

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to the first edition of the Partnerships Bulletin for 2010 and a happy new year to all our readers!

New for 2010 is our partnership website which “went live” on 8th January and can be accessed at:

www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk

The website contains all manner of information relating to the various elements of the partnerships framework including the LSP, the five thematic partnerships, five Area Partnership Boards and fourteen Community Forums. We hope it will raise the profile of partnership working across Cheshire West and Chester and be used by both partners and the public as a “first port of call” for all partnership information. The content will be further developed and continually updated to give consistent, regular, timely and targeted information. Feedback received so far has been very positive and you are encouraged to send any comments to Lyn Raynor in the Partnerships and Area Working Team on 01244 972370 or e-mail: lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk who will be the key custodian of the site.

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A Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cheshire: Latest

The consultation on a new Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cheshire, which was carried out jointly with consultations on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the Local Transport Plan, ended on the 13th January. Thank you to those who participated and sent in comments and contributions, all of which will be taken into consideration in drafting the final document.

We are now working to a very tight timescale and a re-drafted version will be considered at the next meeting of *West Cheshire Together* on 28th January. Whilst the Sustainable Community Strategy is a partnership document, it does need to have the formal endorsement of Cheshire West and Chester’s Full Council - this should follow on 25th February.

The new Sustainable Community Strategy will ‘go live’ from 1st April 2010, with a public launch at our next LSP Network event soon after. The document will then provide a framework for guiding and informing the work of the West Cheshire Together partnership for years to come.

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, on 01244 402400 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Third Sector Assembly News

The first *Third Sector Assembly Wider Partnership Seminar* took place on 1st December 2009 at the Guildhall in Chester, providing an opportunity for all organisations and groups in the voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise and not-for-profit sector to come together and discuss a range of strategic and locally important items. The agenda included:-

- Interactive workshops on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Transport Plan and Local Development Framework Core Strategy consultations. This was an opportunity for the sector to look at the issues identified through other LSP stakeholder events and to start the thinking on how the third sector will be involved in delivery;
- A workshop on the emerging Community Cohesion Strategy, identifying what local groups and organisations are already doing to promote and encourage community cohesion and community harmony and who needs to be involved in the strategy's further development;
- Information on "Rhino Mania" and the opportunities available for local groups and organisations to be involved in this exciting community arts project.

The afternoon sessions explored a number of questions around the Third Sector Assembly itself including:-

- What do organisations and groups want from the Third Sector Assembly?
- How can we help with specific issues, such as developing networks and supporting organisations to bid for commissioned services in the future?

Feedback from the event will be considered by the Third Sector Assembly Management Group in January and actions arising will be incorporated into the Third Sector Assembly work plan.

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The Third Sector Assembly is producing a series of briefing papers aimed particularly at smaller organisations and groups on strategic issues, policies and procedures. The first - "**Commissioning and the Third Sector – An Initial Guide**" - gives basic information on commissioning, aimed at those smaller organisations whose needs are not being met by the information and events currently available. A second paper will be issued shortly containing more detailed commissioning and procurement information, informed by the Commissioning Workshop held on 1st December.

There are plans to produce briefing papers on the Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy shortly, the latter being informed following the consultation process to produce a new Sustainable Community Strategy (which ended on 13th January) and the wider Third Sector Assembly seminar referred to above.

For copies of the briefing papers, or further information on the work of the Third Sector Assembly, contact Anne Lancaster on 07801 015261 or 01244 323527 or e-mail: anne.lancaster@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk

Council Budget Consultation 2010/11: Final reminder to "Have Your Say"!

A reminder that Cheshire West and Chester Council's 2010/11 budget proposals are available to view on the Council's website at:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/about_the_council/council_consultations/budget_consultation.aspx

The consultation closes on **29th January** and the information gathered will help inform the budget to be set by the Council on 25th February.

“Out and About” in Ellesmere Port

Target: Wellbeing is a programme which aims to help people achieve healthier and happier lives, with over 90 projects that increase exercise, encourage healthier eating and promote mental wellbeing. Funded by £8.9m from the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, it is managed by Groundwork for the benefit of targeted, disadvantaged communities across the North West.



As part of this programme, the “*Out and About*” project is being delivered in Ellesmere Port by Groundwork Cheshire and offers a great way for people to “be active”, one of the “five ways to wellbeing” targets. A Community “*Out and About*” officer works with local communities and partner organisations to encourage people to more fully utilise their local parks and green spaces as a leisure and healthy lifestyles resource. The programme of activity each year includes cycling; guided walks around the local parks and green spaces; wild flower seed collection and sowing; and themed events.

The project aims to improve or increase:-

- ✓ a sense of belonging within the local community;
- ✓ the number of people cycling and walking;
- ✓ the number of people using open space for physical activity; and
- ✓ the number of people being active in their daily lifestyles.

Key partners working on the *Target: Wellbeing* project include: Age Concern Cheshire; Cheshire West and Chester Council; Cheshire Cycling; Cycling Projects; NHS Western Cheshire; Sure Start; Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations (EPNAVCO); and the Volunteer Bureau.

For more information, contact James Kerr at Groundwork on 01606 723160 or e-mail: james.kerr@groundwork.org.uk or alternatively visit the website at www.targetwellbeing.org.uk

The following appointments have been confirmed, as part of finalising service restructuring within the Partnerships and Area Working Team at Cheshire West and Chester Council:-

- ⇒ **Andrea Mageean** has been appointed to the post of **Partnership Manager**; and
- ⇒ **Robbie Taylor** has been appointed to the post of **Area Manager** for the **Northwich and Rural North** area.

Andrea and Robbie took up their roles on 4th January, though there will inevitably be a period of cross-over until a formal handover of tasks takes effect during the first few weeks.

Until further notice, Andrea can be contacted on 01244 402400 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and Robbie can be contacted on 01244 972224 or e-mail: robbie.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from the Thematic Leads

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five thematic partnerships met on 14th December.

The group considered partnership bids for Second Homes Taxation funding and the following approvals were made:-

- ✓ Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership: £10k for the “Green Doctor” project to be piloted in Winsford (see article on page 5);
- ✓ West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing: £38,400 for the “Doctor Foster” segmentation project; and
- ✓ Business, Enterprise and Culture Thematic Partnership: £40,000 for the “Skills for Care and Hospitality” research project and £250 for an Arson Prevention breakfast seminar for local businesses.

The group received a presentation from Andy Glover and Gary Atkins from the sub-regional “Link Up” network outlining the planned **faith action audit** to be undertaken in 2010 (reported in the December bulletin). The group gave their support to the audit, the results of which will contribute to a planned update of the “Hidden Power” report evidencing the contribution and scale of Third Sector contributions to service delivery.

If you are from a faith-based organisation and wish to find out more about the faith sector audit, further details can be obtained from www.linkup.uk.net or by contacting Hazel Gilbert on 01244 343464 or e-mail: office@linkup.uk.net



The group also received updates on the “Total Place” pilot project in Ellesmere Port; progress with an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy; and emerging issues from the Local Area Agreement Annual review (2009/10).

Under a new bi-monthly arrangement, the next meeting will be held jointly with the Chairs of the five Area Partnership Boards on 18th January.

For further information, contact Alison Armstrong, LSP Director, on 01244 973336 or e-mail: alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Local Area Agreement Review 2009/10

Through the thematic partnerships, work is now underway on the final Local Area Agreement (LAA) annual review to be carried out during the life of the current Agreement. As before, the review will be ‘light touch’, focusing firmly on delivery informed by the recent Comprehensive Area Assessment and resolving any outstanding issues arising from the last review. The review process will also provide an opportunity to refresh the economic targets exempted from reward lockdown in April 2009.

Proposed amendments to the LAA will be submitted to Government Office for the North West by 25th January to inform negotiations during February. The revised LAA must be adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council by 12th March prior to Ministerial approval by the end of the month.

For further information, contact Alison Armstrong, LSP Director, on 01244 973336 or e-mail: alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group: Latest

The group met on 7th December and 8th January and is currently looking at the best practice environmental sustainability “green flags” from around the country to see how they might be applied in Cheshire West and Chester. As part of the group’s continuing development, the Environment Agency will be welcomed onto the partnership at its next meeting.

The group has been successful in securing £10k via the LSP from the Second Homes Taxation fund to support the Green Doctor project – a partnership project involving Groundwork, Weaver Vale Housing Trust, Muir Housing, Riverside Housing, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire Police, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Energy Projects Plus and others) to be delivered as a pilot on the Glebe Green and Greenfields housing estates in Winsford. If successful, the project will be rolled out across the borough.

The project aims to provide a free service to:-

- ✓ reduce fuel poverty and fuel debt;
- ✓ reduce environmental impact of homes;
- ✓ raise awareness of issues that contribute to climate change;
- ✓ increase levels of recycling;
- ✓ recruit Green Champion volunteers to deliver and sustain the project; and
- ✓ enable people to take up other services that they are currently not confident enough to take up through signposting and support.

The project will also employ three local unemployed people – the first Green Doctor assistant has been employed through the Future Jobs Fund and is based with Groundwork.

For further information, contact Jane Staley on 01606 723163 or e-mail:

jane.staley@groundwork.org.uk

Free Grant Funding Seminar

Are you from a small voluntary organisation, school or community group planning a charity, heritage, education, health, youth or environment project?

Would you like to meet advisors from grant-making organisations and gain advice on common mistakes made in writing bids and what makes a successful grant application?

If the answer is yes, come and find out more at a free evening information and advice event:

Date: Monday 8th February

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port

Funding advisors from the *Big Lottery Fund - Awards For All*, *Heritage Lottery Fund - Young Roots* and *Children in Need* will be giving presentations about their grants. Places are limited and early booking is advised either by telephoning 01244 977974 or e-mail:

FundingTrainingEvents@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Free Driving Course for young motorists

Calling all young motorists in the Cheshire West and Chester area who have passed their driving test in the last year - you are being invited to take part in a free course to build on your skills.

The **Pass Plus Xtra** training course is funded by the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership and includes a theory session specifically aimed at new drivers as statistics show that new drivers are more likely to have a crash in the first two years of passing their test than at any other time. Pass Plus Xtra aims to build on existing skills, knowledge and experience to help reduce the risk of being involved in a crash.

Two sessions have been arranged by Cheshire West and Chester Council's Road Safety Unit as follows:-

Thursday 4th February, 6.00pm at Ellesmere Port Fire Station
- for young drivers who live in the **Ellesmere Port** and **Chester** areas

Friday 12th February, 6.00pm at Winsford Fire Station HQ
- for young drivers who live in the **Vale Royal** area

The course comprises a theory session and on-road training modules covering driving in towns, in all weathers, at night and driving on rural roads, dual carriageways and motorways. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Participants must be aged between 17 and 25 and have passed their driving test in the last 12 months. Those who take part may be entitled to a discount on their car insurance!

To book a place, contact Lue Ellis on 01244 973602 or e-mail:
lue.ellis@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from recent Community Forums

The following is a round-up of recent activity and forthcoming meetings of the fourteen Community Forums:-

Upton, Hoole and Newton – 19th November, Upton High School

Residents gave their views as part of the consultation process around the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough.

Simon Mann, Development Director at Chester Zoo, gave a presentation on the Zoo's "Natural Vision" development plans. Once the planning application is received, a further community meeting is planned with ward Councillors to give further opportunity for local residents to discuss and comment on the proposals. In addition, following discussion with residents, the Community Forum ward councillors are now considering a range of suggestions for improving future meetings.

Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor – 23rd November, Ellesmere Port Academy

The consultations on the new Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough were discussed. In addition, residents received a presentation on the benefits of Speed Indicator Devices and speed guns which community groups can lease through Cheshire Community Action for use in local areas.

Members are currently considering applications from a number of local organisations for funding from the Members' Devolved Budgets.

Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross and Overleigh – 24th November, Pulford Village Hall

This well-attended meeting was the first to be held in the rural part of Boughton Heath ward. Residents were particularly keen to raise transport and highways issues with Kieran Collins, Area Highways Manager, who talked about the maintenance of the local road network and highlighted the procedure for reporting faults. Cheshire Police representatives reported on their recent campaigns to reduce burglaries and other crimes in both the rural and suburban area.

Residents also gave their views as part of the consultation process on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough and received an update on applications and approvals from the Members' Devolved Budgets.

Broxton – 24th November, Bishop Heber High School

Over 120 members of the public attended this forum to hear a presentation from Phil Dyke and Martyn Earle from Banks Developments, outlining a proposal to site five wind turbines on a site at Bickerton. Members of the 'Stop Bickerton Wind Turbines' Group set out a counter argument to the proposal.

The Forum came together again on 14th January at Farndon Memorial Hall for residents to give their views as part of the consultation process on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 31st March, 7.00pm, Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Gowy & Eddisbury – 24th November, Kelsall Community Centre

As part of the consultation process, those in attendance heard presentations and gave their views on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th March, 7.00pm, Tarporley British Legion

Winsford – 25th November, The Dingle Centre

In addition to the opportunity to take part in the consultation process on the three strategies mentioned above, Richard Flood, Area Highways Manager, gave a presentation on the role of the Council's Highway Maintenance service and the challenges involved. The Highways team do rely on the public to alert them to problems/faults on the highway and the on-line fault reporting service was highlighted at:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/transport_and_roads/roads/online_highway_for_ms.aspx

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th March, 7.00pm, Winsford Library

Blacon – 1st December, Blacon High School (Community Wing)

The Forum adopted a different approach by combining usual business with a practical workshop. The first part of the meeting included updates on key local issues such as an empty property causing community concern, the winter gritting of pavements, Council re-organisation and a campaign against the closure of the last Bank in Blacon. The second part of the meeting, facilitated by the Community Safety Wardens, focussed on action to address Blacon's cleaner, greener, safer issues.

Blacon Community Forum and One Voice for Blacon have now agreed to alternate meetings with joint agenda setting and planning to ensure good communication, a consistent approach to addressing local issues and reduced duplication.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd March, 5.30pm, Blacon High School (Community Wing)

Central, Westminster, Grange & Rossmore – 1st December, EPIC Leisure Centre

Residents from the Parklands estate sought advice on setting up a youth club in their area which will shortly be running from Great Sutton Village Hall. Local transport difficulties were raised and noted as part of the consultation on a new Local Transport Plan. There was much debate and discussion regarding the limit of the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences in the Ellesmere Port and Neston area, with representation from the Hackney Carriage Association at the Forum to express their views.

Northwich West & Abbey – 1st December, Winnington Sports & Social Club

As part of the consultation process, those in attendance heard presentations and gave their views on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th March, 7.00pm, Whitegate Recreation Rooms

City – 7th December, County Hall

There was a strong regeneration focus to this meeting on recent and forthcoming Chester city centre improvements. Residents heard about the success of Operation Clean-up - a major repair, re-painting and cleansing programme around the city centre street markings, street furniture, signage, subways and pavements.

The on-going works to make Chester's Roman Amphitheatre and adjoining St John's Church more attractive, accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike was discussed, including the revised bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery for Grosvenor Park. The next stage of £3m improvement works at Chester Station was revealed. The historic building grant works under Townscape Heritage Scheme in Brook Street and the planned public realm works were also set out.

Design plans for replacement benches proposed outside St Peter's Church by the Cross in the city centre were available for local comment. Residents also were also able to comment on the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy, Local Transport Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy for the borough.

Community debate centred around the current planning application to convert the former Odeon Cinema into a nightclub. The next meeting will focus on the Council's 10 year plan for investment in culture and leisure facilities in the city.

Northwich East, Shakerley & Marbury – 6th January, Northwich Memorial Hall

Around 60 local residents and Local Council representatives braved atrocious weather to attend this Forum which focussed on the proposed new Cheshire waste treatment Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract worth £850m.

Council officers presented on the need for the PFI contract; the procurement process; brief details of the two remaining bidders' proposals (Viridor and Resource Recovery Solutions) and the future timetable.

A number of important and challenging questions about the bids were raised and further comments were encouraged before the planning applications are determined.

Frodsham, Helsby & Weaver – 7th January, Helsby Community Centre

Local residents welcomed the opportunity to find out more about current Council planning policy with regard to Gypsy and Traveller sites. Jeremy Owens (Senior Manager for Spatial Planning) also outlined the latest developments and key elements of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy relating to local issues. Information was provided on:-

- planning requirements for Gypsy and Traveller pitches;
- current provision of residential and temporary pitches;
- what the needs are for additional residential and temporary pitches; and
- the 'Site Identification Study' due for completion in April 2010 and current situation based on need and against the provision of existing pitches.

A number of comments and questions were raised by local residents who will be kept advised of any issues, changes in policy or plans and new information concerning gypsies and travellers, however insignificant, on a regular basis by Council officers.

Mickle Trafford

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th February, 6.30pm, St Oswald's Primary School

Neston, Parkgate, Ledsham & Willaston

Date of next meeting: Saturday 6th February, 10.00am, Gladstone Village Hall, Burton

In future, feedback from the fourteen Community Forums will appear on the partnerships website at www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk However, the bulletin will continue to alert you to forthcoming meeting dates and venues, when known, and will continue to focus on any specific activity, initiatives and projects being delivered at the local level.

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to either:-

Alistair Jeffs, Head of Policy, Performance, Partnerships & Transformation
E-mail: alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or

Ken Ivatt, Interim Director, Area & Community Services
E-mail: ken.ivatt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in February's Edition 13:-

- ⇒ *Feedback from the **West Cheshire Together** January meeting*
- ⇒ ***Headline results** from the consultation on a new Sustainable Community Strategy for the borough*
- ⇒ *About the **Love Food: Hate Waste** campaign*
- ⇒ *Feedback from January **Thematic Partnership** meetings*