and sending e-mails round when they suspect an incident. It has really strengthened the community spirit. Sophie acts as a personal police contact via telephone or e-mail and is happy to have become “part of the furniture” on the lane.

Sophie has also provided Home Security packs and Crime Reduction Adviser, Dave Owens, has given talks on home security. Some home owners have even installed CCTV. Now a forensic marking system has become the latest feature of Home Watch on Cuddington Lane. The SmartWater fluid marks property invisibly and carries a chemical ‘code’ which links the goods to the owner. It can also be set up as a spray system. In ultra violet light, the fluid glows green, even on skin.

This latest home safety measure has been funded by Ainscough Strategic Land, the company which owns the former yoghurt factory site and which has just obtained planning permission for it to be redeveloped with housing.

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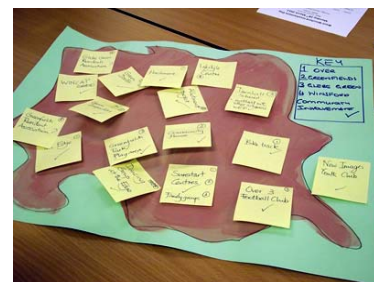
Praise for WINAP - Winsford MP Stephen O’Brien has labelled a Winsford community project one of the best he has ever seen.

The junior minister for international development visited the *Winsford Community Action Project (WINCAP)* at the Edge Community Centre, in Cheviot Square, where he met with director and chairman, Jill McQuaid, along with staff and users of the project.

Mr O’Brien, who visited the centre on 25th March said: *“I was delighted to visit Winsford Community Action Project which is the best initiative I’ve seen, rooted in our community, delivering a wide variety of fantastic opportunities and services to people of all ages and all interests. I shall do all I can to support the wonderful work of the volunteers and supporters to sustain this vital hub of activity in the heart of our community where it is valued most. Great work – and thanks to all who make it happen.”*

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West Winsford Community Involvement Event - An event was held in March to bring together local residents, partners and members to look at barriers to resident involvement in the West Winsford neighbourhood. With support from the Health & Wellbeing Team, some innovative techniques were used and the outcomes of the event will contribute towards the West Winsford Community Involvement Plan. A further event is planned for 9th May to develop the West Winsford Community Action Plan.



For further information, contact Ewan McHenry, Winsford & Rural East Area Manager, on 01606 288766 or e-mail: ewan.mchenry@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Barons Quay agreement big step forward for Northwich Regeneration

Cheshire West & Chester Council and Weaver Valley Partnership recently announced a major step forward in the long-awaited regeneration of Northwich. The two organisations are now leading on the **Baron's Quay redevelopment** after mutually agreeing to end a development agreement with Wilson Bowden Developments, who were appointed by the former Vale Royal Borough Council in 2008. The move will enable development of a new retail and leisure scheme on the 40-acre site.

Outline plans and artists' impressions are expected to go on display as part of an engagement exercise with the community this summer, with planning applications submitted by the end of the year. Baron's Quay will act as a catalyst for other major investments crucial to the regeneration of Northwich. Other schemes now expected to come forward include an £11m cultural and leisure centre and a multi-million pound redevelopment of the waterfront between the two town bridges.

The redevelopment of Baron's Quay will dramatically open up this neglected riverfront area, creating a vibrant quarter where people can shop, enjoy leisure activities, socialise and work. Building on designs and consultation undertaken last year, strong links with Witton Street, Weaver Square the Market will be at the heart of its design to ensure the development complements the existing retail area by encouraging a natural flow of pedestrian traffic between the two.

Meanwhile, plans are progressing on major housing developments at Winnington and Wincham urban villages.

For further information, contact Team Northwich on 01606 353537

Rural Regeneration and Rural Housing Strategies: Current Consultation

A reminder that Cheshire West & Chester Council is currently consulting on its **Rural Regeneration and Rural Housing Strategies**. The consultation began on 28th March and runs for 12 weeks until 20th June.

You can access the documents on the Council's website at:-
http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news_and_events/council_consultations.aspx
and comments can be submitted to ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

You can also submit your comments in writing to:-
Rural Regeneration, Backford Hall, Chester, CH1 6PZ

For further information, contact Chris Capes, Team Manager – Special Projects, on 01244 973164 or e-mail: christopher.capes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Census 2011: Help Tomorrow Take Shape

Census Day was 27th March and, just over a week later, it was reported that almost three quarters of households had completed and returned their forms. Initial reports show that in this area, returns are higher than the national average.

Householders had until 6th April to return their census forms – after that date, “collectors” have been deployed to contact those who have not responded. Collectors will offer help and advice to those who need it and will supply replacement questionnaires if they have been lost or damaged. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law. These collectors will be out and about over the next 2/3 weeks providing advice and support on the doorstep.



For further information, contact Mike Armstrong (ONS Area Manager) by e-mail: B118@census.gov.uk

Rural West APB has recently launched its new web site “*Talking West Cheshire*” which can be accessed at: <http://talkingwestcheshire.org/>

The aim of the site is to provide Rural West residents, and also people living in other areas of West Cheshire, information about local events and services, places of interest to visit and up to date news. The site also provides a Blog section for residents to share their comments and opinions.

Residents, community groups and partners are asked to keep the website in mind when planning events, have community news that you would like to share or simply want to publicise requests for volunteers for specific projects to a wider area.

In order to do any of the above, please e-mail Elaine Grant at: elaine.grant@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or click on "contact us" on the website where you will find the contact details of the web team.

Please take a look at the site as your initial thoughts and comments would be appreciated.

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The Rural West Area Team is working with its local **Country Markets** to promote this valuable community resource. The markets sell a wide range of home grown, home produced and hand crafted items both at their own markets and indirectly to other outlets.



There are three Country Markets in the Rural West area – **Farndon**, **Tattenhall** and **Willaston** – with produce including a wide range of baking, breads, savouries, puddings and preserves. Crafts are well catered for with hand-made cards, clothing, quilting, pottery and wood turning. Plants and vegetables are also available in season. In addition, all the markets operate a “hamper scheme” delivering produce to other areas of England and Wales. Ideal for relatives, friends and starving students!

The three Rural West Country Markets are open each week as follows:-

Farndon	<i>Wednesdays</i>	9.00am – 11.30am at Chapel House, Farndon
Tattenhall	<i>Fridays</i>	9.30am – 11.00am at the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Willaston	<i>Fridays</i>	9.00am – 11.00am at the Memorial Hall, Willaston

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Rural West APB, the Council, Malpas Parish Council and Chester & District Housing Trust have come together to improve currently “unadopted” **Leech Lane in Malpas** and bring the path up to a standard that the Council can then “adopt” it. This will ensure the lane will not only be improved but will continue to be maintained in the future. For many years, residents have been lobbying to improve this popular route to the village and it is hoped that, now most of the funding has been secured, work will start on upgrading the lane later this summer.

For further information, contact Rob Callow, Rural West Area Manager, on 01244 972858 or e-mail: rob.callow@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING DATES

With Local Elections scheduled to take place on **Thursday 5th May 2011**, the Council entered a period of purdah on **18th March**.

Community Forums will not be taking place during this purdah period and we will resume advertising future Community Forum meeting dates in due course.

Cheshire wins 'Fire Service of the Year' award

Cheshire has been recognised as the leading Fire & Rescue Service in the country at a major national awards ceremony.



The organisation won 'Fire Service of the Year' at the inaugural Emergency Services Awards held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium on 7th April. Judges said that Cheshire had demonstrated exceptional all round performance and particularly praised its effectiveness at protecting local communities which has seen staff visit over 300,000 homes to give out vital safety advice and fit free smoke alarms.

The award was presented to Paul Hancock, Chief Fire Officer and Fire Authority Vice Chair, Graham Smith, by BBC presenter Nicholas Owen. As well as this main award, Cheshire was also commended in the 'Fire Service Innovation' category and the 'Public Communication' section.

The Fire & Rescue Service recognise that partnership working with other organisations has contributed greatly to these achievements. Examples include collaborative working at a Safety Day in February 2010 when around 600 home safety assessments were delivered in one day and partnership working around domestic violence. It is also apparent that interaction at Community Forums also shows that the Fire & Rescue Service is well respected by our communities.

The Emergency Services Awards are supported by the British Fire Services Association, the Association of Police Authorities and the Ambulance Service Network.

For further information, contact Tim Bevington on 01606 868657 or e-mail: tim.bevington@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Western Success: Crime figures released

Crime and anti-social behaviour have been reduced dramatically in West Cheshire in the past twelve months. More than 2,000 fewer people were victims of crime and 2,800 fewer incidents of disorder were reported, compared to figures for 2009-2010.



Chief Superintendent Craig Guildford, Cheshire Police Western Area Commander, described the figures as *"a really significant achievement"*. It means less people have suffered the effects of crime such as burglary or violence, which can sometimes be devastating, and fewer people have had their lives disrupted by threatening behaviour, abuse or vandalism.

The overall number of crimes reported in West Cheshire during 2010-11 came down from 22,553 to 20,352. House burglaries were down 30% from 1385 to 961, violence with injury from 2293 to 2161 and business robbery dropped by 50% from 36 to 18. Anti-social behaviour incidents came down from 18,687 to 15,879 and criminal damage dropped from 4617 incidents to 3732.

Chief Superintendent Guildford said, *"West Cheshire is not a high-crime area, so any improvements on that situation are a real success, achieved with a considerable amount of dedication and skill. We are pro-active and pursue people who cause most problems. We concentrate on the criminals as much as the crime. That means using local information, the local knowledge of officers and Police Staff and front-line leadership. Where prolific and priority offenders are concerned we work with the local authority and the Probation Service through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships on integrated offender management"*.

In order to tackle anti-social behaviour, the Police have formed ASB units with the Council and Housing providers and those units are paying dividends, since their set up, with a lot more intervention work being undertaken. In addition, Neighbourhood policing is a high priority, and involves more than dealing with crime and disorder – it's about making life better for people. Working with partners, the aim is to allow people to get on with their lives in peace and without having to worry about the threat of crime and violence.

Chester Communities Spring Clean – Disposing of large items and fly-tipping had been raised as a concern by residents in some Chester communities and so Council members decided to take action to resolve this issue for residents by using their Members' budgets to support Community Skip Days. On Saturdays in January, February and March, the Council's Waste Management team supplied and manned skips, which allowed residents to dispose of their unwanted items. Community Safety Wardens were also available to help residents.

White goods such as washing machines and metal were collected for recycling and any reusable unwanted furniture was passed to the Blacon Furniture Project also for re-cycling.



The areas benefiting from this initiative included Garden Lane area, Lache, Handbridge, Pulford, Dodleston, Huntington, Caldly Valley, Vicars Cross, Kingsway and Hoole. Approx. 30 tons of unwanted items were brought to the skips for disposal and, of this, approx. 6.5 tons were white goods or metal which were taken for recycling.

Local community groups, residents and students from the University of Chester also got involved in some areas with litter picking the streets and helping residents move their items. This was a really great example of communities coming together to clean up their areas. Residents welcomed the initiative and hoped they could become a regular event within their communities.

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New signage on Blacon Millenium Greenway – Four new signs have been installed along the Greenway in Blacon to help cyclists and pedestrians “share with care”. The Greenway is part of a national network of routes managed by national sustainable travel charity, *Sustrans*, and provides a traffic-free means of travelling to Chester and North Wales, either on foot or bike. *Sustrans* and Cheshire West & Chester Council worked together to install the signs to promote responsible use of the Greenway and encourage users of this route to be considerate of the needs and rights of other users, be it dog walkers, joggers, commuters, equestrians and cyclists.

The Blacon Community Forum listened to the concerns of residents plagued by a small minority of inconsiderate users along the Blacon Greenway and responded in this way with the signs now sited at either side of the former Blacon Station at the bottom of the access ramps from Egerton Road and Saughall Road. The signs ask cyclists to slow down, sound the bell and give way and ask pedestrians not to block the path.

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Sycamore Field Wall – A wall approx. 8 feet tall and 15 feet long had stood in the centre of Sycamore Field in Lache for the past 18 years and was regularly subjected to graffiti. The field forms part of the main thoroughfare of Lache and top of the list of various consultations with residents, both young and old, over the years had been the removal of the wall. Contact was made with the Lache Community Engagement officer and a project then developed which was to be community/children led throughout, with support and guidance from the Council. The children wanted new bike ramps to be installed, but with budget constraints could not afford to have the wall taken down and afford the bike ramps. A compromise was reached and the wall was to be lowered and turned into a bench and a new play gym created.

Unfortunately (or fortunately if you are a child in Lache) the remaining wall structure became unsafe and had to be removed entirely. The children now wanted their bike ramps and so, after securing various sources of funding and partnership working with a number of agencies including the Council and Chester & District Housing Trust - and with additional funding from Members' budgets - new bike racks eventually replaced the wall last month.

The effect on the community (all ages) has been immense. These young children are so proud of what they have done and how it makes a difference to their community. They knocked down a wall but built their self-esteem and confidence to believe they can make a difference not only to their lives but to the community in which they live.

Calling Home Owners, Private Sector Landlords and Tenants! Cheshire West & Chester Council's Private Sector Housing Team is holding a series of roadshows near you – come along for advice on:

- ⇒ Loans to improve your home
- ⇒ Housing standards – advice for tenants and landlords
- ⇒ Renting out your property as a private landlord
- ⇒ Disabled facilities grants to adapt your home
- ⇒ Advice and assistance on bringing empty homes back into use
- ⇒ Home safety grants for urgent works
- ⇒ Energy efficiency in the home
- ⇒ The Cheshire Landlord Accreditation Scheme

Events were held in early April in Helsby, Chester and Ellesmere Port and further dates/venues are scheduled as follows:-

Thursday 5th May	Frodsham Market (9.00am – 3.00pm)
Friday 6th May	Victoria Jubilee Hall High Street, Malpas (9.00am – 12 noon)
Friday 13th May	Neston Market (9.30am – 2.00pm)
Tuesday 17th May	The Pavillion, Northwich Town Centre (10.00am – 3.00pm)
Friday 20th May	Asda, The Drumber, Winsford (10.00am – 3.00pm)

For further information, contact the Private Sector Housing Team on 0151 356 6472 or e-mail: privatehousing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

THE BIG LUNCH!

This year's Big Lunch is happening on **Sunday 5th June**. The Big Lunch aims to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

In order to help you start a Big Lunch in your neighbourhood, visit:

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/index.php>

The website contains useful information such as: *Find your nearest Big Lunch; 10 Steps to organising a Big Lunch; Free pack to get you started; and Frequently Asked Questions!*

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to Lyn Brown, Partnership Information Officer, on 01244 972370 or e-mail: lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in May's Edition 28:-

- ⇒ Results from the *Local Elections* held on 5th May
- ⇒ Feedback from the April meeting of *West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group*
- ⇒ Further details on the *Mindfulness Conference* scheduled for 18th May in Stockport