

# You said, we did

....your local voice

## Blacon Feedback News

Autumn 2009

**Welcome** to the first edition of the Blacon Community Forum Newsletter. This newsletter gives an update on the issues discussed during the first two Community Forum meetings in Blacon.

### It's good to talk

Blacon Community Forum is a place for you to have your say, find out what's happening and meet and talk to your Blacon Councillors, Council officers, other organisations and other residents.

The meetings are organised by Blacon Councillors and supported by Cheshire West and Chester Council and are open to all Blacon residents. By listening and responding to your view, needs and aspirations, Councillors want to enable residents to shape and influence services provided by the Council and its partners – making Blacon and the borough an even better place to live in, work in and enjoy.

Your Councillors are keen to invite other public organisations and local community and voluntary sector groups to come to meetings to consult about their plans and seek your views and involvement in work affecting Blacon.

Before each meeting is a Community Drop In where you can have a cup of coffee and talk direct to your Councillors and officers about issues concerning you on a one-to-one basis. Your local Police Sergeant, Community Safety Wardens and Councillors will be on hand to meet you as well as representatives from Street Scene, Cheshire Fire, Chester and District Housing Trust and those presenting at the meeting. The Community Drop-in runs from 5.30-6pm.

### Your Blacon Councillors



**Cllr Reggie Jones**  
**Chair of Blacon Community Forum**

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**Cllr Marie Nelson**  
**Deputy Chair**

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**Cllr Alex Tate**

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**You said....** What's happening with the Blacon extra-care housing proposal at the Highfield school site?

**We did....** Extra-care housing staff plus the architect attended the July Community Forum to explain the scheme and share the new proposed plans. Issues discussed included individual and communal facilities, access from Dee Point Road, parking and timescales. It was agreed to arrange a residents visit to a similar completed scheme in Winsford.

**You said....** Residents from Carmel Close brought forward a petition asking Cheshire West and Chester Council to provide additional parking spaces closer to people's homes in Carmel Close.

**We did....** Several site visits were arranged with residents, Councillors, officers and Chester and District Housing Trust staff. After discussions and examining the opportunities available, options for additional parking arrangements are being considered and will be presented back to Blacon Community Forum. This item was also taken to the Chester Area Partnership Board in September.

**You said....** We are very unhappy to read in the press that the proposed Primary Care Trust Walk-in Centre is no longer going to be delivered in Blacon.

**We did....** Senior representatives from Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust attend the Community Forum to give an apology for the way that this decision was communicated.

**You said....** We want the Chief Executive from the Primary Care Trust to talk to us and hear our views.

**We did....** A special meeting of the Community Forum was arranged during the summer to enable residents to talk to the Chief Executive direct.

**Special Meeting:** A special Community Forum public meeting was called in July to discuss the change to the proposed Blacon Walk-in Centre. The Chief Executive of NHS Western Cheshire, Helen Bellairs informed residents that the Walk-in centre in Blacon had only been delayed and spoke about the commitment of the PCT to provide preventative services to address the health issues. This included services around mental health, obesity, alcohol and drug misuse, teen pregnancy, cancer prevention and podiatry.

Residents and Councillors met with Helen Bellairs and her Senior Management Team to discuss issues in more depth and agree a way forward.

**Points clarified:**

**Councillor Reggie Jones said**

- A new walk-in centre will open at the Countess of Chester hospital
- Preventative services in Blacon are essential and will be provided locally as soon as possible. A commitment was made by Helen Bellairs to review preventative services to ensure that they are targeted to those most in need.

**Councillor Marie Nelson added**

- Premises for a temporary walk-in centre in Blacon would be sought while the plans for the new integrated health centre were being developed. Anticipated opening of a temporary centre is summer 2010.
- A commitment was given by the PCT to communicate better with local residents through the Community Forum and Blacon Health partnership.

## Blacon Community Budget

Blacon Councillors this year have a budget of £15,000 to spend on projects making a positive change in Blacon. **Councillor Alex Tate said** so far Councillors have supported 3 local projects

- to commission Dial House to carry out research into how disability issues are affecting residents in Blacon
- to support the Blacon Summer splash scheme in providing a range of activities for children and young people of all ages to get involved in during the summer.
- to support the Blacon Winter Festivals group in coordinating a programme of activities and events that Blacon residents can participate in and enjoy during winter 2009

If you have an idea for a community project or need funds to help extend your current work and/or involve more residents, please get in touch. For an application form contact your local Councillor or email

Janet.Gittins@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



**You said....** We have heard rumours about proposals by Chester University to build at Parkgate road.

**We did....** Chester University Chancellor Tim Wheeler attended the Community Forum meeting in July to share his vision for developing 14 acres of land on Parkgate Road. Draft designs and a model of the development was shared showing a student village providing residence for 1000 students. The scheme involved extensive landscaping and planting to disguise buildings and pedestrian access via a tunnel. The University agreed to attend future meetings to keep residents involved in the development of this site.

**You said....** We are dissatisfied with the proposed reduced bus service from Blacon to the Chester Countess Hospital.

**We did....** Councillors raised the issue at full council. The issue was also raised with the Primary Care Trust and to Cheshire West and Chester officers. The new service has now being extended to run regularly throughout the day up to 5.30pm

**You said....** We are dissatisfied with the Cheshire West and Chester call centre - we are unable to get through, there is a slow response and no feedback or incidence numbers are given.

**We did....** Resident's experiences were fed back to the Head of Neighbourhoods and Customer Service. The Call Centre manager offered to come to the October Community Forum meeting to hear residents concerns direct so that any issues are fully understood and the service can be improved.

**You said....** Local reports were made about incidents of dog fouling, fly tipping, vandalism to play area surfacing, wheelie bins that had not been emptied and Anti-Social Behaviour.

**We did....** These issues have been dealt with through the Call Centre and the Community Safety Wardens.

## Your next Community Forum Meeting

Tuesday 1st December at Blacon High School, Community Wing

5.30pm Drop-in, 6-8 meeting

Topics for discussion:

- Highway Maintenance in Blacon
- Your Community issues

plus a workshop on Cleaner, Greener, Safer issues

### 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)

## Dates for Your Diary

Blacon Community Forum and One Voice for Blacon are now working more closely together. As a result from November meetings will alternate each month (no meeting in January or August). All meetings will take place on Tuesdays starting at 6pm (5.30 drop-in). The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday...

### One Voice for Blacon

3 November (AGM) at Dee Point

2 February, venue to be confirmed

3 April, venue to be confirmed

### Blacon Community Forum

1 December at Blacon High School, Community wing

2 March at Blacon High School, Community wing

13 April, venue to be confirmed

## All residents are welcome Get Involved:

If you have any questions or would like to be on the Community Forum mailing list come along to a meeting, contact your local Councillor or the officers below.

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