

Cheshire West & Chester Council

The Broxton Flyer

....your local voice

**Broxton
feedback news**

Autumn 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Broxton Community Forum Newsletter.

This newsletter gives you an update on items discussed at the Broxton community forums held during the summer and autumn months and other news for the Broxton ward.



Residents came to the Jubilee Hall in Malpas at the beginning of June where an informal drop-in style meeting was held. Ward councillors asked residents about the key issues impacting on their community and what they felt were the priorities for improvement.

Residents and councillors discussed how they could use community forums to raise important local issues and improve the quality of life for those living in the area. It was agreed meetings should focus on key themes and a number of topics were suggested for future meetings. It was agreed that the October meeting would focus **on planning and understanding the policy principles**



Jeremy Owens talks to Broxton residents about the Planning issues that affect the Broxton communities.



Cheshire West
and Chester

Residents overview

What do you see are the key rural issues for your community?

- Public transport services
- Parking (including around schools and traffic congestion)
- Youth facilities and activities
- Bin collection
- Speeding
- Elderly persons care
- Lack of banking / post office facilities
- Consideration of planning applications – officer , pc & public
- Rural crime & anti-social behaviour
- Affordable housing
- First response medical

What is working well in your parish council or community?

- Parish council meetings are productive but not well attended by the public
- Fault reporting (pot holes etc)
- Project Rural Matters
- Home Watch
- Street cleaning
- That meetings are held in rural areas not in Chester

What is not working well in your parish council or community?

- Attendance by the public
- Funding for community infrastructure improvements
- Feedback & problem resolution progress when a fault is reported

What are the aspirations for your parish council or community?

- Some form of control/say in local development i.e. where and what
- To have an influence in local decision making
- Engage more with the community
- To have more control over the rate of community tax and how it is spent

Licensed Premises – Consultation

Councillor Wright asked the Forum to consider a request by Cheshire West and Chester Council Executive to Central Government to amend the Licensing Act to include ward councillors in the definition of “interested party”. This would enable local ward councillors to make representations to the Licensing Committee, as of right.

The Forum strongly agreed that local Councillors should be fully informed of all licensed premises applications under public consultation, recommending that this facility should also be extended to Parish and Town Councillors.

Growth Point

Residents were informed that Cheshire West and Chester has been given “Growth Point” status. Growth Points are part of the Government’s initiative to provide three million more new homes by 2020. The approval of the Growth Point for West Cheshire comes with an expectation of delivering a much higher level of housing growth than has been achieved in the past and the development of a high proportion of brownfield sites in sustainable locations and high levels of affordable housing. The Growth Point document referred to above can be found on the Council’s Website at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/growth_point.aspx

Spotlight on Planning: Understanding the Policy & Principles. Planning Presentation

The Forum received presentations from Fiona Edwards Area Planning Manager, Development Control and Jeremy Owens, Senior Manager Spatial Planning that provided information on the criteria used when both approving or refusing planning applications.

Ms. Edwards used local examples of planning decisions from the Broxton ward.

A short question and answer session followed, covering a variety of issues that included:

- Definitions of and difference between 'Visual Impact' and 'Views'
- Restrictive covenants
- Planning history, material change and the consideration of previously granted permissions
- Importance of the Local Plan when putting forward arguments in support of, or against, specific planning applications
- Ensuring that Parish Plan 'desirables' are incorporated into the Local Development Framework via the (current) consultation process
- Affordable Housing – rural focus, village design, and community / agricultural workers

Mr Owens informed the forum about progress of the Local Development Framework including considerations specific to rural areas and rural economies. Issues such as affordable housing development would require the input of parish councils through their village design statements. The importance of parish council engagement in the core strategy was emphasised, specifically with regard to suggestions on how housing targets should be planned in relation to smaller village developments.

Community Forum hosts the Bickerton Wind Turbine Debate

A special community forum meeting was held in November at Bishops Heber to debate the proposal to site wind turbines at land in Bickerton.

Over 120 residents received a presentation from Mr Phil Dyke (Managing Director) and Mr Martyn Earle (Development Planner) Banks Developments on the background to a proposal to site 5 wind turbines. They presented detailed information on a number of aspects that included:

- Their current proposals, including details of their ongoing feasibility study of developing the site
- The government policy and targets on renewable energy sources
- An explanation of the issues involved in establishing a wind farm
- An commitment that the proposed number of turbines would not exceed 5

A presentation from Messrs Voisey, Hobson and Wright of the Stop Bickerton Wind Turbines (SBWT) Group set out a counter argument to

the proposals. Their presentation provided information on:

- The issues faced by rural communities as a result of wind turbines in rural areas
- Wind as a 'low quality' sources of energy
- Statistical data demonstrating the intermittency of wind power
- The limited carbon dioxide savings
- The impact on health, the environment and safety concerns

As short question and answer session followed, covering topics raised by members of the public.



Bishop Heber High School was packed out to discuss the issue of Bickerton Wind Turbines



Members Budgets

Each Elected Member has a personal budget of £5,000 that is to be used through the Member Budget Grants stream. These grants are used for projects that show clear community benefit.

The project or supported activity should be something that, in the Member's view, will make a positive change in the local area. The budget may be used to support an external organisation or it may be used to undertake works.

The Broxton Councillors have already identified several projects they believe have the potential to make a difference to Broxton and the surrounding areas and to date have invested their budget as follows:

Farndon Day Care Centre have been awarded £2,328.75 for the provision of new armchairs.

The current chairs have been in the Care Centre for approximately 21 years and were in desperate need of replacement.

Farndon Day Care Centre provides companionship, nourishment, stimulation and care for elderly people who are referred through the Social Services. Members are in their 80's and 90's and of impaired mobility often living alone and in need of social interaction. Volunteers help to transport the elderly members to the Centre where they receive a two course meal, morning coffee, afternoon tea, creative activities and outings all this work is carried out by volunteers.

If you would like further information about the Member Budgets or have a project that would bring Community Benefit, please contact your Community Champion.

Your "Community Champions"



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Theme and date of next meeting

Subject: This meeting of the forum will take the form of a consultation workshop on Cheshire West and Chester's new Core Strategy, Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Transport Plan.

All the documents are now available for consultation and can be viewed on the council's website at http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/planning_for_the_future.aspx

Thursday 14th January 7pm - 9pm, Farndon War Memorial Hall, CH3 6QD

Useful Contacts

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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

All Services: 0300 123 8 123

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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.

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