

# You said, we did

....your local voice

## Winsford Community Forum Feedback News

January 2010

**Welcome** to the latest edition of the Winsford Community Forum Newsletter. This newsletter gives you an update on items discussed at the Community Forum's meeting on 25 November 2009.

### Role of Your Community Forum

Community Forums have been introduced by Cheshire West and Chester Council as part of its commitment to being responsive to those issues and concerns within local communities.

In addition, Community Forums provide residents with the opportunity to find out more about what the Council is doing locally, what priorities are being focussed on for action, and how residents can get involved.

### Community Forum Update

Area Manager for Winsford & Rural East, Ewan McHenry, provided an update on those community issues raised at the previous Forum:

- Poor lighting on footpath between Delamere Street and Hilltop Avenue – the area had been inspected and cleansed, staff at the local Spar shop had been spoken to regarding litter, and street lighting had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.
  - Dog fouling and dog bins on the Common, Winsford – the Council is currently reviewing its enforcement activities to ensure a greater presence can be provided to tackle issues such as dog fouling.
  - Regeneration of Winsford Town Centre – the plans for the Civic Hall site are subject to further negotiation with the developer.
- Concern had been expressed about the provision of a bus station in the town centre. An update on Winning Winsford, including development of the town centre, will be made at the next Forum meeting.
  - Anti-social behaviour at Denton Close, Winsford – partnership working had been carried out between Community Safety Wardens, Police and the local community. Meetings had been held with those young people identified and incidents of anti-social behaviour had reduced as a result.
  - Lifestyle Centre – confirmed to meeting that recent closure of the pool and subsequent repairs to defects would not be funded by taxpayers. The service users had been compensated for the closure of some of the facilities, namely the pool, and furthermore had been offered the use of other facilities such as Moss Farm Leisure Centre free of charge. Cheshire West and Chester Council had not signed up to the Government's free swimming scheme for the under 16s, but was looking at alternative initiatives, and a further report would be submitted to the next meeting.
  - BMX track at Over Estate, Winsford – funding had been secured to bring the track up to standard. Volunteers were working with Groundwork UK to restart Gravel Grippers and the Council is investigating maintenance issues of the facility.



**Question:** Are the drains in Winsford being checked and cleared as frequently by Cheshire West and Chester Council as by the former authorities?

**Answer:** Yes, drains and gullies are being inspected as frequently, the work is currently being carried out under the same contract, with all grids being checked every six months.

**Question:** What is the position regarding the current planning application for Winsford Civic Hall?

**Answer:** The planning application has been referred back to the developer. An update on Winning Winsford will be made at the next Forum

**Question:** Can the current temporary road signage and one way system at Abbots Way, Winsford, be retained on a permanent basis, as this would alleviate current parking problems.

**Answer:** No, following careful consideration by Cheshire West and Chester's Area Highways Engineer, it has been decided that it would not be appropriate to retain the current arrangements on a permanent basis.

**Question:** Why are the traffic cones at the roadworks on the Hartford bypass not being removed at the end of each working day, as they are causing severe disruption to traffic by being left permanently in position?

**Answer:** The decision to leave the cones permanently in position for the duration of the roadworks has been made on health and safety grounds, mainly to protect workers who would have the potentially dangerous task of positioning the cones.

## Consultation on Council Strategies

A presentation was made on three major strategies currently being developed by the Council –

- **Sustainable Communities Strategy** – an overarching strategy that sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- **Local Development Framework Core Strategy** – a series of documents that will form the basis of planning decisions in the area, setting out the Council's vision and objectives for Cheshire West and Chester until 2026, and addressing key issues such as where development should go.
- **Local Transport Plan** – sets out the Council's plans and strategies for improving and maintaining all aspects of local transport system between 2011 and 2026.

These three strategies are being developed at the same time so the Council can plan better on how to integrate local land use and transport planning activities alongside broader community aspirations.

Extensive consultation would be taking place until 13 January 2010, comments were invited at the meeting, and residents were advised of the various means by which they could have their say on these strategies.

## Issues Raised

**Question:** Would the issue of flooding and flood risk be addressed in the Council's new strategies?

**Answer:** Yes, these issues would be given serious consideration.

**Question:** Was any joint working being carried out with Cheshire East Council on the proposed strategies, particularly in respect of the boundary areas between the two boroughs?

**Answer:** Yes, joint working was being undertaken on both a formal and informal basis.

## It's good to talk...

**Question:** There is a serious lack of public transport services, both locally and nationally, and integrated public transport services are particularly poor.

**Answer:** Representatives of Arriva and other public transport providers locally to be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the concerns of local residents about poor local public transport, particularly the lack of bus services.

## Highways Maintenance

Richard Flood, Area Highways Manager at Cheshire West and Chester Council, gave a presentation on the role of the Highway Maintenance service based at the Chester and Winsford Highways offices.

The core aims of the service are as follows –

- To reduce deaths and injuries on the roads of Cheshire West
- To improve the condition of roads, footways and bridges
- To manage the impact of traffic and resulting congestion on Cheshire West's communities
- To improve the quality of and access to transport networks and services in Cheshire West

Statistics for the condition of principal roads in Cheshire West show that maintenance of principal 'A' roads is good, with only 3% failing, whereas some 8% of other and unclassified roads are failing.

Highways has an on-line fault reporting service available on the Cheshire West and Chester website ([www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)). This is the quickest and most effective way of having a fault dealt with, and members of the public are encouraged to use this facility.

There is also a dedicated phone number for dealing with all customer enquiries, again ensuring that issues are referred without delay to the right person for dealing with them.

The options for contacting the Highways Service are as follows –

- Internet – [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- Phone – 0300 1237036
- Email – Chester Office at [engch@cheshirewest.gov.uk](mailto:engch@cheshirewest.gov.uk)  
Winsford Office at [engvr@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:engvr@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- Post – Chester Area Highways Office  
Guilden Sutton Lane, Guilden Sutton  
Chester Cheshire CH3 7EX  
  
Winsford Area Highways Office  
Phoenix House  
Clough Road, Winsford  
Cheshire CW7 4BD

The Highways team are always happy to be advised of any problems/faults on the highway, and indeed rely upon the public to alert them to such.

## Your Six "Community Champions"



**Cllr Bob Barton**

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**Cllr Charlie Parkinson**

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## Next meeting

Wednesday 10 March 2010 –  
Winsford Library, starting at  
7pm.

NB: meeting re-scheduled from  
original date of 24 February 2010

## Topic for next meeting

- Winsford Regeneration Projects

## Topic for future meeting

- Integrated public transport services

## Contacts

Area Manager: 01606 867774

Member Budgets: 01606 867660

Community Safety Wardens:  
0300 123 7033

Cheshire Police: 0845 4580000  
*(Non urgent calls)*

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Drugs Line: 0800 854181

Home Watch: 01606 49000

Fire Service Home

Safety Assessments: 0800 389 0053

**All Services: 0300 123 8 123**

**For any information about your Community Forum contact Jane Binyon**

**Telephone:** Jane Binyon on 01606 867794

**Write to:** Jane Binyon, Democratic Services Officer, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford CW7 1AH.

**E-mail:** jane.binyon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

### Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille and Large Print formats. If you would like a copy in any of these formats or in another language, please email us at [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)  
We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.

**Tel:** 0300 123 7301    **Textphone:** 01606 867 670

**email:** [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**web:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)