

# 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, some fantastic news for **Blacon Community Trust** as they are the latest recipients of the Prime Minister's Big Society Award! **BCT**, a social enterprise in Chester offering a wide range of community-based activities and services, all focused on "building a better Blacon", was set up in 1984 and involves its 16,000-strong community in finding solutions to local problems.

As well as providing education and welfare support to children, young people and their families, more innovative projects include a furniture reuse project, minibus service for elderly residents, a programme to encourage cycling and a research project involving six Universities to reduce energy use for Blacon as a model for other UK communities. **BCT** has also led residents in taking part in Sustainable Blacon's Low Carbon Communities Challenge, a national scheme funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to reduce energy consumption. Estimates show household energy use has fallen significantly in the first year. Last year 102 volunteers were engaged in their sustainability work alone!

The Big Society Awards were set up by the Prime Minister in November 2010 with the aim of acknowledging individuals and organisations across the UK that demonstrate the Big Society in their work or activities. In so doing, the aim is also to galvanise others to follow.

**BCT** was nominated for the award by Cheshire West and Chester Council, recognising and supporting all of the hard work of the charity in transforming Blacon over the last 27 years, engaging local residents and organisations and building a real sense of community spirit. The Prime Minister congratulated everyone at **BCT**, the volunteers and the whole community and commended them as a fantastic example of what the Big Society can achieve.

*"It's an honour for Blacon Community Trust to receive the Big Society Award from the Prime Minister. BCT has worked very hard recently to ensure sustainability. It's great that the drive and commitment of the residents, volunteers and organisations working in Blacon, together with that of our staff, has been recognised. Blacon is a brilliant community to live and work in. It has real heart. Organisations make things possible but it's local people here that make things happen - and keep them going".*

Clare Babbs, Blacon Community Trust Chair

More information can be found on the BCT website at: <http://www.blacon.org.uk/>  
Visit Sustainable Blacon (for its environmental sustainability work) at:  
[www.sustainableblacon.org.uk](http://www.sustainableblacon.org.uk)

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Our latest West Cheshire Together Partnership Network Event took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November, where around 140 representatives from across the area enjoyed a variety of presentations and discussions in the majestic setting of the Guildhall in Chester. Entitled “*Changing Times II*”, this event sought to brief delegates on the work being undertaken to respond to the changing context for public service delivery, and to look at what more needs to happen. Chaired by Steve Jennings, Chief Executive of Weaver Vale Housing Trust, Steve skilfully guided the proceedings through a great variety of interesting and relevant presentations and discussions.

John Tizard from the Centre for Public Service Partnerships gave the opening presentation entitled “*Localism: Opportunities and Challenges*”. Following on from the presentation on the rapidly changing national context he gave last year, John gave an update spelling out the continuing need to respond to resource restrictions, moving beyond traditional approaches to public service delivery, adopting a variety of approaches, and being clear about the outcomes we are striving towards. There then followed a series of presentations seeking to give a flavour of how we are rising to the challenge. Alison Amesbury (Housing Manager with Cheshire West and Chester Council) updated on the changing landscape for social and affordable housing. This set out the very real challenges around housing and also identified some of the successes we can achieve if we respond to these challenges positively.



Judith Burbidge (Neighbourhood Manager with Weaver Vale Housing Trust, pictured left with Paul Hickson, CWAC Neighbourhood Manager) described the approach to community engagement in West Winsford - the 'GGO' area (Greenfields Park, Glebe Green and Over). The energy and enthusiasm of volunteers and partners in this area was captured well in a short video which gave the morning a real lift.

Similarly, the work being undertaken to empower the community in the Rudheath and Witton wards was presented collectively by James Ollier, Sarah Barnes, Tom Davies, Richard Thresh and Colin Judkins (*pictured here with Steve Newson, CWAC Neighbourhood Manager*), where again the enthusiasm of key individuals in the community is being put to good use in a range of local projects.



Phill Bamford, (Planning Manager with Chester West and Chester Council) then described the new approach to development planning, placing communities in the driving seat of the development of Neighbourhood Plans, which will set out policies around the development and use of land in their neighbourhood - many of our local communities are responding positively to this challenge.

Delegates were reminded that these were a flavour of what is going on in West Cheshire and many other developments, projects and local plans are being put into place in response to the challenging context for public service delivery. Two further presentations sought to spotlight further work required: What more do we need to be doing? Julie Webster (Director for Public Health with NHS Western Cheshire) described the need for us to consider the “root causes” of the issues and inequalities we need to address: this will form the basis for the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is being aligned to a refresh of the current Sustainable Community Strategy.

Steve Robinson (Cheshire West and Chester Council's Chief Executive) described the partnership proposal recently submitted to Government for the establishment of a Community Budget approach for West Cheshire. This looks at how, through aligning and pooling budgets around shared priority outcomes, West Cheshire plc can drive locally responsive public services (see *article below*).

Participants took place in lively round-table discussions to share thoughts on the opportunities and challenges presented. They also shared thoughts on the particular challenges set out in the Cheshire West and Chester Council Revenue Budget Consultation for 2012-13 which runs **until 31st December**. Visit: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/> and click on 'Budget Consultation' to find out more and take part.

Further networking took place over a well-deserved lunch, which included the opportunity to look further at local working activity in the colourful displays staffed by the Area Working teams. There was also a display as part of the White Ribbon Campaign (see *article on page 8*).

Our next West Cheshire Together Partnership Network Event will take place in April 2012 and details will be advertised in the Partnerships Bulletin when they are available. Make sure you sign up early as this event was over-subscribed!

Supporting paperwork and presentations from the event can be viewed at: [http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp\\_network\\_event\\_15th\\_novembe.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_network_event_15th_novembe.aspx)

## Community Budgets: What are they?

The concept of Community Budgets was introduced in the Government's Spending Review in 2010. The rationale is that a Community Budget enables public service providers to come together and agree how services can be better delivered, how the money to fund them should be managed and how they will organise themselves. As such, they support local councils, communities and individuals to rise to the challenge of tackling intractable, complex and interconnected problems and are well suited to issues requiring multi-agency solutions rather than those that can be solved by a single agency or service. This approach isn't just about pooling budgets: it's about exploring the benefits of aligning and pooling resources with a clear purpose.

A Community Budget is designed locally and not by Government, but it does require Government to work differently. The pilot projects currently being sought are intended to explore the processes involved in co-designing Community Budgets (a) at the neighbourhood level; and (b) for a whole-place. Four pilot areas, two for each type, are currently being sought. The identified pilots will benefit from the establishment of a joint team of officials from both local service providers and Government which will support development work over an eight month period. If not selected as pilot areas, then it is possible to become part of a Challenge and Learning Network, supporting the pilot areas and quickly benefiting from their work.

**The West Cheshire Response:** The Expressions of Interest submitted for West Cheshire relate to: *"A Borough-wide community budget to drive responsive local services, social action and the highest quality of life in the UK for all residents"* and *"The development of a community budget for the four neighbourhoods of Stanney, Rossmore, Westminster and Grange in Ellesmere Port in order to put communities in the driving seat, to tackle the divisions and create 'one nation' across the area, and to shape the most responsive services in the UK in a way that can be replicated, adopted and adapted in other localities"*.

Cheshire West and Chester Council would like to thank all partners who contributed to the Community Budget Expression of Interest documents which were successfully submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 10<sup>th</sup> November. These Expressions of Interest reflect the discussions held with partners over the past few weeks and the shared ambition of 'West Cheshire Together' moving forward. The submissions champion both the excellent partnership working that has taken place in West Cheshire to date, but also the desire that exists to implement new and innovative ways of working together to improve the lives of residents.

A decision on the four successful pilot areas is anticipated by mid-December. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact Laurence Ainsworth, Senior Policy Manager, on 01244 977147 or email: [laurence.ainsworth@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:laurence.ainsworth@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## Reasons to Celebrate

2012 is set to be a year packed with events and opportunities providing plenty of reasons for communities in West Cheshire to celebrate. Most notably is the arrival of the Olympic Torch to Chester in May, quickly followed by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June.

Chester is planning to stage one of the most spectacular welcomes the city has ever seen to mark the arrival of the Olympic Torch on 29<sup>th</sup> May. *Cheshire Dance* will form a unique creative partnership with "Walk the Plank" who, with their team of aerialists, pyrotechnicians, light and sound designers are guaranteed to dazzle the West Cheshire audience. It will be a unique opportunity to come together and celebrate this landmark event and show the rest of the world a true Cheshire welcome.

The following weekend, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, accompanied by an extended bank holiday, provides a fantastic opportunity for individuals, groups, businesses and communities to host their own celebrations by organising street parties, lighting beacons and creating events throughout the borough. Buckingham Palace will be co-ordinating a programme of events as part of the celebrations scheduled to run from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June. To coincide with the national schedule, Big Jubilee Lunches are planned throughout the borough for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the Lighting of Beacons on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is creating a Diamond Jubilee Toolkit and hopes to provide a platform for communities and event organisers to share information and access support. This 'Tool Kit' will contain practical information including how to request a street closure as well as guidance on insurance. It will also include activity ideas, tips about promoting your event and funding.

Although it seems like a long way off, this is an ideal time to put these dates in your diary and start thinking about how you can get involved in the celebrations. Now is the time to begin planning for an event in your community, whether it's a Street Party, Big Lunch, Beacon or something completely different. Further information about the Diamond Jubilee, along with FAQs and event guidance, is now available on the Lord Lieutenant's website at:

[http://www.cheshirelieutenancy.org.uk/the\\_queens\\_diamond\\_jubilee\\_20.aspx](http://www.cheshirelieutenancy.org.uk/the_queens_diamond_jubilee_20.aspx) or the Council's website at: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/jubilee](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/jubilee) For information on the Olympic Torch relay, visit: [www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/index.php](http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/index.php)

If you're planning a Jubilee event in your area, then please e-mail Nicky Waters at: [nicky.waters@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.waters@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) who can signpost you to information and help support your event.



## Volunteer Community Car Scheme: Drivers Wanted

Cheshire Community Development Trust is looking for willing volunteer Drivers to join a Community Car Scheme operating within Northwich, Winsford and the surrounding areas.

The scheme aims to help those who are isolated and perhaps don't have any friends or family to help them, to attend hospital or doctor's appointments or a range of other appointments or events.

As a volunteer you can give as much or as little time as you are able. All we ask is that you have a car, are willing to undertake a CRB check and enjoy meeting new people and helping out within your local community. We are able to pay you some expenses to cover the cost of petrol etc.

If you are interested or would like to know more, contact Tracey Walford on 01606 723180 or e-mail: [twalford@cheshirecdt.org.uk](mailto:twalford@cheshirecdt.org.uk)



The quarterly meeting of the West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October at Castle Park in Frodsham. In a packed and full agenda, partners considered the following:-

- ⇒ a presentation on the work of the Cheshire and Warrington **Local Enterprise Partnership** since its establishment in March 2011. Work so far has focused on building networks and contacts, building an understanding of infrastructure and investment needs, and the assets we have to build on;
- ⇒ a presentation on Government thinking around '**Community Budgets**' where local partners focus on clear outcomes and design joined up services to tackle those outcomes in a more integrated, collective and smarter way. This approach may involve pooled or aligned budgets, but is not just about finance, but moving to more joint commissioning, joint systems, joint processes and joint ways of working. In return, national government will endeavour to support partners to tackle any issues and address any barriers that frustrate local partnership working. Partners agreed to support work to submit an expression of interest for West Cheshire (at both neighbourhood and borough level) and this has since been submitted to Government and we are awaiting a response (see *article on page 3*);
- ⇒ a brief update on work being undertaken by a sub-group of LSP partners around **Reshaping the Partnerships Landscape** to ensure our partnerships framework is fit for purpose both in terms of the evolving agenda for partnership and collaborative working, and its relationship with structures at sub-national and local levels. A prospectus describing the proposed reshaping will shortly be issued and will be the basis for detailed discussions with partners up until the end of this year. The intention will be for new arrangements to be in place by April 2012;
- ⇒ a draft **Health & Wellbeing Strategy / Light touch refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy** document called "*Living Well Together*" which will soon be launched for consultation and will run until mid-January 2012. The focus of the consultation will be to gain partner views on the key elements of the strategy: particularly the focus on tackling "root causes" of problems and maximising the benefits of the "assets" we have in West Cheshire;
- ⇒ a report on the 25 applications received as part of the **Second Homes Taxation funding allocation 2011/12**. The applications amounted to over £150k against a pot of £30k and a shortlist of five projects was agreed based on those which best supported the delivery of West Cheshire Together strategic priorities and which also represented innovative partnership working. Unsuccessful applicants have been signposted to other potential sources of funding;
- ⇒ an update on the work of the **Third Sector Assembly** in West Cheshire. Information from the Hidden Power report refresh revealed the diversity and far reaching role of the third sector in West Cheshire, with 122,000 volunteers, resulting in weekly contributions of over 145,000 hours of time, equivalent to 3,800 full-time jobs. Through the TSA, the sector had sought to keep up to date and respond to a changing landscape, particularly recognising the fact that, with the Localism agenda, the third sector is a key partner. Work is ongoing to strengthen representation, support commissioning processes and build relationships with other sectors. Achievements include events such as the Big Drop Ins, furniture recycling and the opening of a new multicultural "Unity Centre" last month.

A **briefing note** and the **minutes** of the meeting can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: [http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp\\_20th\\_october\\_2011.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_20th_october_2011.aspx)

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnerships Adviser, on 01244 977561 or e-mail: [andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## **Health & Wellbeing:**

**“Five to Strive Project” - Creating Confident Communities:** Congratulations to Cheshire West and Chester Council for being highly commended for the “Five to Strive Project” at the North West Public Health Awards 2011. The Council developed this partnership project to address health inequalities through action on the social determinants of health. It focused on the areas of Winsford, Ellesmere Port and Blacon - these consistently rank in the 10% most deprived Super Output Areas in England. The project aimed to improve the well-being of individuals and communities by building confidence and capability through:

- ✓ *Delivery of a well-being course in the targeted areas*
- ✓ *Assigning volunteer-mentors to support the achievement of personal well-being goals*
- ✓ *Developing a ‘community friendly’ toolkit to measure well-being, based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing*

**Public Health News:** The latest edition of Public Health News is now available on the West Cheshire Together website at:

[http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic\\_themes/health\\_and\\_wellbeing.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing.aspx)

The aim of this newsletter is to provide partners with the latest developments from the local Public Health Team.

**Early Years Infant Feeding & Nutrition Newsletter:** The fourth edition on the Early Years Infant Feeding & Nutrition Newsletter has been issued and is available at:

[http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic\\_themes/health\\_and\\_wellbeing/healthy\\_weight.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing/healthy_weight.aspx)

In this issue you’ll find a host of information about what’s happening in your local area to support the infant feeding agenda, including a focus on the latest breastfeeding initiatives. You can also read more about the importance of Healthy Start vitamins and the latest evidence from Baby friendly including an update on Baby Friendly Initiatives (BFI) in the community.

For further information on Health and Wellbeing news, contact Claire Wildgoose, NHS Western Cheshire Partnerships Manager, on 01244 650346 or e-mail: [claire.wildgoose@nhs.net](mailto:claire.wildgoose@nhs.net)

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## **Children & Young People:**

As we reported last month, a refreshed West Cheshire Children’s Trust has recently developed a new logo and brand and one of the first documents this logo has been applied to is the Children’s Plan 2011-12, which sets out what the partners are aiming to achieve between now and March 2012. Their focus will be on:-

- prevention, early help, family support and ensuring better health
- children in care and care leavers
- children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs

The Children’s Plan can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together partnerships website at:

[http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/new\\_identity\\_for\\_west\\_cheshire.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/new_identity_for_west_cheshire.aspx)

### **Road Safety Week** **21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Road Safety Week** is a community event that aims to inspire you, whoever you are, to promote road safety to people around you, during the Week and beyond! For more information on ways to get involved, visit: <http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk/>

The Third Sector Assembly (TSA) is an independent voice for all voluntary, community, faith, social enterprises and other not for profit groups and organisations in the West Cheshire area. Latest news includes:-



**Rooms 4 Hire:** This project was originally commissioned some five years ago by the then Local Strategic Partnership for Chester (*Chester in Partnership*). At that point it was a partnership project with *Chester Voluntary Action* to develop an online database for (particularly) low cost rooms for hire as a voluntary and community sector resource.

*Rooms 4 Hire* is an information and contact-driven database, not a booking agency. There is a real need within the third sector for information and access to suitable and low cost venues. Conversely, some organisations and communities have suitable rooms which are under-used. The database works on information supplied by the venue including size, parking, facilities and disabled access. Booking is direct with the venue and contact details are therefore also listed and the data is refreshed on a regular basis.

TSA, working with the *West Cheshire Together Stronger Communities Group* and *Chester Voluntary Action*, is beginning an initiative to get this valuable resource “on the map” in West Cheshire. The aim is to:-

- ⇒ improve the awareness of this resource for organisations and groups looking for rooms to hire and for those with rooms for hire, and more generally within the sector itself;
- ⇒ extend it out to cover the whole of the West Cheshire area (currently most venues listed are Chester based)
- ⇒ improve access to the resource by having web links more readily available through the TSA website and links from third sector networks and infrastructure organisations.

The *Rooms 4 Hire* website is now hosted by Cheshire West and Chester Council, with the data and content managed by Chester Voluntary Action. Improvements are currently being made to raise the profile of the *Rooms 4 Hire* project on the Council’s website and you can access the facility at:- <http://apps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/CommunityRooms/Public/Home.aspx>

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**Compact News:** The TSA Compact Implementation Group celebrated National Compact Week (7 - 11 November) by producing a short leaflet explaining the Cheshire West and Chester Compact - what it is and how it works to improve the working relationships within the third sector and between the third sector and the public sector. The leaflet is aimed specifically at smaller groups and organisations but is designed as a quick and easy guide for all to this important part of partnership working and service delivery. It was distributed at the LSP Network Event on 15<sup>th</sup> November within delegates’ information packs and is just the start of a wider awareness campaign to help embed Compact Codes and principles within partnership working across the borough – it can be viewed at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/Compact%20Basic%20Guide%20Nov%202011.pdf>

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**Communications Survey 2011:** Carried out during the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September, this survey posed questions to TSA networks, organisations and individuals around the type, amount and relevance of information currently received and preferences for future communication needs. A full report on the outcomes of the survey is currently being produced and we will report on results in next month’s bulletin.

However, one response to the survey results which has already been put in place is a new fortnightly TSA e-mail newsletter which was launched last month. The first edition can be viewed at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news.aspx>

For further details and any information on the Third Sector Assembly, contact Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator, on 01244 323527 / 07801 015261 or e-mail: [anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk](mailto:anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk) / [anne.lancaster@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:anne.lancaster@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## White Ribbon Campaign: Pledge your Support



Cheshire West and Chester Council and its partners are organising a series of high profile events to mark this year's White Ribbon Day. A Pink Fire Engine sporting a white ribbon, a giant washing line with 588 white T-shirts, and a one-mile walk are just some of the activities that will take place on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November** to encourage people to take a stand against domestic abuse.

The events mark the launch of the borough's bid to gain White Ribbon status, demonstrating that domestic abuse won't be tolerated in West Cheshire and that public, voluntary and community bodies are working together to raise the profile of the issue, change attitudes and encourage people in abusive relationships to seek help.

The focus on 25<sup>th</sup> November will be on men in West Cheshire standing together to show that they don't condone or accept domestic violence. A number of positive West Cheshire male role models will be getting involved to help reinforce this message and show their support for the campaign:-

- ⇒ *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November:* Ellesmere Port Boxing Club members wore white ribbons to add their voices to the campaign
- ⇒ *Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November:* Chester Football Club will be posing for photos wearing white ribbons at their game at the Deva Stadium against Matlock Town
- ⇒ *Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November:* The DeeSign Deaf Choir and one of Chester's Giants will be supporting Chester Women's Aid who will be handing out ribbons and collecting money by Chester Town Hall between 11.00am and 1.00pm
- ⇒ *Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November:* Cheshire Jets will be posing for photographs wearing white ribbons at their fixture against the Newcastle Eagles at the Northgate Arena in Chester
- ⇒ *Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November:* Northwich Rugby Union FC will be showing their support by wearing white ribbons at their fixture

And on White Ribbon Day itself – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November - here's what to look out for:-

- **Northwich:** The Pink Fire Engine can be seen at the start of its tour of the borough at 9.30am in the town centre near Marks & Spencer
- **Chester:** Catch up with the Pink Fire Engine at 11.00am at the Council's HQ building in Nicholas Street, then join in with the one-mile walk through Chester city centre (leaving HQ at mid-day) to raise awareness about domestic abuse. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Eleanor Johnson, Council Leader Councillor Mike Jones, elected members and senior officers from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Council are among those walking the mile
- **Ellesmere Port:** Witness 588 White T-shirts being pegged on a giant washing line across Civic Square at 2.00pm – one T-shirt for each of the 588 domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police between April 2010 and March 2011 in the Ellesmere Port area. The Pink Fire Engine will also be on the square
- **Winsford:** The Pink Fire Engine will be by the old High Street at 4.00pm along with the main stage and Christmas market for the lights switch-on

As well as going along to these events and wearing a white ribbon on 25<sup>th</sup> November, people are being encouraged to pledge their support for the campaign by visiting:

<http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/makepledge>

For further information or if you would like to be involved in the campaign, contact Angela Davies, Performance Manager, on 01244 977357 or e-mail: [angela.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:angela.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

As we have previously reported, the Council’s Locality Working Scrutiny Committee is reviewing the Council’s governance arrangements for locality working. At its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, this Committee met in informal and interactive workshop style to discuss how the Council should engage with its residents in the future. Contributions towards the discussion from the public were welcomed both before and during the Committee via Twitter and the meeting was webcast to encourage live and direct input from residents. The webcast can be viewed at:

[http://connect.cheshirewestandchester.public-i.tv/site/player/pl\\_v7.php?a=64811&t=0&m=wm&l=en\\_GB](http://connect.cheshirewestandchester.public-i.tv/site/player/pl_v7.php?a=64811&t=0&m=wm&l=en_GB)

Over 150 people watched the Scrutiny Committee “live” via the webcast and 36 tweets, four facebook messages and two e-mails were received. The interactive meeting is only one element of the review. The Scrutiny Committee will be continuing its fact finding and evidence gathering during the coming months. All the feedback and comments received during the review will help inform the recommendations that will be presented to the Council’s Executive in the spring.

The next meeting of the Locality Working Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November considered evidence relating to the five Area Partnership Boards in terms of achievements, examples of effective partnership working, aspirations and any additional support that would be helpful to the review. The Committee will continue to gather evidence on the effectiveness of the Area Partnership Boards, their achievements and what would people like to change and keep. Work on the review is continuing over the coming months and, again, all the evidence gathered will inform the recommendations to be presented to the Council’s Executive in the spring.

Whilst this review is ongoing, ward Councillors are discussing their own approach to Community Forums and re-establishing them across revised geographical areas to reflect the recent ward boundary changes.

As we go to print, the following Community Forums are scheduled as follows:-

<b>Hoole, Upton and Newton</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7.00pm, Newton Primary School, Chester</b>
<b>Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross &amp; Overleigh</b> (for Handbridge Park ward residents)	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 6.30pm, St Marks Christian Centre, Chester</b>
<b>Northwich Town</b> (for the wards of Winnington & Castle; Witton & Rudheath; Hartford & Greenbank; and Davenham & Moulton)	<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm (Market Place from 6.30pm), Northwich Memorial Hall (Hayhurst Room)</b>

Check the website at: [http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/community\\_forums.aspx](http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/community_forums.aspx) in case it has been necessary to make any changes to the information given above.

**HEDGE LAYING (BASIC INDUCTION) WORKSHOPS**  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December (10am – 3pm)**

Run by Cheshire Landscape Trust, in partnership with the Forestry Commission. Expert tuition will be given on hedge laying techniques and traditions. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring a packed lunch.

Places cost £20 and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. To book a place, contact Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01928 518018 or email: [cltooffice@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cltooffice@tiscali.co.uk)

## Feedback from recent Community Forums

The following is a round-up of recent Community Forum activity and forthcoming meetings:-

**Frodsham:** Met on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Castle Park House in Frodsham. The Forum began with a “Market Place” which is an opportunity for local people to meet organisational representatives and groups from within the area. Mid Cheshire Rail Users Group provided an update on its activities and further information can be obtained by visiting: <http://www.mcrua.org.uk>

Local residents welcomed the opportunity to find out more about the issues affecting the Frodsham area. The agenda included updates on Planning; the Council’s new Waste contract; consultation on the proposed Responsible Drinking Zone; plans for another Participatory Budgeting event; Frodsham matters; and the Council’s Revenue Budget Consultation 2012-13.

**Blacon:** Met on 1<sup>st</sup> November at Blacon High School and was attended by almost 50 residents who heard from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety Wardens as part of their regular updates. Following these, agenda items included:-

- ⇒ an update from the Blacon Community Trust Chair on the challenges facing the organisation over the summer and the changes and difficult decisions made to balance finances. BCT continues to provide essential services in Blacon and can now look to the future;
- ⇒ the latest from the organisers of the Chester Half Marathon on plans to build Chester races into greater events, including adding in a junior race. The route for the 2012 Half Marathon on 13<sup>th</sup> May will go through Blacon and residents were asked for their support;
- ⇒ an update on the Blacon Parade and the creation of the Blacon Asset Management Company. Further detail will be given at the next meeting in December.

Finally, residents viewed a 15 minute film recorded at this year’s Blacon Festival, capturing the array of activities and talent displayed.

**Date of next meeting:** *Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, Blacon High School (Community Wing). Agenda will focus on the Parade Development including a discussion around the new Health facility.*

## Volunteer Walk Leaders Training Course

“Get Fit on Foot” is pleased to offer you the chance to get involved in a local walking programme by training as a volunteer walk leader to support with the delivery of a regular walk in your community.

You are invited to sign up for the FREE walk leader training course being held in Frodsham on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November (9.30am – 12.30pm) at Castle Park, Frodsham where you will have the opportunity to find out all about walk leading.



The course will give you an overview of the health benefits of keeping moving, how to plan and organise a walk, the role of the walk leader and you will go on a demonstration walk so new leaders can see how it's done.

Places are available on a first come first served basis - contact Emma Landstrom, Sport Development Officer at Sport Cheshire, on 01606 305232 or email: [emma.landstrom@sportcheshire.org](mailto:emma.landstrom@sportcheshire.org)

## Local MYPs debate in the House of Commons

In 2011 the UK Youth Parliament carried out a nationwide poll of over 65,000 young people. The results of this poll identified the top five issues of concern for young people in the UK today:-

1. *Make Public Transport Cheaper, Better and Accessible for All*
2. *No to Tuition Fees, Yes to Graduate Tax*
3. *Zero Tolerance towards Bullying in Schools*
4. *End Child Poverty*
5. *A Greener Future for Britain*

Following this poll, members of the UK Youth Parliament recently sat in the House of Commons and identified “*Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all*” as their priority campaign, which will see young people across UK lobbying for change and action.



Cheshire Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) Daniel Palmer, Rose Proudfoot, Jessica Colston and Hannah McMurray all attended the event at the House of Commons on 4<sup>th</sup> November (see picture). The debate was chaired by the Speaker, Rt Hon John Bercow MP, following opening remarks from the Leader of the House, Rt Hon Sir George Young MP and Shadow Leader Maria Eagle MP. MYPs also meet the Children’s Minister, Tim Loughton MP and the Leader of the Opposition, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP.

Daniel said: “*Transport has been raised as a concern for young people by the UK Youth Parliament consistently and continually over the last ten years. Too often we are happily accepted as adults when it comes to parting with our pounds, but then treated like kids when it comes to having our voices heard. Over 65,000 young people already back our cause but they are too young to petition Parliament itself. We are asking the public to support our campaign with an online petition so that the Government and MPs sit up and take notice. It is all about what we can do now, to help the young people of today and the young people of tomorrow to make a better future for all*”.

This event marked the finale of Parliament Week – a new annual national awareness week which aims to build greater awareness, understanding and engagement with parliamentary democracy in the UK.

“*Cheshire Youth Parliament gives young people a voice on issues that matter to them. It provides a unique platform that enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Having engaged lots of young people from across Cheshire over the years, the UKYP gives young people a powerful voice which is heard and listened to by local and national government*”. Ron Davies, Youth Participation Worker for Connexions Cheshire

For further information, contact Ron Davies, Youth Participation Worker, Connexions Cheshire & Warrington, on 01606 305200 or e-mail: [Ronald.Davies@connexions-cw.co.uk](mailto:Ronald.Davies@connexions-cw.co.uk)

## Latest Updates from Area Teams

With so much activity happening across the Area Teams, some are now producing their own local updates giving feedback on activity, initiatives and achievements. As these are produced, we will signpost to them on the West Cheshire Together website via this bulletin.



The latest update from the **Northwich & Rural North Area Team** (October 2011) is available to view at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/NRN%20Oct%20News%20Issue%201.pdf>

The latest update from the **Winsford & Rural East Area Team** (October 2011) is also available at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/Winsford%20APB%20Bulletin%20Oct.pdf>

Chester's first ever eco-convention, organised by Sustainable Blacon, has been hailed a "fantastic success". More than 100 people attended the event at the University of Chester to see Sustainable Blacon showcase the practical ways it has tried to combat environmental problems in the community, as well as its plans for the future.



The event was chaired by Professor Stephen Broomhead, Chairman of Chester Renaissance. National and local speakers, including Baroness Worthington of Cambridge, Big Society Minister Andrew Stunnell and Alex Masri of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, gave national and international perspectives on how communities can focus on building a bigger and better society. As one of the events' major sponsors, Cheshire West and Chester Council Leader, Mike Jones, outlined the Council's vision and the support given to the work that has taken place in Blacon during the last decade. He highlighted that the Council had recently established a Sustainability Commission to find ways of becoming a carbon-neutral borough and the convention supported this work with Blacon as a vital community demonstration.

Ged Edwards, Sustainable Blacon's Chief Executive, and Roy Alexander from the University of Chester gave a local perspective on how communities can respond to climate change, and this was followed by workshops on housing, energy, green spaces, transport, health and education.

The calibre of speakers contributed to the success of the event and it is hoped to repeat this convention in the future.

For further information, contact Ged Edwards, Sustainable Blacon, on 01244 380150 or e-mail: [ged@sustainableblacon.org.uk](mailto:ged@sustainableblacon.org.uk)

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**SAVE MONEY, KEEP WARM:** Sustainable Blacon is offering a new service to groups in the West Cheshire area. It involves:

- A visit to the Sustainable Blacon Eco House to find out how to save money on your bills, keep warm
- An optional home visit to:
  - ✓ **Show** you where your house is losing heat with a Thermal Imaging Camera
  - ✓ Give you further advice at home, help you put this into practice
  - ✓ Some basic draught proofing if you need it

For further details, contact Ged Edwards (*details above*) or visit: [www.sustainableblacon.org.uk](http://www.sustainableblacon.org.uk)

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This Christmas, Blacon Young Peoples Partnership (*BYPP*) would like to give young people a Christmas present. A lot of their learners will not receive any presents and, with budget constraints, *BYPP* has not been able to take them on any trips or do anything nice with them.

So *BYPP* is thinking of making Christmas stockings for the learners, complete with small gifts. Please can you rummage in your cupboards at home and see if you have any unused, unwanted presents that you could donate to *BYPP*.

Contact Kate Reading at *BYPP* on 01244 371716 or e-mail: [kate@bypp.org.uk](mailto:kate@bypp.org.uk)

**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](mailto:lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)