

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to this month's edition. After nine months development we now have our new Sustainable Community Strategy, setting our vision and aspirations up to 2026. This was approved by West Cheshire Together (the Local Strategic Partnership) on 25th February and adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council that same evening.

The vision contains fifteen "commitments" which have been identified as priority areas for future action (listed below). Now the hard work starts! We are turning our attention to how we can start to embed these commitments in all our future activities. All partners are invited to contribute to this discussion at our next partnership Network Event during the morning of **Tuesday 27th April** at **The Guildhall** in **Chester**.

Please note this date in your diaries and further details will be sent out shortly.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ **Economic Recession Action Plan** update
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THE FIFTEEN "COMMITMENTS" SET OUT IN OUR NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY:-

1. *Recognising, celebrating and engaging with our diverse communities.*
2. *Building and developing the role of the Third Sector (i.e. voluntary, community, faith and other not-for-profit groups and organisations).*
3. *Increasing confidence in the public services, enabling people to feel safe in their communities.*
4. *Working with our communities to address local issues, particularly around crime & disorder.*
5. *Engaging with and supporting our communities to take positive action on climate change and sustainable living.*
6. *Developing and promoting appropriate and accessible ways to increase people's ability to influence decision-making.*
7. *Reducing health inequalities and encouraging people to live longer, healthier and active lives.*
8. *Aiming to eliminate the impact of poverty and deprivation within our communities.*
9. *Anticipating and supporting the needs and aspirations of our ageing population.*
10. *Improving access to good quality and affordable homes.*
11. *Supporting the development of a sustainable and resilient economy, with thriving businesses.*
12. *Providing our workforce with access to locally relevant skills and training to achieve better paid employment.*
13. *Valuing and promoting West Cheshire's unique and diverse natural and built environments, and supporting the development of rich cultural opportunities.*
14. *Recognising and releasing the potential of young people to play a full and active part in the future of West Cheshire.*
15. *Adapting built and natural environments to be resilient to climate change.*

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, on 01244 402400 / 07867 908344 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from West Cheshire Together: February meeting

'West Cheshire Together' met on 25th February. From now on a short briefing note will be circulated to our wider partnerships network in the week following the meeting.

This first briefing note can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at:-
http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_events/lsp_25th_february_2010.aspx

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

Latest from the Thematic Leads meeting

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships met on 1st March. The group considered feedback from the 25th February 'West Cheshire Together' meeting as well as the following:-

- ⇒ the approach and timescales for developing a **risk management process** for West Cheshire Together and the Thematic Partnerships;
- ⇒ the final draft **Sustainable Community Strategy** document, including next steps and forthcoming launch event;
- ⇒ a request for inclusion of **additional indicators** (relating to climate change and the condition of local roads) in the Local Area Agreement 2010/11 refresh;
- ⇒ consistent **Third Sector representation** across the piece on each of the five Thematic Partnerships.

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

Feedback from individual Thematic Partnerships

Safer and Stronger Communities Group – held its first meeting in public on 11th March at Lache Community Centre, giving residents the opportunity to challenge members of the group over their concerns. The event was also used for the Community Safety Team to highlight an anti-social behaviour hot-line number launched in November 2009, making it easier to report anti-social behaviour to the Council.

Residents should know to call Cheshire Police on 999 in an emergency and 0845 458 0000 at other times. Sometimes, however, issues need Police and Council officers to work together with communities to bring about longer term solutions e.g. ensuring that public spaces, streets, alleyways, parks etc. are managed in a way that makes it harder for crime and anti-social behaviour such as street drinking and rowdy behaviour to occur.

In these circumstances, the number to call is **0300 123 7033** [Mon-Thurs 8.30am-5.30pm, Fri 8.30am-5.00pm (excluding bank holidays)]. This is not an emergency response line and a Council officer will be in touch with the caller within 48 hours in order to gather more information and talk through potential solutions. Alternatively, you can complete an anti-social behaviour report form on-line at:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/community_and_living/community_safety/anti-social_behaviour.aspx

A “Stronger” sub-group of the Safer and Stronger Communities Group has now been established to take forward and monitor activities to support the performance and success in achievement of the current key issues which sit under the “stronger communities” theme. The group initially met in December 2009 where it was agreed to focus on the following work areas:-

- NI 1: People who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- NI 4: People who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- NI 6: Volunteering
- NI 21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the Local Council and the Police
- NI 35: Development and delivery of a prevent action plan to support building resilience to violent extremism

This “Stronger” sub-group will also be responsible for taking forward the relevant sections of the ‘Community Cohesion Strategy’ and ‘Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy’ once they have been developed and approved.

For further information, contact Jane Makin, Community Safety Partnership Team Leader, on 01244 973464 or e-mail: jane.makin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership – met on 23rd February and considered whether additional indicators to support the work of this group were required in the Local Area Agreement 2009/10 refresh. A particular suggestion was the adoption of NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change.

There is now scientific consensus that average global temperatures increased by 0.7°C in the last century and that this rise is leading to rapid and unpredictable changes in the earth’s climate. Government introduced NI 188 to ensure that local authorities are prepared to manage risks to service delivery, local communities, businesses and the natural built environments from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. Consideration was given to the significant impacts that climate change, particularly heat waves and flooding, will have on the work of all the West Cheshire thematic partnerships. On this basis, a report was subsequently presented to the Thematic Leads meeting on 1st March and NI 188 was accepted as an additional local indicator for the Local Area Agreement.

For further information, contact Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Manager, on 01244 402286 or e-mail: peter.bulmer@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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West Cheshire Together for Health & Wellbeing – currently in the process of developing a **Health Inequalities Action Plan**, setting out the actions required to tackle health inequalities over the next five years. Health inequalities are stubborn, persistent and difficult to change. They are also widening and will continue to do so unless we do things differently. This means addressing not only the short-term consequences of avoidable ill-health but also the longer-term causes. The benefits of reducing health inequality are social and environmental, as well as economic. Creating a sustainable future is entirely compatible with activities to reduce health inequalities.

The Plan sets out to focus and co-ordinate the actions of a range of partners that will make the biggest difference to reducing health inequalities. A current version of the Action Plan can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at:

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing.aspx

and partner organisations are asked to review the Plan and provide any amendments and/or additions to Claire Wildgoose, Partnerships Manager at NHS Western Cheshire by e-mail at claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk by **1st April 2010**.

In addition, the engagement work for the **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy** is now coming to an end and the Alcohol Strategy Group would like to thank both the professionals who commented on the draft strategy and the 500 plus local residents who completed the Western Cheshire “*Big Drink Debate*” survey. The data and information provided, together with the feedback from children and young people, will be used to shape the final strategy which will be completed over the next few weeks and is due to be considered by ‘West Cheshire Together’ at its April meeting. Over the next three months the Alcohol Strategy Group will be establishing a number of working groups to implement the detailed action plans within the strategy that will reduce the level of alcohol related harm that impacts on our community.

Over the summer, stakeholders will be asked to contribute to the national delivery plan for the new **Tobacco Control Strategy**. The consultation is expected to start in July, with delivery following in 2011. The strategy “*A Smokefree Future: A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Strategy for England*” was launched in February 2010 and seeks to reduce overall smoking prevalence to 10% by 2020 (currently at 21%) with three key themes which build on previous tobacco control work:-

- ⇒ *stopping the inflow of young people recruited as smokers*
- ⇒ *protecting our families and communities from tobacco related harm*
- ⇒ *motivating and assisting every smoker to quit*

The new Tobacco Control Strategy can be viewed at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111749

Finally, just a quick reminder that the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** - a shared statement on the health and wellbeing needs of the population of Cheshire West and Chester – has associated factsheets available to view on the NHS Western Cheshire website at:

http://www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?page=Joint_Strategic_Needs_Assessment/STAKEHOLDER%20BULLETINS.asp

For further information on any of the above, contact Claire Wildgoose, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650 588 or e-mail: claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Economic Recession Action Plan: Latest

The Economic Recession Action Plan is very much a live document with newly identified deliverables being added on a regular basis. The Recession Recovery Task Committee and also the Business Enterprise and Culture Thematic Partnership monitor the progress of deliverables within the plan to ensure that progress is being achieved. The plan is challenged by both of these forums to ensure that it is robust and that officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council and partners are working together to ensure that the deliverables within the plan are progressed in line with their agreed timescales and, if any slippage occurs, that remedial actions are put in place as soon as possible.

Champions have been identified for the six themes and these officers attend the Recession Recovery Task Committee to provide an overview of the deliverables within their themed areas. The plan is central to all monitoring of how Cheshire West and Chester Council and identified partners are supporting businesses and the community as a whole within this area during the economic recession. Evidence of all good practices is being centrally collated which, alongside the Economic Recession Action Plan, will show what has been achieved during this difficult period for not only businesses but also the local community.

The Action Plan can be viewed at:

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/business_ent_and_culture.aspx

For further information, contact Gill Rogerson, Performance Manager, on 01244 977283 or e-mail: gill.rogerson@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Update on Future Jobs Fund in West Cheshire

Future Jobs is a national project, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions, designed to support young unemployed people (18-24yrs) to access a six-month period of employment resulting in valuable work experience, new skills and training to inform CVs and increase employability for further employment opportunities.

The project, which commenced late last year, is led by Cheshire West and Chester Council in association with Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire East Council.

To date, 121 individuals have gained employment across a variety of public and third sector organisations. Feedback from employers and their new employees has been exemplary and the partnership links across Cheshire are proving vital in its continued success and development.

Over the duration of the Future Jobs Fund, which runs until March 2011, the key aims and objectives are to:-

- ✓ create 750 employment opportunities across Cheshire and Warrington sub-region;
- ✓ create jobs with local employers that would normally be difficult or impossible to fund;
- ✓ develop roles that will contribute to the community; and
- ✓ enable voluntary sector organisations to build capacity within their workforce.



For further information, contact Paul Barber, Senior Officer Future Jobs Cheshire and Warrington, on 0151 356 6350 or e-mail: paul.barber@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Local Innovations Award

We mentioned in last month's bulletin that the work of the Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (CDAP) in protecting and supporting families exposed to domestic abuse was being celebrated at a special event at 11 Downing Street on 2nd March hosted by government minister Rosie Winterton.



CDAP's work was shortlisted in the 'Achieving More through Partnership' category of the Local Innovations Award scheme and, despite being unsuccessful, was praised for its excellent work, particularly in relation to helping children and young people.

If anyone has concerns about domestic abuse they can phone a 24 hour free national helpline 0808 2000 247. In working hours they can get in contact with the Family Safety Unit on 01606 351375 who will make sure they get the most appropriate local service.

For further information about the work of CDAP, contact Judith Gibson, CDAP Co-ordinator, on 01244 972915 or e-mail: judith.gibson@cheshireeast.gov.uk

A final reminder about the **"Love Food Hate Waste"** campaign which aims to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste. Visit the website at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com to view the last remaining events during March or telephone the general enquiries helpline on 08081 002040.

Chester: At the last meeting on 4th February, Chester APB signed off the high level themes and priorities for its Area Action Plan, which centres around three themes – **Investing in Our City; Investing in Our Communities;** and **Investing in Our Neighbourhoods** – together with a cross-cutting theme of **Developing a Stronger, Diverse and Sustainable Community**. This cross-cutting theme is based upon the principles of equality and accessibility for minority communities and groups, developing the sense of community and building community cohesion.

There are 13 priorities under these themes, ranging from “meeting the needs of vulnerable older people” and “developing a responsible approach to alcohol use”, through to “developing culture and image” and “developing community-based regeneration/neighbourhood management solutions”.

To develop its Action Plan further, the APB has issued a call from partners for initiatives/projects to meet these priorities which will bring both additionality and innovation. To help with the development of quality projects and services, John Denny (Chester APB Chair) and Cheshire West and Chester Council officers will meet with partners on 23rd March to discuss their proposals further and identify additional partnership working opportunities and linkages. The next meeting of the Chester APB on 22nd April will review all projects submitted and decide which to support and include in its Action Plan.

If you want to discuss a project idea please contact Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager, on 01244 972859 or e-mail: michelle.talgam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Rural West: Focus is continuing on the development and delivery of its Area Action Plan with **Access to Services, Transport** and **Young People** identified as priorities for action and positive partnerships with communities emerging to help tackle these challenging issues.

In collaboration with Neston Youth Zone, a 12-week DJ session was held with young people, resulting in an evening event scheduled for 19th March at Neston Civic Hall, organised by the young people. The APB hopes to offer this in other Rural West areas.

Working with NHS Western Cheshire, plans are progressing to host three health promotion events in Elton, Malpas and Neston to provide health promotion information and sign-posting to other services. Focusing on the theme of “Access to Services” and health, the APB will be running a series of “strength and balance” sessions in Malpas with NHS Western Cheshire, offering older people help to prevent slips, trips and falls and improve general health through light exercise.

A key principle for the APB is engaging and empowering communities and, to support local decision-making, a “Rural West Participatory Budget Event” is currently being planned and community groups will be invited to apply for small grants to help deliver local projects. Finalists will be given the opportunity to present their ideas and the community will vote on the ones that they like best. Cheshire Community Action has agreed to lead on this exciting event and further details will be given over the coming weeks.

The Rural West Area Team, which comprises Rob Callow (Area Manager), Debra Brown (Community Engagement Officer) and Elaine Grant (Partnership Support Officer) has been busy supporting the work of the APB, organising Community Forums and working closely with communities to address local issues and concerns. A key focus for the team is to develop its community engagement strategy and it is currently considering ways to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to influence and participate in how local services are delivered and decisions made.

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

Winsford and Rural East: Improving outcomes and raising the aspirations of local young people has been identified as key priority for this APB. To achieve these goals, the focus will be on improving performance of key national indicators such as reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system, reducing the numbers of young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), improving educational attainment and increasing accessibility of young people to positive activities.

Partnership activity to achieve these objectives is underpinned by a number of major projects such as Mid-Cheshire College Learning Zone which is due to open in September 2010 and the recently announced proposals to create a Winsford Academy which could transform secondary education in Winsford. Other initiatives for young people implemented in Winsford & Rural East include:-

- ✓ delivery of the Prince's Trust Programme
- ✓ establishment of additional youth provision in Tarporley
- ✓ theatre workshops delivered to young people and parents on risky behaviour and the consumption of alcohol
- ✓ support for the upgrade of local BMX track facility and the formation of Gravel Grippers BMX Club

To complement these, the APB is also focussing on measuring the impact of existing projects in key areas and identifying whether these are having a positive impact on national indicators and achieving value for money for partner agencies. One such example is the local projects implemented to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and a number of initiatives are operating to support this priority, including the "YES Project" delivered by Cheshire West and Chester Council Skills Academy, the "U-Project" delivered through Personal Advisors at Connexions and the "Energiser Programme" delivered in partnership between Reaseheath College and Furniture Finders of Winsford.

For further information, contact Ewan McHenry, Area Manager, on 01606 867774 or e-mail: ewan.mchenry@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Look out for news on activity within **Ellesmere Port** and **Northwich & Rural North Area** Partnership Boards which will appear in the April bulletin.

Grozone Community Project: Update

The Grozone Intergenerational Garden Design Project, supported by the Marks & Spencer 5p carrier bag scheme, began in January and is progressing well.

Three retired community volunteers are working with three learning support students from Rudheath High, five garden design students from Reaseheath College and their tutors to design the soft landscaping part of the Northwich site. They are analysing results from a community consultation carried out by Cheshire West and Chester Council and Groundwork staff as well as conducting their own consultation. They have also undertaken site appraisals and visited other community gardens in order to create a design which makes best use of the site's attributes.

Once the final design has been chosen in May, the team, along with other community volunteers, will start work on transforming the site. The funding will pay for British Trust Conservation Volunteers to deliver hands-on sessions along with Groundwork, with further continuation funding being sought to build on the project's success.

For further information, visit the website at www.groundworkaction.org.uk/grozone or contact Beth Brockett, Groundwork Cheshire, on 01606 723171 or e-mail: beth.brockett@groundwork.org.uk



Community Project success in Ellesmere Port

Members of the Prince's Trust team from Ellesmere Port Fire Station recently undertook a community project with a group of young people and successfully created a wildlife nature trail for children and families at Stanlaw Abbey Children's Centre.

The group of 13 young people, aged 16-21 years, raised £1250 with a grant from Crimebeat and by packing bags in Asda. They have transformed an overgrown wasteland area into a nature trail, incorporating home-made bug habitats and bird boxes. They also built a story-telling area, mud pie pit, den platforms, a den-building area and chalkboards for creative play. The aim of the trail is to encourage young children and their families to play outdoors using natural materials and their imaginations to enjoy their play. The team were also able to create a woodland walk in an allotment area used by people from all over Ellesmere Port, paving the raised bed area to ensure wheelchair access.



An 'open day' was held in February to celebrate the opening of the nature trail, attended by the Mayor of Ellesmere Port, Tony Sherlock, staff and families from the Children's Trust Centre and Oscar, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service's New Foundland mascot dog (*all pictured above*). The project has resulted in the young people developing job and teamwork skills, improving their confidence and communication skills and giving them a sense of achievement in seeing their work appreciated by the local community.

The Prince's Trust programme is run by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of their community work to help improve local areas. The next Prince's Trust team will start on 26th April at Chester Fire Station and is open to unemployed young people aged 16-25 years. For further information, contact Ann McBride on 07795 492291 or e-mail: mcbridea@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Council Budget set

Following consultation during January, Cheshire West and Chester Council set its budget and Council Tax for 2010/11 at the Council meeting on 25th February. Council Tax will increase by 2.5% which, at 1% below the rate of inflation, met the Council's commitment to keep this year's increase below inflation. The Band D Council Tax for 2010/11 will be £1,254.59.

The full Budget Council meeting was filmed and can be viewed online at:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.public-tv.site/player/pl_compact.php?a=37171&t=&m=wm&l=en_GB#the_data_area

The Budget Report is also available on the Council's website and includes full details of the budget consultation feedback received (pages 10-12 and 75-131). This can be found at:-

[http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Published/C00000448/M00001709/\\$\\$Supp2213dDocPackPublic.pdf](http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Published/C00000448/M00001709/$$Supp2213dDocPackPublic.pdf)

At its meeting on 9th March, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Audit and Governance Committee resolved to recommend to Council the splitting of **Gow and Eddisbury Community Forum** into two separate forums, on a twelve month pilot basis, to better reflect local community identity and enhance local resident engagement. The recommendation will now go forward to full Council on 22nd April and further details will follow in a future bulletin.

Dementia Awareness events

Cheshire West and Chester Local Involvement Network (LINK) has teamed up with the Alzheimer's Society to increase public awareness of dementia and the support available to those affected by the condition at the following public events:-

- ⇒ **Wednesday 17th March (10am–3pm) at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall (Civic Suite)**
- ⇒ **Thursday 25th March (10am–3pm) at the Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester**

You will have the chance to meet and talk to representatives from the Alzheimer's society, the Local Involvement Networks, Health and Social Services.

Contact the Cheshire LINK support team on 01606 45920 or e-mail: admin@cwaclink.org.uk or Debbie Smith on 01244 650317 or e-mail: Debbie.smith@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Dying Matters Awareness Week - 15th to 19th March

There will be a number of opportunities for the public to meet and talk with health professionals:-

- **Monday 15th March** - a stand at the Forum Shopping Centre, Chester (10am – 2pm).
- **Wednesday 17th March** - Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Network Health Information Bus will be at the Asda car park, Grange Road, Ellesmere Port from 1.30 – 4pm.
- **Friday 19th March** – “Open Day” at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Chester (including exhibition stands, a tour of the Hospice and the chance to talk to various clinical teams). The aim of the day will be to for the local community to find out more about “end of life” services in Western Cheshire.

Contact Jenny Dodd on 01244 650352 or e-mail: jenny.dodd@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk or Debbie Smith on 01244 650317 or e-mail: debbie.smith@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

**“How to access funding for your project from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental)”
Wednesday 24th March, 10.00am – 12.30pm, Winsford Lifestyle Centre**

WREN (one of the UK's leading environmental bodies distributing Landfill Tax in Cheshire) is urging local community organisations, village halls and not for profit organisations to come forward and apply for grants from their Landfill Communities Fund. This free event will give you information on general eligibility, project requirements and how to apply. In addition, you will receive advice from Cheshire West and Chester Council's External Funding Advisor and Disability Access Officer.

Places need to be booked in advance by telephoning 01244 402636 or e-mailing: fundingtrainingevents@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

**Joint 'Third Sector Assembly/National Association for Voluntary and Community Action' event
Friday 26th March, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Queen Hotel, Chester**

The personalisation of social care is a major change in the way adult social care will be delivered in the future. It has important implications for the third sector (voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise and not for profit groups and organisations) both for those who currently deliver services and those who advise or support users of services.

This event is aimed at small and medium sized third sector organisations and will provide national, regional and local perspectives, an increased knowledge of the personalisation agenda and explore how organisations can get involved in bidding and delivery of services to provide choice for vulnerable people.

The cost for the event is £10 (bursaries may be available) and demand is likely to be high. Contact Anne Lancaster, Third Sector Assembly Co-ordinator, on 01244 323527 / 07801 015261 or e-mail: anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk

City – met on 15th February at the Quaker Meeting House, Chester and received an update on the cultural masterplan, including behind the scenes progress which will provide scope for a diverse cultural agenda for the immediate future whilst the long-term future is still being reviewed. Cheshire West and Chester Council’s involvement in Community Safety was outlined by Community Safety Manager, Gavin Butler who was joined by Sgt Ian Stead from Cheshire Police.

In addition, a ‘special’ meeting was held on 10th March focussing on development of the Cathedral Quarters and the Public Realm Design Guide. This first public consultation provided details of the project aims and proposals being considered to make the Cathedral Quarters more accessible and appealing to both residents and visitors. Display boards gave details of how the area would look. Residents were then encouraged to complete cards giving their opinions as part of the consultation process. The display boards will also be on view in the Cathedral and the Council’s Forum offices.

Date of next meeting: 12th April (time and venue to be confirmed).

Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross and Overleigh – met on 16th February at Lache Community Centre where three presentations were received on the following:

- ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ campaign, providing handy tips, advice and recipes for leftovers to help everyone waste less food;
- ‘Homewatch’ initiative, including reliance on volunteers to operate a network of communications to keep their area a safe place to live;
- Cheshire West and Chester Council’s statutory responsibilities regarding maintenance and improvement of highways.

Date of next meeting: 25th May (time and venue to be confirmed).

Blacon – met on 2nd March at Blacon High School and proved to be an interesting night with a performance from the local Lion Dancers who sought to bring good luck and positive thinking to the meeting! The ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ campaign was on show and there was also a presentation on the new Chester Healthy Living Centre which will be based in Blacon.

Date of next meeting: 4th May (time and venue to be confirmed).

Hoole, Upton and Newton – met on 8th March at Upton Westlea Primary School and included a presentation from members of the school’s “Council” on their proposals for improvements to the local area which they are also delivering to Upton Parish Council. Other topics at the meeting included changes to Neighbourhood Policing, Cheshire West and Chester Councils’ Trading Standards campaign against loan sharks and details of the role and low cost credit options of West Cheshire Credit Union. The future use of the former Woodfield School site and implications for Lightfoot Lodge, Hoole were also discussed and it was noted that a full consultation period will follow – details available shortly.

Date of next meeting: 24th May, 6.30 for 7.00pm, St Werburgh and St Columba Primary School, Hoole, Chester.

Forthcoming Community Forum Dates

Details of forthcoming Community Forums for the remainder of March and into April are below:-

Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor	<i>Thursday 25th March, 6.00pm, Meadow Community Primary School</i>
Central, Westminster, Grange & Rossmore	<i>Monday 29th March, 6.00pm, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall</i>
Broxton	<i>Wednesday 31st March, 7.00pm, The Barbour Institute, Tattenhall</i>
Mickle Trafford	<i>Thursday 8th April, 6.30pm, Barrow Village Hall</i>
City	<i>Monday 12th April, 6.30pm, St Peter's Church, The Cross, Chester</i>
Northwich East, Shakerley and Marbury	<i>Tuesday 13th April, 6.00pm, Northwich Memorial Hall</i>
Frodsham, Helsby and Weaver	<i>Wednesday 14th April, 6.00pm, Crowton Village Hall</i>

Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The next Cheshire West and Chester Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 18th March (6.00pm)** at **Tarvin Community Centre, Tarvin, Chester**. The role of the committee is to positively challenge decisions, policies and performance of the Council and its partners and to make recommendations for improvements. Meetings are regularly held away from Council buildings and provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the meeting, which is also recorded and highlights placed on YouTube.

Any questions should be submitted (no later than 24 hours before the meeting) to Penny Housley in the Scrutiny Team on 01244 975972 or e-mail: penny.housley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by writing to Penny Housley, Scrutiny Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Room 251, County Hall, Chester, CH1 1SF.

Future meeting dates for this Committee include **15th April** and **27th May** and details about this Committee can be found at:

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=521>

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 the **April** edition 15:-

⇒ **Area Partnership Board activity within Ellesmere Port and Northwich & Rural North**

⇒ **Further news on arrangements for Goway & Eddisbury Community Forum**