

You said, we did

....your local voice

Winsford Community Forum Feedback News

May 2010

Welcome

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 Wednesday 10th March 2010.

Role of Your Community Forum

Your Community Forum is an integral part of Cheshire West and Chester Council's commitment to listening and responding to those issues and concerns within local communities. Your Community Forum also enables residents, community groups and town and parish councils an opportunity to find out more about what Cheshire West and Chester Council are doing locally, what priorities are being focussed on for action and how residents can get involved in making a difference within communities..

Community Forum Update

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

- **Abbotts Way** – Concerns were raised over the possible impact of increased volumes of traffic in the service area following the development of eleven affordable homes. The site has been visited by representatives of Cheshire West & Chester Council and consultation with local residents will be undertaken.

- **BMX track at Over Estate** – the funding has been secured to upgrade the track and volunteers are being sought to support the Gravel Grippers BMX Club.
- **School Road, Meadowbank** – is an unadopted highway in poor condition. The local authority do not have an obligation to repair this road as the highway is unadopted however a meeting with local residents is planned to discuss the possible options they can consider for improving the road.

The inclement weather conditions during the winter resulted in the deterioration of road surfaces on a number of highways throughout Cheshire West & Chester. Local communities can assist the Council in tackling this problem by reporting road defects and potholes in their community through the following:

Website: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 7036

Email: engvr@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Question: Concerns were raised over the recent construction of the Toucan Crossing on the High Street, the implications of this on the roundabout and also the underpass under the High Street.

Answer: There is further work being undertaken at the roundabout to increase visibility with the cutting back of the vegetation. The Toucan Crossing forms part of the Travel Plan for the Winsford Learning Zone. There are no plans at the moment to close the underpass.

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 and the Council are awaiting the submission of revised plans.

Question: Are there any plans to re-establish the Flashes Committee which was established by the legacy authorities?

Answer: A number of initiatives are currently being developed at the Flashes including the Canoe Trail and increasing usage at the Marina building. Whilst discussions are at a very early stage it is envisaged that the feasibility of a User Group for the Flashes will be investigated.

Question: How is the allocation of £5000 budget to each elected member decided?

Answer: The decision of how these monies are allocated is decided by each individual member there is however an option should members choose to pool their budgets to fund a particular project. There are some specific criteria identified that will not be funded. These are anything that will bring the Council into disrepute, anything illegal, lobbying against council policy. The individual Council members then went on to provide a brief explanation of what they had funded so far.

Weaver Valley Canoe Trail

Jo Comerie – Senior Project Officer in Special Projects at Cheshire West & Chester Council attended the meeting to highlight a new canoe trail that has been developed between Winsford and Rocksavage, Runcorn.

The Weaver Valley Canoe Trail is a joint initiative between Cheshire West and Chester Council and British Waterways. The 28km trail starts at Winsford Marina and finishes at Runcorn Canoe Club in Rocksavage. The trail takes a day and a half to complete however there are shorter routes which can take either a couple of hours or a full day. Some of these are circular which link with the Trent and Mersey Canal. The trail is simple to follow and has portage signs along the route. Detailed information on the Weaver Valley Canoe Trail will be downloadable from the Discover Cheshire website and a general leaflet will also be available. The Trail will be launched on the 22nd June at the Cheshire Show.

The Future of Secondary School Education within Winsford

Ann Moore, Head of Achievement at Cheshire West & Chester Council attended the meeting and delivered a presentation outlining the challenges facing secondary education in Winsford. The presentation highlighted what actions and proposals are being consulted on by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Following discussions between Cheshire West & Chester Council, Verdin and Woodford Lodge High Schools and Central Government, an application has been made to replace the two high schools with an Academy. This application is deemed to be

the best option for improving education for communities within Winsford due to the lack of available resources through the Building Schools for the Future programme to fund the 'All Through' School concept previously considered.

The proposal is to create an Academy that will be sponsored by E-ACT (Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust) as the Lead Sponsor, with the University of Chester as a partner. The remit of the academy is to develop and improve the educational prospects of young people within the Winsford area.

There are three stages in the process of becoming an Academy:

- 1. Statement of Intent** this is submitted outlining the future vision for the Academy in Winsford and requires the Secretary of State to make a decision on their intention on whether to support the application.
- 2. Expression of Interest** this will state the philosophy, vision and planned location for the Academy. It will also include the proposed specialisms for the Academy which have been identified as mathematics and music. The proposal is for a 10 form entry academy with 1500 students plus a 6th form of around 200 students (100 in each year).
- 3. The Feasibility Stage** this is when detailed planning commences and when the public consultation takes place. This will focus on two areas – consultation with stakeholders and the proposed closure of the two High Schools subject to the proposal for an Academy going forward.

If the proposal for the creation of an Academy is agreed then there are two options as to when the Academy could start and these are either September 2010 or January 2011.

It is proposed that if the proposals progress the Academy would open on the sites of the existing secondary schools until such time as a new school has been built with a deadline for the new build of 2013.

At this stage of the proposal it is not certain that a new build will be generated however both the local authority and E-ACT strongly support the building of a new school.

If the proposal is agreed then all the pupils of the existing high schools Verdin and Woodford Lodge would transfer to the Academy at the start of the new term. Decisions would also be made as to whether pupils would remain on their current site or whether some year groups would all move to be on one site.

Your Six "Community Champions"



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Future meeting

Wednesday 8th September
2010 – Winsford Library

Possible Topics for future meetings

- Winsford Town Centre regeneration projects
- Integrated public transport services

Contacts

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Member Budgets: 01244 976989

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 information about your Community Forum contact Ewan McHenry

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Write to: Ewan McHenry, Area Manager, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford CW7 1AH.

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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 We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.

Tel: 0300 123 8 123

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