

Team Winsford and Rural East

An Update from the Winsford and Rural East Area Working Team

Issue: 3 | September 2011



Welcome to the latest publication of the Winsford and Rural East newsletter providing a summary of the latest work of the Area Working Team.

West Winsford Update

Community joins together to build a brighter future

The Greenfields Park, Glebe Green and Over (GGO) neighbourhood project launched its neighbourhood action plan at a fun day held off Mount Pleasant Drive.

“The plan outlines ways local residents and partner organisations will work together to clean up grotspot areas, tackle anti-social behaviour and unemployment and provide more educational and social activities for local young people,” said Georgia Winstanley, Neighbourhood Development Officer for GGO Team.

Activities on the fun day on Saturday, September 24, included face painting, sports games and live music from local group Band Edge.

There was also information and advice available from community partners and a consultation relating to the BMX Club and Skate Park.

GGO is being run by residents from Greenfields Park, Glebe Green and Over with support from local organisations such as Weaver Vale Housing Trust, Muir Group Housing Association, WINCAP and Cheshire West and Chester Council.



“This project is all about building stronger ties between the three estates in West Winsford and working together to make them a better place to live,” said Beverley Price, Community Engagement Officer with Muir Group Housing Association.

“The fun day was a great way to get everyone together and I hope this will be just the start of a really positive project.”

The neighbourhood action plan was developed following consultation with over 450 adults and young people across Greenfields Park, Glebe Green and Over during the summer to find out what their main priorities are for improving where they live.

Over 300 residents and GGO Getters – members of the community that are working to deliver the action plan in their neighbourhoods – attended the fun day.

GGO Getters are also working to recruit additional support from the community to continue their good work.

“The Fun Day was a great success and gave local residents the opportunity to see all the hard work of GGO Getters and the GGO Team. It was really positive to see so many local people at the event and I urge local residents to join us in helping improve their local area.” said Paul Hickson, from Cheshire West and Chester Council.



Team Winsford and Rural East

An Update from the Winsford and Rural East Area Working Team

Community Strolls

On 14th September 2011 the Winsford and Rural East Area Working Team led a Community Stroll around the Gravel Estate in Winsford.

Representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Highways and Streetscene Departments, Weaver Vale Housing Trust and Ward Councillor also took part in the stroll.

The area was found as generally clean with a few issues around highways and lighting and a small amount of graffiti, the issues raised were passed to the relevant departments to deal with.

Reducing Worklessness

The Worklessness Task Group held its latest meeting on Thursday 29th September which was once again supported by a number of partners including Mid-Cheshire College, Connexions, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Changing Lives in Cheshire, Weaver Vale Housing Trust and Citizens Advice Bureau.

The key theme of the meeting was in relation to the increasing number of young people 16 – 18 years old in Winsford classified as NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training). The target in Cheshire West & Chester for NEETs is 3.9% whilst in Winsford & Rural East the rate is currently 8%. This high rate of young people classified as NEET is in contrast to a reduction in learner numbers currently being experienced by local key providers and it has been agreed to undertake some further analysis of the current group of NEETs to identify the most effective form of engagement with this target group.

There has been some positive news in how to tackle this priority in the future with the recent introduction of a European Social Fund course aimed at the NEETs Group which will be delivered by West Cheshire College over the next two years.

In addition the Skills Junction at Cheshire West & Chester Council has also developed links with Winsford E-Act Academy whereby participation in Yes Project (NEETs Prevention Programme) has increased significantly. It is therefore hoped that this increased participation and engagement will have a positive impact in reducing the number of young people NEET in the future.

For further information about the Worklessness Task Group please contact Ewan McHenry on 01606 288766 or via email ewan.mchenry@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

10CC

The Monday Morning Wharton Library based group, 10CC, is going from strength to strength.

On 26th September some of the ladies participated in a crochet demonstration led by a lady called Linda Green, some found it easier to pick up than others, literally.

Others were happy to play a few games of 'Hoy', a bingo like game with playing cards, and 'Triominoes' a version of dominoes with triangular tiles.

Children and Young People

Two new youth clubs have been developed in the GGO area, on the estates of Glebe Green and Greenfields Park. The clubs are being delivered by Connexions.

The clubs have been well attended and are in addition to existing young people initiatives being run by WINCAP and Winsford Youth Forum, collectively providing a fantastic offer for young people in the town.

A new young person's initiative has also commenced every Friday at Winsford Lifestyle Centre.