

You said, we did

....your local voice

Winsford Community Forum Feedback News

November 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the Winsford Community Forum Newsletter.

This newsletter gives you an update on items discussed at the Community Forums held in June and September 2009.

Role of Your Community Forum

Cheshire West and Chester Council have split into five geographic areas to promote area working and ensure local priorities are identified and service provision is designed to meet the needs of local communities.

The Community Forums have been set up to increase resident involvement and engagement by listening to local communities and delivering services to meet the priorities identified. The Forums also provide residents with the opportunity to find out more about how Cheshire West and Chester Council will be working locally, and what priorities are being focussed on for action. They also provide a forum for local residents, parish councils and community groups to raise concerns with their local councillors and work together to deliver sustainable solutions within the area

Community Forum Update

Winsford & Rural East Area Manager, Ewan McHenry provided an update on issues raised at the Community Forum meeting in June:

- **Facilities for dealing with postal votes in Winsford.** Officers are considering future arrangements and the feasibility of providing additional delivery points
- **Political flyposting.** Such material should be removed within 24 hours. Officers intend to engage with the political parties over this issue, prior to the future election periods.
- **Speeding vehicles.** Hotspots have been identified and enforcement action taken by Cheshire Police. A speed review has been undertaken by Cheshire West & Chester Council, the outcomes of which will be announced in due course. In the meantime, speed awareness programmes for speeding drivers are being provided, and a pilot black box road safety scheme for young drivers aged 17-21 years is being introduced

You said.... Problem of poor lighting and litter on the footpath between Delamere Street and Hilltop Avenue, Winsford

We did.... Path has been inspected by Streetscene Officers and the location has now been cleansed and will be subject to regular inspection. Spar Shop has been visited and reminded about responsibilities of staff around littering. Lighting columns were upgraded a couple of years ago and the current lighting is both fully operational and is deemed of a satisfactory standard

Question: What are the Council's policies and practices on the issue of dog fouling?

Answer: Is currently addressed by way of both enforcement and education. The Council is seeking to develop a high profile multi-agency enforcement team that would be equipped to deal with a range of offences such as dog fouling, litter and parking offences.

You said.... Winsford's BMX Track is in a poor condition and suffering from a lack of management

We did.... Ward Councillors arranged for a clean-up of the area, and Council Officers agreed to look at the possibility of re-forming the management committee to develop the usage of this facility.

Question: Will the Winsford Town Centre redevelopment scheme include provision for a bus station?

Answer: : Officers from the Council's Regeneration and Planning Services will be invited to a future meeting to present the plans for the town centre.

You said.... Problem of anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance at Denton Close, Winsford. A petition was submitted from local residents

We did.... Arrangements were made for appropriate action to be taken by relevant Officers of the Council and other agencies

Question: Would the Council be re-charging offenders for the cost of removing political fly posting?

Answer: : The Council is currently reviewing its enforcement policy and exploring the scope for re-charging offenders.

You said.... There are no dog litter bins on Winsford Common, a popular area for dog walkers

We did.... Arrangements have been made for appropriate action to be taken by relevant Officers of Cheshire West and Chester Council and other agencies

Winsford Lifestyle Centre

In the Open Forum a number of questions were raised regarding the recent closure of the swimming pool due to defects and the provision of free swimming lessons.

The Council can confirm that the costs of repairs to defects in the pool were borne by the developers, as was compensation for the loss of revenue, and there will be no costs to Cheshire West & Chester taxpayers.

In light of the disruption a letter was sent to all Winsford Leisure Pass holders in August 2009 advising of a discount in future payment deductions to reflect the inconvenience caused by the closure. In addition all Leisure Pass holders were able to use facilities at Moss Farm Leisure Complex, Rudheath and Frodsham Leisure Centres which would have no effect on the discount being offered.

Cheshire West and Chester Council along with a number of other Local Authorities decided not to implement the Department of Culture Media Leisure & Sport universal free swimming scheme for children under the age of 16 which is due to run until 31st March 2011. The Council are committed to promoting a healthier population, active participation in sport and are focussing on a more sustainable targeted scheme whilst offering further health related programmes through other sporting activities.

Winsford Learning Zone and the Future of Education in Winsford

John Reilly, Principal of Mid Cheshire College, gave a presentation on the development of the Winsford Learning Zone.

This is a £9.8m project to provide a new campus on the Verdin site, due to open in September 2010. A wide range of subjects will be provided, including adult education, work-based learning, basic skills, apprenticeships, higher education and courses for 14-16 year olds. Some 450 full-time students will be accommodated, mainly aged 16-19 years.

The Learning Zone will be building on the successes achieved by Mid Cheshire College in recent times, the College having been awarded 'beacon' status in 2007. In 2008, the College was judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted, and has been awarded top grades in all aspects of the inspection.

John Stephens, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Director of Children's and Young Peoples Services also spoke of the current and future vision for education in Winsford, with particular regard to the concept of 'All Through' education

Your Six "Community Champions"



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It's good to talk...

Question: Why are the parks in Northwich in a better state than those in Winsford, where dog fouling is a particular problem?

Answer: The parks in Winsford are managed by Winsford Town Council and residents' concerns would be brought to their attention

Future meeting

Wednesday 25 November 2009
The Dingle Centre, Winsford,
starting at 7pm.

Possible Topics for future meetings

- Winsford town centre re-development
- Consultation on Major Council Strategies i.e. Local Development Framework, Local Transport Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy

Contacts

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Drugs Line: 0800 854181

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For any information about your Community Forum contact Jane Binyon

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