

## Community Engagement



**Broxton Community Forum** met in late January at Farndon Primary School. There was a painting competition for the pupils at the school and the Owl Rescue Group brought along some of their tame rescue owls. There was also a range of organisations and Council Services available including Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Cheshire Police, North West Ambulance Service, NHS Western Cheshire, Community Safety Wardens, Cheshire Community Action, Cheshire Credit Union and Benefits Advice.



## Environmental Sustainability – Everyone's Issue

The Community Forum meeting held at Neston Town Hall in January had a sustainability and biodiversity theme. Organisations and Council Services such as The Energy Saving Trust, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Community Wardens, Cycling Chester, Love Food Hate Waste, Recycling Volunteers and others were on hand to talk to residents about the practical actions that can be taken to improve our environment.



*Below Neston residents considering options for the town Centre*

## Shaping Neston Town Centre

Neston community representatives met in February to consider options for improvements to the town centre. Consultation finished in March and ideas and feedback from residents groups will now be considered by the Section 106 Steering Group which is made up of representatives from Neston Town Council, Cheshire West & Chester Council and community stakeholders.

“Section 106” money made available from the Sainsbury's development will be used to fund town improvements and once the improvement plan is produced residents will have an opportunity to offer further comments. Once all the plans are agreed it is expected work will commence over the coming year.



## Going green in Ashton Hayes

Gowy Community Forum met at Ashton Hayes Primary School in February and had a theme of sustainability and community self-help. Presentations were received on what the community of Ashton Hayes are doing to support environmental sustainability and included speakers from Ashton Hayes Community Shop, the Carbon Neutral Project and the Play Area Development. There were also information stands providing advice on affordable warmth, home insulation grants, community volunteering and the Community Safety Warden's service. The Police were also on hand to give an update on local crime concerns.



## Things are looking up for Leech Lane



For many years residents of Malpas have been lobbying to improve Leech Lane. This popular route to the village is used by older people living at Craddock Court, parents taking their children to school and visitors who park at the fire station car park to access the local shops and facilities.

The lane is currently "unadopted" which means the Council has no responsibility for its repair and maintenance. Despite temporary repairs it continues to experience holes, cracks and flooding making it harder for people to use, particularly in the winter months.

However Malpas Parish Council, Rural West APB Cheshire West and Chester Council and Chester & District Housing Trust have come together to share their funding and bring the path up to a standard that the Council can adopt. This will ensure the lane will not only be improved but will continue to be maintained in the future. Most of the funding has now been secured and it is expected that work will start on upgrading the lane later this summer.

## Day Care Centres to Continue in Rural West



Rural Parish Councils have come together to respond to the reduction in day care services in Tattenhall, Kelsall, Malpas, Tarporley and Helsby.

Three of the day centres are located within Rural West APB area, Tattenhall, Kelsall and Malpas.

## Rural communities celebrate successful bids from £20,000 Wellbeing Grant

Community groups across the rural west area are celebrating after successfully bidding for funding from a £20,000 Wellbeing Grant

Made available through Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural West Area Team and NHS Western Cheshire Chairman's Discretionary Fund the scheme was aimed at promoting the national 2010 Decade of Health and Wellbeing Campaign. Projects had to involve one or more of the campaign's five themes - Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give.

Twelve projects throughout the wards of Broxton, Gow, Mickle Trafford, Neston and Parkgate, and Ledsham and Willaston received funding ranging from £950 to £2000.



The local parish councils are committed to ensuring that this service should continue once Age UK stop delivering in April.

In order to achieve this they have established local day care committees for each centre. The service will be delivered by volunteers and supported by a new company called "Rural Community Services West Cheshire"

A key barrier for the new day care committees however is the initial costs to run them. Funding things like publicity, CRB checks, equipment, room hire, training etc can all add up. After discussing these important challenges with representatives from the Kelsall, Malpas and Tattenhall day care committees Rural West Area Team has provided funding of £2,000 to each committee.

Each committee will clearly be looking for longer term sustainable funding however in the short term this funding will hopefully provide assistance with their initial start up and transition costs.



Successful bids included a cycling group, a village sports and recreation day, a community garden, a summer play scheme, the development of an ecumenical singers group, and a bowling shelter.

Hosted by John Church, the Chairman of NHS Western Cheshire, the event allowed successful groups to share information about their projects.

Parish councils, rural organizations and community groups across the Rural West area of West Cheshire were urged to claim their share of a £20,000 health and wellbeing grant in December 2010.

Evidence has shown that building small actions around the campaign's five themes into daily life can improve general health and wellbeing leading to longer healthier lives.

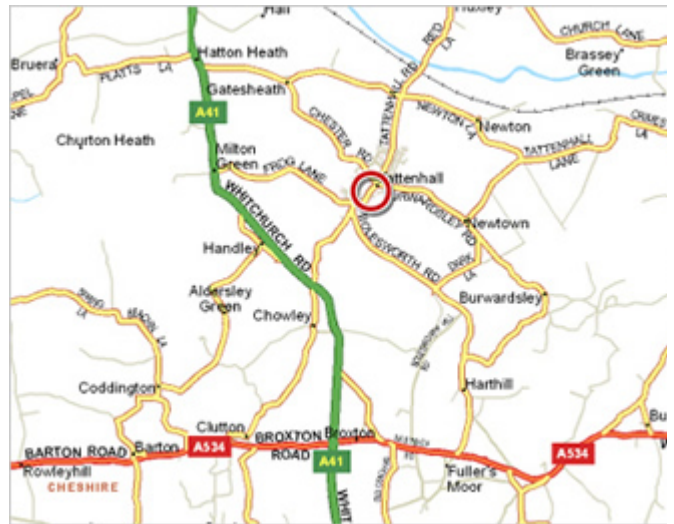
## Neighbourhood Planning For Tattenhall

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Tattenhall and District Parish Council are working together to pilot a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be led by the local community through the Parish Council and will be supported by a multi-disciplinary core team from CW&C comprising of Spatial Planning, Strategic Housing and Rural Regeneration. The development process will involve extensive community engagement and consultation to determine what is required to ensure the Parish is sustainable into the future in terms of local services, business, housing, transport etc.

Whilst giving communities more influence on local development, neighbourhood plans must work inside some limits. They would still be required to be consistent with national planning policy and to conform to the strategic elements of local authority plans. The Localism Bill will have safeguards to ensure neighbourhood plans do not override these wider ranging plans.

Neighbourhood Planning is due to be introduced through the Localism Bill and the work at Tattenhall will inform future roll out across the borough.



## Students Benefit From Road Safety Presentations

High school students across West Cheshire have benefited from road safety presentations designed to highlight travelling dangers and make them safer pedestrians and drivers.

Rural West Area Partnership Board funded the delivery of an hour-long road safety presentation called "**Driving Ambitions**", to Year 8, 9 and 10 students. The presentations were organised by the Council's Road Safety Unit and led by a qualified driver trainer.

Driving Ambitions aims to help the young people become safer pedestrians, passengers and drivers both now and in the future. It is designed to encourage students to consider the dangers, impact and potential consequences of inappropriate behaviour as pedestrians, passengers and drivers before they begin their driving careers.

Neston High, Upton High, Bishop Heber and Christleton High students have benefited from the road safety advice with feedback from the students and teachers being extremely positive.

Nearly 3000 young people have learned vital road safety skills from the presentations.



## Rural Regeneration Strategy and Rural Housing Strategy Consultation

The rural area of Cheshire West and Chester makes up approximately 85% of the Council area and contains in excess of 40% of the population and includes the key Market Towns of Malpas, Frodsham, Tarporley and Neston. The Rural Regeneration Strategy and Rural Housing Strategy provide a framework which the Council will use to steer delivery of services over the next 10 years.

They will influence the way the Council invests and supports its rural area, and the businesses, people and places within it. They set out the Council's agreed approach to sustaining rural communities, the need for growth, and its views on the contribution that the rural area can make to improve the quality of life for all the Borough's residents.

The Council wants to use the Strategies as an opportunity to:

- **Maximise economic potential;**
- **Create access to affordable living for rural communities;**
- **Empower and connect rural communities;**
- **Capitalise on our environmental potential.**

For the past 8 months the Rural Regeneration & Housing Strategy teams and outside organisations have been focusing on how we can ensure our rural communities are vibrant and sustainable places to live. This work has involved setting out what the Council believe are the key priorities for the next 5-10 years. Consultation events were held towards the end of 2010 across the borough to test some of the conclusions it had made.

The events allowed a better understanding of rural areas and shaped the way this draft document has been written. The Council is now making the documents available for a 12 week consultation period and would welcome views on the documents as they stand.



### *Spotlight on Country Markets*

Country Markets have evolved from Women's Institute Markets which started in Sussex after the First World War with the aim of selling surplus produce. The organisation has spread throughout England & Wales and now sell a wide range of home grown, home produced and hand crafted items both at their own markets and indirectly to other outlets.

In Cheshire we have six markets, of which **Farndon, Tattenhall and Willaston** are in the Rural West area. These three markets provide a variety of produce including cakes, breads, savouries and puddings.

Country Market food is produced at home and is freshly prepared, additive and preservative free under strict hygiene and packaging regulations, with full traceability.



***Above stall holders at Willaston Country Market***

Crafts are well catered for with hand made cards, clothing, quilting, pottery and wood turning. Plants and vegetables are also available in season.

All of the markets operate a "hamper scheme" which can provide produce delivered to other areas of England & Wales. Ideal for relatives, friends and starving students!

The three rural West Cheshire markets are open each week:

**Farndon Wednesdays 9.00 – 11.30am at Chapel House, Farndon, contact Mrs. A Sergison 01829 271027 for details**

**Tattenhall Fridays 9.30 – 11am at The Barbour Institute, High Street, Tattenhall, contact Mrs. E. Mogg 01829 770998 for details**

**Willaston Fridays 9.00 -11am at The Memorial Hall, Willaston  
Contact Mrs S Wallis 0151 6321085 for details**



*Above stall folders at Farndon and Tattenhall Country Markets – Why not go along, have a coffee and see what's on offer!*

## **New Wards and Councillors for Rural West**

In May the 253,470 electors in the Borough voted in 46 wards created by Boundary Commission changes. A total of 75 seats were up for votes, an increase from 72. Of the 46 new wards (an increase of 22) 5 will be represented by three councillors, 19 will have two members and 22 by one Councillor.

Under the new arrangements each elected member will represent an average 3,418 voters.

The new ward map of Cheshire West has resulted in major changes to ward structures, particularly in city and town centres, and many will have new names. A Boundary Commission review followed the 2009 local government re-organisation and the increase in wards reflects the feeling that existing boundaries did not accurately reflect the population sizes.

For Rural West it means that 13 wards sit within the area (**see table on next page**) with 16 councillors representing the Rural West area. For further information about the boundary changes please visit the [Boundary Commission website](#), a map of the new wards and contact details of Councillors is also available on the on the Council's website.

Ward name		Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Chester Villages	2	6,530	3,265	-4%
Elton	1	3,290	3,290	-4%
Farndon	1	3,140	3,140	-8%
Gowy	1	3,180	3,180	-7%
Little Neston and Burton	2	6,980	3,490	2%
Malpas	1	3,260	3,260	-5%
Neston	1	3,220	3,220	-6%
Parkgate	1	3,090	3,090	-10%
Saughall and Mollington	1	3,460	3,460	1%
Tarvin and Kelsall	2	6,520	3,260	-5%
Tattenhall	1	3,520	3,520	3%
Willaston and Thornton	1	3,220	3,220	-6%
Dodleston and Huntington	1	2,990	2,990	-13%
<b>Borough Average</b>			<b>3,418</b>	

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[www.talkingwestcheshire.org](http://www.talkingwestcheshire.org)

