

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.

Around 130 partners from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors across the borough came together on 6th June at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall for the latest LSP Network event.

Held twice a year, these popular networking events are always well received and supported, so much so that it has been agreed to retain the events as the re-shaping of the current partnerships framework continues. The popular Market Place offered the opportunity for local organisations and partnerships to showcase activity and initiatives, including volunteering opportunities (to coincide with National Volunteer Week). Aply hosted by Alison Roylance-White, Chief Officer of Cheshire Community Action and Chair of the Rural West Area Partnership Board, the event covered a range of current topics of importance including:-

- ⇒ a commitment from delegates to working in partnership for the benefit of our communities one year on from the launch of our Sustainable Community Strategy "*Together we can Aim High*";
- ⇒ an update from Gerald Meehan (Cheshire West & Chester Council's Director of Childrens Services) on measures which are being undertaken to ensure that our children are safe;
- ⇒ the importance of wellbeing in underpinning the work of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the role that The 5 Ways to Wellbeing has in supporting vibrant communities.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ **Third Sector Assembly Update**
- ⇒ **Chester APB activity**
- ⇒ **Renewable Energy Roadshow: 16th July**
- ⇒ **Queens Award for Cheshire Young Carers**
- ⇒ **Cheshire Community Action Open Day**
- ⇒ **Health & Wellbeing news**



The 5 Ways to Wellbeing (an evidence based approach to mental wellbeing) are **Connect; Be Active; Take Notice; Keep Learning; and Give**. In the workshop session, delegates heard about the economic and social benefits of wellbeing as well as the research behind 5 Ways. They considered how they could embed the 5 Ways into both their personal and professional lives and were asked to add thoughts and comments via a Pledge board. There were also four varied and thought-provoking presentations demonstrating how 5 Ways links to the work agenda of *Supporting People; Sustainable Blacon; Rhinomania; and the Challenging stigma campaign*.

The presentation slides from the event, together with workshop feedback and Pledges made by delegates, can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at:

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_events/lsp_network_event_6th_june_201.aspx

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Adviser, on 01244 977561 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

There have been some recent changes to the Third Sector Assembly (TSA) whose work now comes under Cheshire West & Chester Council's new 'Developing the Third Sector Contract'. The contract also covers all of the infrastructure work of the sector in the borough and has been let to a consortium of five organisations:-

- Cheshire Community Action (rural interests)
- Cheshire & Warrington Social Enterprise Partnership
- Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPNAVCO)
- Chester Voluntary Action
- Learning Together Cheshire & Warrington (learning and skills)



These five organisations now form the **Core Group** of the TSA and are responsible for its day to day management. The **TSA Management Group** provides direction to the work and feedback to and from networks. The Management Group consists of representatives from all of the third sector networks (Children & Young Peoples Hub; Mental Health Alliance; Voluntary Arts Network; Faith and Interfaith networks; Environmental Network; Older People; Disability and others) and from key organisations where no network exists. The Management Group also links into the key strategic groups in the borough and across Cheshire to represent third sector views and perspectives on key policies and initiatives both locally and nationally.

The Management Group now meets every 2 months (the next meeting is 12th July, 2-4pm, in EPNAVCO offices in Ellesmere Port). The Core Group meets on the alternate months.

The TSA also has a new Chair - **Chris Baker** from Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington - elected in April for a two year term; and a new Deputy Chair - **Carol Berry** from Chester Voluntary Action, also elected for a two year term.

Chris Baker is the main TSA representative on the West Cheshire Together LSP (Carol Berry is the deputy representative) and the TSA continues to have representation (from Management Group members) on key strategic bodies. The role of the TSA has also been expanded to cover the implementation of the Compact. A new work plan is now in place with specific work around a communications plan and the second phase of the website development as current priorities.

Anne Lancaster continues to be seconded from Cheshire West & Chester Council to work as the TSA Co-ordinator with a remit of facilitating the development of the TSA and developing an enhanced relationship and encouraging joint working between the third sector and the public sector. This secondment will run until March 2012.

Information on TSA Management Group networks and representatives is currently being updated and will appear in the next Partnership bulletin.

For further details, including TSA briefing papers and consultations, can be obtained from Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator, on 07801 015261 or 01244 323527 or e-mail:

Anne.Lancaster@chesterva.org.uk or visit the TSA website at: www.tsa-cheshirewest.org.uk

The Department for Communities & Local Government has recently published an updated version of the **Plain English Guide to the Localism Bill** (replacing the version published in January 2011).

It is designed to give an overview of the Bill in conjunction with the document "*Decentralisation and the Localism Bill: An essential guide*" and describes the main measures of the Localism Bill under four headings: new freedoms and flexibilities for local government; new rights and powers for communities and individuals; reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective; and reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally. The Guide can be viewed at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1923416.pdf>

Love your City now love your Heart: Chester has become the first place in the North West to wear its heart on its sleeve and sign up as one of the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) 50 national **Heart Cities and Towns**.

Cheshire West & Chester Council has teamed up with the BHF to help put the heart into Chester as part of the charity's 'Mending Broken Hearts Appeal' which has been launched to mark its 50th anniversary this year. Heart Cities and Towns is a brand new initiative from the nation's heart charity that brings communities together through local fundraising and volunteering as well as raising awareness of heart disease. The BHF is aiming for as many towns and cities across the UK to sign up and become a Heart Town, to help tackle the growing issue of heart and circulatory disease, the UK's biggest killer.

Other organisations are also delighted to welcome the Heart City status for Chester. John Denny, Chair of Chester Area Partnership Board (APB) said:

"Minimising health inequalities, promoting healthier lifestyles and improving quality of life are all APB priorities. The APB agreed to Chester becoming a Heart City due to the far-reaching benefits it brings to Chester's communities. In addition, Chester Heart City encourages local people to volunteer and take part in events and activities which will have benefits for themselves, their families and their friends."



The 'Mending Broken Hearts Appeal' is the biggest fundraising appeal ever launched in the BHF's history. The goal is simple - to fund the research that could begin to 'mend broken hearts' in as little as 10 years and save and improve the lives of millions within decades. In order to do this, the charity needs to spend £50 million on the research to repair damaged hearts. The hope is, if it can get the money, it could be funding trials with heart failure patients in as little as five years. Whoever you are, there's a way for you to get involved and give hope. You can volunteer your time, buy the BHF's great new products, donate much-needed funds or even get on your bike.

Visit: <http://www.bhf.org.uk/default.aspx?page=12629> or contact either Ken Fretwell, BHF, on 0151 678 2646 or e-mail: fretwellk@bhf.org.uk or Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager, on 01244 972859 or e-mail: michelle.talgam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

* * *

Countess of Chester Country Park Consultation: Groundwork Cheshire and Cheshire West & Chester Council are working with site landowners to propose a new **Country Park** for Chester between the Countess of Chester Hospital and the Shropshire Union Canal. Their vision is to improve the wildlife and plants on the site and encourage local communities to use the site for exercise and other outdoor recreation.

They are currently asking the public to complete a questionnaire either on-line or at one of the displays (listed below) as responses will help to complete the design and assist in fundraising for the project. The on-line plans and the questionnaire can be viewed via the Groundwork Cheshire website at: <http://www.northwest.groundwork.org.uk/cheshire.aspx> - just follow the links from the home page. The consultation period runs until **1st July** and the temporary displays can be viewed until that date at the following locations:-

- ❖ **Chester Library**, Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2EF
- ❖ **Upton Library**, Wealstone Lane, Chester, CH1 1HB
- ❖ **Blacon Library**, Western Avenue, Chester, CH1 5QY
- ❖ **University of Chester**, (go to main reception for locations), Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ
- ❖ **Countess of Chester Hospital** (Main Building), Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1BQ

If you have any questions about the project or the questionnaire, or wish to receive a paper copy, please contact Craig Morris or Beth Brockett on 01606 723160 or e-mail: craig.morris@groundwork.org.uk or beth.brockett@groundwork.org.uk

Executive Appointments confirmed following Local Elections

Following the local Council elections last month, the following Executive Member appointments were confirmed at the recent Annual Council meeting:-

Leader	- Councillor Mike Jones
Deputy Leader	- Councillor Les Ford
Adult Services	- Councillor Brenda Dowding
Community & Environment	- Councillor Lynn Riley
Resources	- Councillor Les Ford
Prosperity	- Councillor Herbert Manley
Culture & Recreation	- Councillor Stuart Parker
Education & Children	- Councillor Mark Stocks

They will be supported by the following Assistant Executive Members - Councillor John Grimshaw (*Adult Services*); Councillor Jill Houlbrook (*Community & Environment*); Councillor Bob Crompton (*Culture & Recreation*); Councillor Helen Weltman (*Education & Children*); Councillor Adrian Walmsley (*Resources*); Councillor Gareth Anderson (*Prosperity*).

Councillor Derek Bateman continues as Labour Leader, supported by Councillor Pat Merrick who retains the role of Deputy Leader.

Renewable Energy Roadshow

Where is it?	<i>Chester Town Hall Square</i>
When is it?	<i>Saturday 16th July (from 10.00am until 3.00pm)</i>
What is it?	<i>Renewable Energy Roadshow</i>
And who's invited?	<i>Everyone!</i>

This free event is for everyone who would like to know more about renewable energy technologies, how they work and where they can be installed to generate electricity and heat. There will be an exhibition of all the main technologies:-

- ✓ *Solar power that can be used to produce hot water and electricity*
- ✓ *Ground source heat pumps that use heat energy from the ground*
- ✓ *Air source heat pumps that extract heat from the surrounding air*
- ✓ *Biomass, both wood and pellets, that can be burned in stoves or boilers to produce heat and/or hot water*
- ✓ *Wind energy to generate electricity*

Installers of the technologies will be there to chat to you about what might be best to install in your home, setting you out on the path of generating green energy for you and your family.

The interactive environmental roadshow 'Sticky Exhibits' will be there (www.stickyexhibits.co.uk) with their exhibits, displays, props and models showing us just how much fun learning about the environment can be.



Sticky Exhibits' Eco Pod

There will be people from Cheshire West & Chester Council's Planning team on hand to chat about any planning issues that may be relevant to a particular technology in a particular place. And also, the Council's partner organisation who will be delivering their low cost loft and cavity wall insulation scheme over the next few months.

So, please join us for fun, informative and sustainable day in Chester! We look forward to seeing you there.

For further information, contact Tania Sayer, Energy Projects Plus, on 01270 213367 or e-mail: tania.sayer@epplus.org.uk

New name, new future

One of Cheshire's oldest voluntary sector organisations is looking forward to a new, if challenging, future. Established as Northwich & District Council of Social Service in 1922, Voluntary Action Vale Royal has now become **Cheshire Community Development Trust**.

The move reflects changes in local government and the desire to concentrate on innovative service delivery in an age of financial constraint.

Chief Executive, Arthur Neil, said: *"We've had a long history of helping establish new services to meet the needs of local people who are either disadvantaged or excluded. From Dial a Ride, Drugs Advice, summer playschemes, elderly people's day care to New Deal for the unemployed, we've been involved in the lot! Our long-running and very successful New Deal programme – we've recently been ranked 11th in the country – is coming to an end and, with the new localism agenda and Big Society, the Board decided we should work on areas and themes which we're passionate about"*.



CCDT are looking at innovative ways of developing and extending their services in Family Support and Adult Learning as well as marketing their payroll and training services. Newest service is the ability to deliver fully accredited first aid training. Excited by change and trying new things, CCDT hopes to show that they can turn their hands to many types of service and become the partner of choice when the statutory sector or other organisations want to try something new which benefits the local community.

For further information, telephone 01606 723182 or e-mail: info@cheshirecdt.org.uk

New Name, same services!

Another organisation which has gone through a few changes recently is Anchor Staying Put (Cheshire West). As part of the recent transfer of the locally-based Home Improvement Agency to the Mears Group, the agency, along with commissioners and partners, will be called **West Cheshire Healthy Homes** from 1st June.

The services and aims of the agency remain the same with its primary focus being to support older people, vulnerable people or those living with a disability to remain living independently in their own homes.

The agency has also moved offices from Ellesmere Port Market to:-
Unit 2, Rossmore Business Village, Inward Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 3EY.

The telephone number remains the same: Tel: 0151 355 1313. The e-mail address for all enquiries is: MHCheshirewest.Enquiries@mearsgroup.co.uk



Welcome back to **Claire Wildgoose** who has returned to NHS Western Cheshire as Partnerships Manager after being on maternity leave.

Whilst roles are still being defined, Claire will be supporting the development of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Claire can be contacted on 01244 650346 or e-mail: claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Don't forget you can view the Cheshire West & Chester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment at: http://www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?page=Joint_Strategic_Needs_Assessment/default.asp

Prestigious Award for local voluntary group



Cheshire Young Carers Service has been announced as one of 130 winners nationally, and one of only 12 in the NW region, of *The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service*, the MBE for groups of volunteers who work in their local community for the benefit of others.

This prestigious UK national honour recognises outstanding voluntary contributions and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged to be of the highest standard.

Cheshire Young Carers has received the Award for providing specialist support to young carers through holistic approach to their health and wellbeing.

Those receiving this year's Award were selected from 413 groups nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community. Cheshire Young Carers will receive a certificate signed by The Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Cheshire, David Briggs at a special ceremony. The group has also received an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Speaking of their success, Lindsay Weaver from Cheshire Young Carers said: *"We are thrilled to have received this prestigious honour for the work we do to support young people living with and caring for a parent with mental illness, substance misuse or physical disability. These young people are a constant inspiration to us and we are dedicated in continuing this work."*

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Award Committee Chair, former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said: *"Volunteer groups make such an important contribution to their communities, often without praise for the incredible job they do. In these difficult times their efforts are even more valuable. It's a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of Cheshire Young Carers with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and give official recognition for the benefits they bring to others' lives."*

More than 980 groups around the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man have now received this annual Award since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

For details of all this year's Award winners and information on how to nominate a group, visit: www.direct.gov.uk/qavs where a nomination form can be downloaded.

Rural Conference: 23rd June

Cheshire West & Chester Council is holding a Rural Conference on **Thursday 23rd June** (9.30am – 3.00pm) at **Oulton Park, Tarporley**. The event will consider the changing policy landscape and the implications of the Localism Bill (including Neighbourhood Planning) as well as looking at how the Rural Regeneration and Housing Strategies can assist Local Councils and other organisations to achieve sustainable communities through managed growth.

This event is an opportunity to: network with other attendees; learn from the experience and knowledge of others; as well as inform the future approach Cheshire West & Chester Council will take in supporting local communities.

For further information, and to register on-line (booking is essential), please visit: http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/business/regeneration/rural_agenda_and_market_to_wns/rural_development/rural_conference.aspx

“Localism and Rural Services in Cheshire” Open Day

You are cordially invited to the Cheshire Community Action Open Day (which will be followed by a Members’ only Open Evening) on **Thursday 7th July** at Chelford Village Hall (Knutsford Road, Chelford, SK11 9AS) entitled “Localism and Rural Services in Cheshire”.



A Member of the ACRE Network

If you represent a community organisation, a Village Hall Management Committee, a Parish Plan Steering Group, a Parish or Town Council or are an interested individual, come along to talk about your community needs or issues with a wide range of specialist advisers.

Cheshire Community Action has people able to help with community engagement, the issues around running a community based building, developing more volunteers and how to link into various networks and have your voice heard – to name but a few. This is a chance for you and your group members to come and find out about the work of CCA and how they can help you. There will be two sessions during the Open Day which is due to run from 3.30pm – 5.30pm:-

- 3.45pm** “An Overview of Funding Streams” by Stephen Wright
- 4.45pm** “Funding Streams from WREN” by Richard Smith

Following on from the Open Day will be a Members only evening which begins at 7.00pm (hot supper served from 6.30pm) and will conclude at 9.00pm.

As spaces are limited on the workshops and at the Members evening, registration is necessary for either or both of the events, before 30th June. For more details, call CCA on 01606 350042 or e-mail: enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk

Continuing Programme of 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 e.g. 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, the following strolls are due to take place:-

AREA	DATE	MEETING POINT
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 Gramam	Tues 13 th Sept	Entrance to Park, corner of Townshend & Fryer Road

For further information, contact Kirk Gannon-Hollis at Weaver Vale Housing Trust on 01606 813420 or e-mail: kirk.gannon-hollis@wvht.co.uk

The public is being urged to play its part in the evolution of a comprehensive strategy to recreate Chester as a world class city by 2027. On 16th June, Professor Steven Broomhead - the man chosen to lead the next phase of Chester's regeneration - launched a 12-week consultation on the draft 'One City Plan' (OCP).

The draft OCP looks at all areas of the city centre – including the historic core, Northgate Development and the Business, Cathedral and Artisans quarter – and details improvements for the Castle Gateway, Groves/riverfront, and amphitheatre, the Old Port, Gorse Stacks and Barrs areas. Also included is a Timeline chart detailing the proposed phasing of all potential proposals – although it is emphasised that this also is a basis for discussion and does not represent a fixed programme. All sections of the community are asked to contribute their thoughts and ideas on the 50-page, exciting mandate for change.

Professor Broomhead will head a new Strategic Board - a powerful combination of public and private sector representatives - charged with guiding the progress of the draft OCP. The Board will direct and commission all aspects of the drive to transform Chester into a world-class destination, including marketing, city management, arts, events and investment support.

To download a copy of the draft OCP, visit the Chester Renaissance website at:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/microsites/chester_renaissance/a_changing_city/one_city_plan/next_stage_of_consultation.aspx

All comments must be received by Thursday 8th September. There will also be a series of drop-in sessions where those interested will be able to talk to representatives of Cheshire West & Chester Council or Chester Renaissance:-

Wednesday 22nd June	26 Bridge Street (vacant shop)	(8.30am – 2.00pm)
Thursday 7th July	26 Bridge Street (vacant shop)	(4.00pm – 8.00pm)
Friday 15th July	Grosvenor Park	(12noon – 5.00pm)
Saturday 23rd July	Grosvenor Shopping Centre	(10.00am – 4.00pm)
Thursday 4th August	Forum Shopping Centre	(8.30am – 4.00pm)
Monday 15th August	Chester Renaissance, Visitor Centre	(4.00pm – 8.00pm)

Forthcoming Events in the Northwich & Rural North area

Marbury Park Fun, Food & Fitness Day!

Sunday 26th June (11.00 am – 4.00pm)

Lots of fun activities including sport & play development; healthy food demonstrations; FOAM; cycling projects and smoothie bike; seed planting; and orienteering to name but a few!

* * *

Northwich Carnival

Saturday 2nd July (Verdin Park, Northwich)

Parade leaves Denton Drive at 1.00pm, Crowning Queen at 3.00pm, Arena entertainment from 4.00pm onwards - Cheshire's strongest man competition; fair; dancing; pipe band; silver band; dog display and much more!

* * *

Medieval Festival

13th & 14th August (10am – 5pm at Verdin Park, Northwich)

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Medieval Britain with combat displays, medieval village, market place, real ale bar, medieval parade and much more!

Tickets (£7 for adults, £2 for children (3-17 years) and £5 for OAPs) available at Northwich Information Centre, or telephone 0845 241 7868 or visit:

<http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/majorevents>

Diabetes Essentials: is a specifically designed education programme targeted at people with newly diagnosed or existing Type 2 diabetes. These sessions give people the chance to learn more about diabetes management and will allow the time and opportunity to learn from a health professional specialising in diabetes who will present information in a simple and easy to understand way. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet other people with diabetes and learn from their experiences as well as ask questions to everyone present at the sessions. Leaflets on all subjects covered will be provided during the sessions.

Included in the sessions is: *general information about what diabetes actually is; the different types of diabetes; monitoring and managing diabetes; the prevention of long-term health problems; healthy eating; physical activity; foot care; as well coping skills for dealing with diabetes in everyday life.* People attending are welcome to bring one other person with them - the person that does the shopping and cooking in the household, if not the person with diabetes, is particularly encouraged to attend.

The sessions are approximately 2½ hours in duration and are delivered by a qualified health professional, currently a registered dietitian, and are open to people from the Western Cheshire area. They run twice a week on mornings and afternoons, with two monthly evening sessions, at the following venues:-

- ⇒ **Cheshire County Sports Club** (Plas Newton Lane, Chester)
- ⇒ **Cheshire County Sports Club Clubhouse** (Mannings Lane North, Chester)
- ⇒ **The Masonic Lodge, Orchard Suite** (Chester Road, Ellesmere Port)

If you would like to attend one of the sessions, call Therapy Services on 01244 365234 or if you would like more information, e-mail sarah.fitzgerald@coch.nhs.uk

This is a self referral service and patients should ring the appointment line directly for information on days and times of sessions.

* * *

5 Ways to Wellbeing events: Health and wellbeing is important in our own and our customer's lives, especially in these times of economic uncertainty. Supporting People, in partnership with Public Health, Area Partnership Boards and Adult Social Care & Health, would like to invite you to attend one of the remaining 5 Ways events:-

Tuesday 21st June *Blacon Children's Centre, Chester*
Thursday 30th June *Northwich Memorial Hall*

These events are designed for participants to develop an understanding of 5 Ways to Health and Wellbeing and to explore how we can practically embed 5 Ways into our lives and that of our customers To Make it Real. The events run from 9.30am – 4.30pm and include lunch.



ways to
Health &
Wellbeing

For further information or to make a booking, please e-mail: capstickwalsh@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk with your full contact details.

* * *

First Our Place Community Award: Many congratulations to **Margo Burrows**, Resource Worker at Ellesmere Port Healthy Living Centre, on receiving the first ever Our Place Community Award, in recognition for her many years of service to the local community and her commitment to making Ellesmere Port a better place to live which has had a positive effect on many people in the town.

* * *

Talking Food, Taking Action: this project has recently won the Centre for Public Scrutiny's (CfPS) community influence award for its pioneering work in Ellesmere Port. The CfPS is the national leader for scrutiny and accountability in public services and the 2011 awards recognise and reward best practice in the scrutiny of local decision-making. The project worked with residents from across the North West to consider the question: "what can be done to make it easier for people to get healthier food?"

The award focused on the work carried out in the Westminster area of Ellesmere Port. In 2010, 20 Westminster residents came together to investigate food issues and set out their priorities for gaining better access to healthy food. They came up with a series of recommendations to tackle access to healthy food which are now being acted upon.

The group in Ellesmere Port has formed as "Westminster Food Action" and is supported by local partners, including NHS Western Cheshire and Groundwork UK. "Westminster Food Action" recently held their first cooking session at the Links Healthy Living Centre, which will continue every Monday throughout June and July (see below) at Westminster Community Centre. For further information, visit: <http://www.ourlife.org.uk/ourlife/en/campaigns/talking-food-taking-action/>

* * *

Westminster Food Action: started their **Monday Munchies** on 13th June, supported by the Community Food Programme at Ellesmere Port's Links Healthy Living Centre. Held every Monday from 4.00 - 6.00pm, you can come along and share your love of food, improve your cooking skills and take home your dish to enjoy! The sessions cost just 50p to cover the cost of food. Telephone 0151 356 6970 or e-mail: westminsterfood@gmail.com if you would like to go along.

Some of the members are now accessing the allotments at the back of B&Q and a meeting is planned to look at how they can bring growing to Westminster. They are hoping to work with the Our Place team, Street Scene and a Housing provider to plant some raised beds. The local Children's Centre is also meeting with them towards the end of June to look at how they can work with them further.

There is also a site visit to a potential Community Shop / Food Co-op venue and a meeting with Sustain planned in June - but the group desperately need to recruit more volunteers to enable the food Co-op to happen.

* * *

"Big Lunch" events: Sunday 5th June saw numerous "Big Lunch" events held across the country. Locally, Ellesmere Port's Links Health Living Centre took part in this popular event with a Big Lunch at Whitby Park, organised by Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPNAVCO) - thankfully it didn't rain.....much!

Community Food Worker, Ann Lanceley, demonstrated how to make healthy wraps with delicious healthy fillings such as fish, salsa and salads with light and tasty dressings. People were able to get advice and handy tips on how to 'healthy up' their favourite recipes, as well as lots of family-friendly healthy recipes to take away with them.



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

Due to annual leave, we won't be publishing a July edition, but instead, our readers can look forward to a bumper edition mid-August!