

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.

Transport is an issue for everyone. It helps support economic growth and regeneration, increases accessibility to jobs and everyday services, improves the environment, addresses climate change and helps to tackle poverty. The opportunities available to people in how, when and where they travel have a major impact on transport patterns as well as our wider quality of life.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is preparing a new **Transport Strategy** to set out its transport priorities for the next fifteen years. The Council is keen to hear your views on its plans as part of a wide consultation exercise. Outcomes will help to finalise the Strategy and priorities which will come into effect in April 2011.

An online consultation brochure and questionnaire have been prepared which summarises initial ideas and thoughts on what policies and priorities need to be taken forward in the years to come. A more detailed policy document is also available and these can be viewed at:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/transport_and_roads/plans_and_policies/local_transport_plan.aspx

Alternatively, copies of the questionnaire are available in libraries or by contacting either the Council's Customer Contact Centre or the Transport Strategy Team (contact details below).

This is just one part of a number of consultation activities. In addition, a number of meetings, workshops and special events are currently being scheduled with a large number of partners and community groups. Why not come along to one of the meetings? Once set, dates of forthcoming meetings can also be viewed using the web link above.

Please note that the deadline for comments is Friday 31st December.

Contact: The Transport Strategy Team
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Planning and Transport Service
Backford Hall
Chester
CH1 6EA

Telephone: 0300 123 7036
E-mail: tp@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Council unveils new online TV channel for West Cheshire

Cheshire West and Chester Council is introducing an exciting online local TV channel where people living in, working in and visiting the borough can share their original films. **Cheshire West TV** is set to become a popular online video community where you can share videos that you create and watch other people's films.

To celebrate the launch of Cheshire West TV, the Council is giving away four fantastic prize packages for the best videos that show why you 'Love to Live in Cheshire West'. You can enter your 90 second video into one of four categories:

- ⇒ Love to be active
- ⇒ Love to visit
- ⇒ Love to get involved
- ⇒ Love to be me



.... and you can enter as many times as you like!

The best entry in each category will win a fantastic prize bundle - a Kodak Zx1 high definition pocket video camera in black, plus a 16 GB digital memory card and card reader for your computer.

The second and third prizes in each category are £30 and £20 gift vouchers for a camera shop in your area. Entries can be submitted in three ways:-

- (1) Upload your film to the [Cheshire West TV page](#)
- (2) E-mail your entry to: ecommunications@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- (3) Send a CD or DVD to:-
 - Love to Live video competition
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Cheshire West and Chester Council
 - 1st Floor HQ Building
 - Chester CH1 2NP

Send your entry in any popular digital video format and you can record it on a phone, camera or video recorder. **The deadline for your entries is 5.00pm on Friday 22nd October.**

Your video needs to tell about you and your life. Whether it's about your family and friends, your pets, your hobbies, your favourite sport, or even your hidden talent – it could win you a great prize. Even if you don't win, your video will be uploaded onto the brand new online TV channel, which will be launched on 13th October.

Any videos that you create must be completely owned by you – that means you have to get permission from anyone you film and, if you use a musical soundtrack, it must be royalty-free. Check the [Cheshire West TV page](#) for terms and conditions of entry.

The 2011 Census is coming – Help Tomorrow Take Shape

As we reported last month, preparations for the 2011 Census are underway. In the last week the Office for National Statistics has launched a national campaign to recruit 35,000 jobs across England and Wales, of which in the region of 200 will be in Cheshire West. Working within the local community, the Census recruits will provide important help and support to make sure everyone in the area can complete and return their Census questionnaire.

There are a range of full and part time temporary positions available and details can be found at www.censusjobs.co.uk and also at local job centres. Please help promote these jobs in your workplaces and at home. The census is not just about counting people, the information it provides is needed to plan vital services like schools, hospitals, housing, roads and emergency services.



Need Advice? Cheshire Advice Partnership is here to help

We all need advice from time to time - in fact research shows that over half of us have used an Advice Service or have family and friends who have* If and when that time comes, we want to know we will get the support we need. (* 2005 MORI poll showed that 51% of people have used a Citizens Advice Bureau or have family and friends who have).

In 2008 *Age Concern*, *Citizens Advice Bureau* and *Shelter* secured funding from the Big Lottery to establish the **Cheshire Advice Partnership**. Its aim, as a partnership, is to make advice for residents of Cheshire more accessible. Now there are many ways of getting in touch with the charities including an Adviceline, e-mail, online, face to face and in the community.

If you are a community organisation and would like to find out more information about the easy to use online referral system - where you can give your clients access to a wealth of services and support; training opportunities such as an e-learning session on how to get the most out of www.adviceguide.org.uk; and to find out new ways you and your clients can get in touch, visit www.cheshireadvicepartnership.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about volunteering for the partnership and its charities, please e-mail cap@cwcab.org.uk to find out more.



Voluntary Sector Funding Fair: Advice from local and national funders

A free event is being staged for charities and community groups to find out more about grant organisations such as the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund and how to apply for grants.

The **Voluntary Sector Funding Fair**, jointly organised by Cheshire West and Chester Council and Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPNAVCO) will take place on **Thursday 21st October** at the **Winsford Lifestyle Centre**.

Both local and national funding experts will be present for representatives of voluntary groups to quiz at information desks on the many different grant schemes and get the most up to date information. Workshops will also be held by several funders giving in-depth information on their grant schemes and what makes a good bid or project. Several local organisations will also be present to help with funding queries.

EPNAVCO Chief Executive Officer, Elaine Dunn, said "EPNAVCO welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council. Events such as this are vital for the sustainability of the community, voluntary and faith sector. It is fantastic to see so many funders coming together to make this event a success".

To book a place or to find out more about the workshops, please call 0151 356 7358.

VOLUNTEER FAIR SUCCESS IN FRODSHAM!

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with Voluntary Action Vale Royal (VAVR), hosted a Volunteer Fair last month at Frodsham Community Centre, attracting 28 partner organisations. The event was a great success in promoting volunteering opportunities to the local community and many of the organisations involved were successful in recruiting new volunteers.

Arthur Neil (VAVR) said "It was really encouraging to see such a positive response to volunteering opportunities and people wanting to get involved within their local community".

For further information on volunteering opportunities, contact Fiona Dunning, Community Engagement Officer, on 01606 353526 or e-mail: fiona.dunning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from Thematic Leads / Area Partnership Board Chairs meeting

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships met with the five Area Partnership Board Chairs on 27th September and considered the findings of a **joint typologies project** between the Council, NHS Western Cheshire and Dr Foster Intelligence to create a bespoke segmentation of West Cheshire's population. Segmentation is the process of dividing a population into groups who share common factors using the statistical method of cluster analysis. The population of West Cheshire was segmented into seven typologies, a unique colour-coded classification given to identify population groups. A Working Group is now considering how to translate this data into priorities and action which will make a difference within communities.

In addition, an update was given on progress within the four **Regeneration areas** – *Chester Renaissance; Weaver Valley; Ellesmere Port; and the Rural Agenda and Market Towns* – all at differing stages of development. Links between these and the five Area Partnership Boards will be developed over time to ensure integration.

Members of the group were updated on the recent **Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)** and **Local Integrated Services (LIS)** submissions to Government (see September edition for further details). Announcements are still awaited on these proposals. In addition, a piece of work is being undertaken on the development of a **Delivery Plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)** and individual Thematic Groups are currently identifying their single top priority from the SCS together with what performance indicators they would like to see retained.

The minutes, along with supporting slide presentations from the meeting, can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at:-

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

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

Feedback from recent Thematic Partnership meetings

Safer and Stronger Communities – met on 10th September and now have a completed Strategic Assessment document which will guide future work flows and priorities. The Assessment identified four key priorities:-

- **Reducing re-offending:** to focus on developing comprehensive support packages for offenders, looking specifically at education and training, health, accommodation and family needs;
- **Domestic Abuse:** the group will continue to support the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership, targeting resources at the most vulnerable and high risk cases;
- **Anti-social behaviour:** the partnership is developing a new database that will allow partners to have a clear understanding and focus on victims - particularly vulnerable members of the community - on perpetrators and on locations; and
- **Alcohol:** the partnership is currently delivering to achieve objectives set out in the Re-Thinking Drinking Action Plan.

The Assessment highlighted the need for closer working across Thematic Partnerships and a strong link between 'deprivation' and 'crime and disorder'.

Around mid-October, a special Safer and Stronger edition of the 'Talking Together' newspaper will be delivered to all households across the borough, containing news regarding all Safer and Stronger priorities and including timely information about Bonfire and Firework safety.

Theresa May MP (Home Secretary) was in Chester on 15th September to see how partners co-ordinate ground-breaking responses to crime and anti-social behaviour within the community.

Making her first visit as Home Secretary outside of London, Mrs May saw how partnership working between Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Police and Chester & District Housing Trust (CDHT) is helping to tackle community concerns. She toured Newtown, part of an inner-city area within Chester where the latest Safer Stronger event was held as a result of residents voicing their concerns through their local Community Forum.

Throughout the event, Street Scene officers worked in partnership with Community Payback and the Neighbourhood Environment Action Team to complete environmental improvements, including painting the railings that surround St Anne's Park; cleansing the alleyways; and re-painting road markings. CDHT focused its attention on improvements such as securing loose flag stones and undertaking garden maintenance. Civil Enforcement Officers were also in attendance tackling problematic parking and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service worked with Princes' Trust volunteers to complete a litter pick throughout the area.

Later Mrs May met frontline staff and residents at a round-table meeting chaired by local Councillor Tom Parry. Residents raised a variety of issues ranging from fly-tipping to noise and anti-social behaviour, parking problems to "lenient" sentencing. She was impressed with the partnership approach to community problems in Newtown and also about the depth of feeling and pride that local people have. There were suggestions for improvements and Mrs May was fully behind the community attempts to improve their quality of life.

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

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Business, Enterprise and Culture – met on 15th September and considered the following:-

- ⇒ **Localism and Local Enterprise Partnerships:** Members were given an update on the Coalition Government's recent announcements including the closure of Regional Development Agencies and the formation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). As mentioned last month, a joint proposal was submitted to Government for a LEP covering the three local authority areas of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington.

The Board agreed that its role and function needed reviewing in light of the emerging LEP and sub-regionally based approach to business, enterprise, skills & training and place marketing to avoid duplication of roles and wasting of resources. The Board recognised the need to maintain a strong influencing role alongside the ambitions of the sub-region to increase Gross Value Added (GVA), jobs and population.
- ⇒ **Progress on the Commissioned Project "Hospitality Sector":** A report was considered by members of the Board which identified three different groups in the call for action (Employers, Colleges and other stakeholders). Findings of the report indicated that the Hospitality industry has a poor image; some issues existed around personalities and attitudes amongst candidates and there was a need to have a strategic overview.
- ⇒ **BEC Flyer:** Copies of the "Local Employer Services Guide" flyer were approved and are now available. The leaflet will be circulated to businesses throughout the authority area and can be viewed at:
http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/business_ent_and_culture.aspx
- ⇒ **Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETs):** Chris Troughton, Senior Commissioning Manager, gave an excellent presentation on the scale of the NEET issue in the borough, with the discussion raising issues around NEET "hot-spots" in Winsford and Northwich (making up 39%) with the problem increasing. To address this, employers are being encouraged to take on more apprentices and it was noted that the Council has 45 apprentice places.

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

Environmental Sustainability – met on 21st September and received a presentation from Council Project Officer Helen Rawlinson on REVIVE – a partnership with the Northwest Development Agency to transform 170 hectares of brownfield (contaminated, derelict and underused) land within Cheshire and Warrington into an environmental asset. Although funding had disappointingly ceased for new development, any remaining funding would be used to complete existing projects.

A DVD was shown on “*The Climate for Community Change*” designed to support community groups and accompany funding bids relating to low carbon communities, of which there are currently around 40 across the sub-region. The DVD will be shared amongst partners and it was felt that, as interest and numbers continue to increase, a Cheshire & Warrington Co-ordinator post would be vital as a focal point for information and advice.



For further information, contact Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Manager, on 01244 972427 or e-mail: peter.bulmer@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing – met on 23rd September and considered the Health White Paper “Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS”. A response was submitted from the group to the consultation document “Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health” by the deadline date of 11th October. The group agreed that its top priority relating to the exercise around the Sustainable Community Strategy Delivery Plan was “*Reducing Health Inequalities and encouraging people to live longer, healthier and active lives*”.

In addition, a Smokefree Northwest representative provided an update on the **Illicit Tobacco “Get Some Answers” campaign** which has co-ordinated efforts across the North of England to reduce the impact of illicit tobacco in our communities. There were also presentations from Cheshire West Citizens Advice Bureau on the **Cheshire Advice Partnership** (see article on page 3) and from the Council’s Research, Intelligence & Consultation team on the “**Our Community**” survey, focusing on key health issues across the borough.

Other Health and Wellbeing news includes a new **Early Years Healthy Weight newsletter** which has been introduced to provide a round-up of current work relating to the healthy weight agenda in Early Years settings. The newsletter will be quarterly and is designed as a forum for Early Years practitioners and Health professionals to share ideas and examples of good practice and to promote the importance of partnership working when tackling childhood obesity. The first edition can be viewed at:

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

Good progress has been made on the **Supporting People Needs Assessment** and a wide scale collection of quantitative and qualitative data has been collated to establish need. Initial findings can be summarised as follows:-

- *There is an increase number of people with debt problems;*
- *There are more people presenting with complex needs;*
- *Accommodation bases services are finding it increasingly challenging to provide suitable 'move on' housing and access to employment;*
- *There is an increased incidence of mental health distress affecting customers who, on initial assessment, were not defined as having mental health issues;*
- *There is an increased incidence of substance and alcohol misuse (including increased use of alcohol amongst older customers); and*
- *There is an increase in demand for support from the older population.*

Work is ongoing within NHS Western Cheshire and with partner organisations to consider the impact of the provisional Needs Assessment findings and to discuss the impact of current policy changes such as housing benefits, linked to strategies such as the Council’s Ageing Strategy, the Mental Health Joint Commissioning Plan and Western Cheshire’s “Rethinking Drinking” Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Next steps include focus groups with service users and meetings with stakeholders to explore themes and trends emerging from initial data collection and mapping services. This is in order to produce a Commissioning Plan, bringing forward proposals for potential restructuring of the Supporting People Programme to align with the conclusions of the Needs Assessment planned for completion mid-December.

.....and a final reminder! The **Annual Haygarth Public Health Lecture** takes place on **Wednesday 13th October** at 6.15pm at the Binks Lecture Theatre, Chester University. Further details about the Lecture can be viewed at:

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

For further information, contact Alison Paul, Public Health Improvement Lead, on 01244 650430 or e-mail: alison.paul@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Blacon Project: Update

As previously reported, Blacon residents and Councillors, along with Council and Chester & District Housing Trust (CDHT) officers are working closely on a major project linked to the investment and regeneration of the **Blacon Parade** and the establishment of an **Asset Management Company** to oversee the overall management of neighbourhood activity.

The knowledge and skill set for the new Asset Management Company Board has now been agreed by Blacon Alliance and the next step is to agree the recruitment process to enable the Board to be in place by early 2011. The Asset Register for Blacon is developing and highlights all assets including land, property and community facilities presently owned by CDHT and the Council. The values and proposed future utilisation of these assets is now being discussed.

An essential role of the Asset Management Company will also be to manage and deliver local services. This entails a major review of all the public and community services presently delivered within the Blacon community.

Further details can be obtained from Sean Daley and Janet Gittins who have been seconded from the Council to provide project management support to this approach. Based at the CDHT offices at Centurian House, Northgate Street, Chester, Janet can be contacted on 01244 305428 (e-mail: janet.gittins@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) and Sean can be contacted on 01244 305584 (e-mail: sean.daley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Kingsway social event a huge success!

A social event held at St Michael's Church, Kingsway on 24th September hosted by the newly named **Cheshire Asian and Minority Communities Council** (formerly Chester Asian Council) and local Councillor Adrian Walmsley (via his Member budget) was a huge success with over 65 people in attendance. The evening comprised information stands from a range of organisations including Cheshire Police, Chapter, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, University of Chester (People and Planet Society – Relief Ribbons for Pakistan) and Cheshire West and Chester Council (Equality & Diversity and Benefits teams). The relaxed atmosphere was helped with tasty food provided by a local Indian Restaurant, henna hand-painting and face painting for children.

Nadia Ali, the newly appointed Development Manager for the Cheshire Asian & Minority Communities Council, hailed the event as a great unique opportunity to meet the black and minority ethnic women of the local area, listen to their views on service provision and consult them on their future needs. As a follow up, plans are now underway to run another event in the Kingsway area before Christmas.



The Northwich & Rural North Area Partnership Board recently endorsed funds to go to a number of initiatives within the area including:-



- ✓ £6000 to the Grozone project
- ✓ £5000 to Neighbourhood Management
- ✓ £1200 to Voluntary Action Vale Royal for intergenerational technology sharing

Regarding **Rudheath & Witton Neighbourhood Management**, the focus is currently on obtaining 22 community representatives to begin to build the relationships within the neighbourhood communities. Part of the £5k APB funding will be to provide training to these representatives who will vary from residents to small businesses. It is important to establish a broad network in order to build community capacity and gradually implement community groups across the neighbourhood. The recent Big Lottery funding announcement of £1m (reported in our August edition) will be dependent upon putting in place the right community interfaces and ownership in order to establish community issues and needs, just some of the criteria required by the Big Lottery before funding is forthcoming.

A recent meeting with the Big Lottery has confirmed that the £1m funding is a minimum figure and could be more, subject to the scale of the communities' issues and needs across Rudheath & Witton. An additional £30k has been offered to help develop the communities' capabilities in readiness for bidding in the summer of 2011. The first part of the £30k funding will be available in November and the Neighbourhood Board will be discussing project plans at its October meeting.

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The first Task Group is underway for addressing **lack of youth facilities** in the neighbourhood and will be looking to present conclusions and recommendations to the APB in early 2011. Part of the £5k funding from the APB will be to undertake any additional consultation and associated communication materials.

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The next major neighbourhood event – **The Big Skate** - will be taking place over the weekend of 30th/31st October. Further details and a flyer for the event can be viewed at:-
http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/rudheath_and_witton_big_skate.aspx

This will be followed by a Firework display at Griffiths Park over the weekend of 6th/7th November, organised and hosted by Rudheath Parish Council.

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The Council's Area Highways Team, together with the Northwich & Rural North Area Team, held a Highways surgery at the Tesco Store in Helsby on 28th September. The event was an opportunity to promote the Highways Team and encourage people to report local problems such as potholes, street lights not working and incidents of fly-tipping.

For further information, contact Mark Simmons, Northwich & Rural North Area Manager, on 01606 353537 or e-mail: mark.simmons@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

A reminder that the next LSP Network event is scheduled for
Thursday 18th November (morning finishing with a buffet lunch)
at the **Winsford Lifestyle Centre**.

If you would like to attend, contact Lyn Raynor, Partnerships Officer, on 01244 972370 or
e-mail: lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

City – met on 13th September at St Werburgh’s Centre where over 50 residents had the opportunity to discuss local community issues with their local Cheshire West and Chester Councillors and service providers as well as representatives of the Police and Fire Service.

Parking issues are still a high priority in many areas around City and the Council is in the process of consulting on its new parking policy. The play area in St Anne’s Street; the plaque for the elephant in the Town Hall Square; how the Police are responding to vagrants in the City; and issues in relation to the pavements in Brook Street were just some of the local issues addressed.

The meeting closed with Chris Cook, the Council’s Head of Culture and Recreation, outlining proposed activities for the Christmas festivities including the switching on of the Christmas lights in Chester City and transformation of the Castle car park into a Tudor Village selling locally sourced produce and having an ice skating rink, a big wheel and 100 Christmas trees.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29th November, 6.00pm, The Forum Studios (lower basement of the former Gateway Theatre)

Eddisbury – met on 14th September in the Legion Hall, Tarporley and was well attended by members of the community. The key issue raised within the question and answer session was the need for the local community to be involved in local decision-making, in particular around the future use of buildings and sites within Tarporley.

Forum attendees were also updated on progress with the Council’s recently established Community Enforcement Team, including their role in providing a visible presence in communities, the powers available to them and how to contact the team.

Representatives from the Council’s Spacial Planning Team were also available to explain the current work being undertaken by the Council.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th December (time and venue to be confirmed)

Gowy – met on 14th September at Christleton High School and residents discussed issues with representatives from the Police, Fire & Rescue, Housing Services and Welfare Benefits. As the Forum was held in Christleton, time was given for residents to raise matters affecting their village. One subject of interest was the findings of a recent speed review. Further work will now be undertaken by the Council, Christleton Parish Council and residents’ groups to identify possible solutions to this village concern. It was suggested that the review could help inform actions for the Christleton Parish Plan which is currently in production.

Date, time and venue of next meeting to be confirmed.

Hoole, Upton and Newton – met on 20th September at Upton High School and received presentations on culture developments in Chester from the Council’s Senior Culture & Tourism Manager and Homewatch from the Police, including how to prevent distraction burglaries.

Following concerns raised by local parents around the proposal to stop the school bus to the Catholic High School, local Councillors arranged for a representative from Integrated Transport and the bus company to attend and answer questions. Following this, Councillors have arranged for an extension of the bus service at the same fare until the half-term holiday which will give the school some time to look at alternative arrangements.

Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd November (time and venue to be confirmed)

Central, Westminster, Grange and Rossmore – met on 20th September at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall and received a short update from Adrian Otsa, the Council’s Principal Capital and Construction Manager, on the upcoming development of the Academy. Specific enquiries were dealt with by representatives from Our Place, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Community Safety Wardens and the Council’s Highways and Transportation department. Discussions centred around changes to bus services, derelict buildings, closure of centres, housing specific queries, housing investment programmes, environmental contracts and frequency and standards of grass/hedge cutting.

In addition, a general discussion took place regarding low community turnout at the Forum and those in attendance were asked for suggestions on how to further promote and recruit interest.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th November (time and venue to be confirmed)

Neston, Parkgate, Ledsham and Willaston – met on 22nd September at Neston Cricket Club and attracted many residents. The new store manager from Sainsbury’s was on hand to talk about the opening of the new supermarket and local job opportunities. Other information including footpaths and cycleways, local housing issues and benefits advice was available.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th November, Willaston British Legion Services Club

Broxton – met on 23rd September at Malpas High Street Church and received a presentation on the Council’s Winter Maintenance programme and a scheme to help communities prepare for the winter. Many Local Councils provide additional salt bins and rock salt to help ensure their pavements and roads are safe in icy and snowy conditions. To reduce the financial burden on Local Councils, Cheshire West and Chester Council is offering to sell and supply rock salt at preferential rates and any Local Council wishing to take advantage of this should contact: engch@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th January 2011, Farndon Village Hall

Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor – met on 29th September at Ellesmere Port Academy and received a short update from Adrian Otsa, the Council’s Principal Capital and Construction Manager, on the upcoming development of the Academy. Specific enquiries were dealt with by representatives from Our Place, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Police, Community Safety Wardens and the Council’s Highways and Transportation department. Discussions centred around home security, car number plate thefts, homewatch schemes and dog nuisance. This then led into detailed discussions around school catchment areas when the new Academy is opened and also some specific issues relating to pot holes still awaiting repair.

In addition, a general discussion took place regarding low community turnout at the Forum and suggestions were sought on how to further promote and recruit interest.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th November (time and venue to be confirmed)

Mickle Trafford – met on 30th September as part of a special “wellbeing event” held at Elton Community Centre in partnership with NHS Western Cheshire. The event offered residents information on a range of health and wellbeing services including taster head and shoulder massage, free fruit and veg bags and the chance to win a smoothie maker! Residents were encouraged to call in to see what was on offer with the help of a human apple and banana who patrolled the area promoting the event!

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20th October, 6.30pm, Shell UK (Stanlow Manufacturing Complex)

Forthcoming Community Forums

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

Northwich East, Shakerley & Marbury	Wednesday 20 th October, 6.00pm, Wincham Community Centre
Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross & Overleigh	Tuesday 23 rd November, Pulford Village Hall
Northwich West & Abbey	Thursday 2 nd December (time and venue to be confirmed)
Blacon	Tuesday 7 th December (time and venue to be confirmed)
Winsford	Wednesday 8 th December (time and venue to be confirmed)
Frodsham, Helsby & Weaver	Thursday 6 th January 2011 (time and venue to be confirmed)

Check the website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/community_forums.aspx in case it has been necessary to make any changes to the information given above.

BT to take UK's Broadband Pulse

BT has launched a nationwide survey to see how much potential demand there is for fibre broadband. The survey, the first of its kind, will run from early October until 31st December, enabling communities to express their desire for the service. This will help BT identify "hot spots" where demand is high and influence the company's future deployment plans. By participating in the survey, communities will have the opportunity to make their voices heard, thereby influencing where BT decides to deploy the technology. Visit the site at www.bt.com/racetoinfinity

As an extra incentive, BT is running the consultation as a competition – the "Race to Infinity" – in order to encourage towns and villages to take part, register their interest and vote for fibre broadband. The site will map demand for fibre across the UK and display the top five exchanges leading the race as exchanges hit 1,000 votes. BT Retail has promised funds to help enable the five exchanges with the highest demand by early 2012 at the latest. However, BT is also pledging to engage with any community that gathers 75% of possible votes for their exchange but doesn't win the competition. Visit the website at www.bt.com/racetoinfinity to register your communities' interest in fibre broadband.

Cheshire West & Chester Council's Rural Agenda & Market Towns team is very keen to ensure people are voting for fibre broadband in their area and will be promoting this through work they are doing on Rural Regeneration. The team is working in partnership with Cheshire East and Warrington Councils, as well as other public sector organisations, to deliver ubiquitous fibre broadband and service across the sub-region and is keen to support this scheme. For further information, contact Chris Capes, Team Manager – Special Projects, on 01244 973164 or e-mail: christopher.capes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Winsford & Rural East Area Partnership Board has produced a round-up of local events during the October half-term for Children & Young People - this can be viewed at:-

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/whats_on_during_october_half.aspx

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.....and the latest Rural West Area Partnership Board Update Report (October 2010) can also be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at:-

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/area_partnership_boards/rural_west_apb.aspx