

# You said, we did

....your local voice

## Northwich West & Abbey feedback news

November 2009

# Welcome

**Welcome** to the second edition of the Northwich West & Abbey Community Forum Newsletter.

This newsletter gives you an update on items discussed at the Community Forum meeting held on 29 September 2009.

### Role of Your Community Forum

Cheshire West and Chester has been split into five areas, each with an Area Team to develop and implement effective area and neighbourhood working. Northwich West and Abbey is one of three Community Forums falling within the Winsford and Rural East Area. The Community Forums have been set up to increase resident involvement and engagement in identifying and delivering improved services for the local community.

Community Forums 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.

### Traffic Issues in Hartford

Residents raised a number of concerns regarding speeding and other traffic-related problems in the Hartford area. This had been one of the major issues highlighted at the Community Forum meeting in June.

The efforts being made by Hartford Parish Council to address the problem of speeding traffic were outlined, as was the process for instigating action by the Police.

**Question:** Why don't the Council install traffic calming measures, ie speed ramps, in Hartford?

**Answer:** It is the policy of Cheshire West and Chester Council not to allow speed ramps on 'A' roads such as Chester Road in Hartford.

In response to a suggestion that 30 mph repeater signs be provided, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Engineer responded that, unfortunately, such signs were not permitted on roads which had street lighting.

**You said....** A couple of traffic signs on Chester Road in Hartford are obscured by dirt and overgrown vegetation

**We did....** Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways Service arranged for the two speed signs to be inspected, cleaned and for foliage to be cut back as necessary



**Question:** Why is it not possible for traffic to turn right out of School Lane, Hartford, in the direction of Chester, given that there are now traffic lights at this location which could control traffic movements to allow this to happen?

**Answer:** The current arrangements have been based primarily on road safety grounds and, whilst it is recognised that a percentage of the local community are in favour of introducing the facility to turn right at this junction, it is considered that the majority of local residents support the current arrangements.

Residents expressed concern about parking problems at The Crescent, Hartford, where students of Hartford College were causing obstruction to local residents by parking in the road. The problem was being exacerbated by redevelopment works at the College, during which time car parking had been reduced. The Area Highways Engineer responded that the situation should improve when the redevelopment works at the College were completed. The college was also considering reducing on-campus parking charges, which should assist, and were in the process of producing a Travel Plan. Cheshire West and Chester Council were also considering introducing a Residents Parking Scheme. The Chair (Councillor Helen Weltman) agreed to keep the residents concerned updated on progress.

Concern was also expressed that Cheshire West and Chester Council had proceeded with the sliproad across The Green, Hartford, despite local opposition. The Area Highways Engineer responded that this scheme had been necessary to reduce traffic congestion and improve pedestrian facilities, and to anticipate the increase in traffic that would result from the Winnington Urban Village development.

## Other Issues Raised

**Question:** What is happening about the new domestic waste collection service, and why has a weekly collection service recently begun in Chester?

**Answer:** An experimental weekly collection service has begun in Chester, and will operate until 2012, as part of a review of all options, pending the introduction of a new waste collection contract after that date. It is intended that, eventually, all areas of the Borough will receive the same service.

**Question:** What progress has been made about improving the path from the new bridge to the blue bridge and Moulton under the Connect 2 Northwich project?

**Answer:** A progress report on the Weaver Valley Regeneration Projects will be submitted to the next meeting

**Question:** What is Cheshire West and Chester Council doing about developing local byelaws on issues such as litter and dog fouling, in respect of land in the Council's ownership?

**Answer:** The Council is currently undertaking a review of its enforcement powers, including the enforcement of byelaws, and a progress report will be submitted to the next meeting.

**Question:** What is Cheshire West and Chester Council doing about the proposed waste incinerator at Northwich?

**Answer:** The application is still at the consultation stage, and the outcome is yet to be determined. The Council will be a consultee on the application, and Highways and Transportation Services will be considering the implications in highways terms.

**Question:** Why has Cheshire West and Chester Council decided to sell County Hall and move to new premises, at great public expense, and why have the detailed negotiations regarding the sale of the building not been available for public inspection?

**Answer:** It was considered not to be in the public interest to divulge the details of the negotiations at this stage. There are several factors in the decision to sell County Hall – Cheshire East Council half-owns the building and requires its half of its value within five years, it is a costly building to maintain and not designed as office accommodation. The offer from Chester University will keep the building in the public domain, and will be beneficial for the city. Although the sale of County Hall will not be enough to cover the cost of the new building, the additional cost should be re-couped within five years, largely through the release of surplus assets, and will not be an additional call upon local Council Tax.

**You said....** there is concern that the former Cheshire County Council funding of Vale Royal Women's Aid, due to expire at 1 April 2010, might be discontinued after that date, with the result that the organisation may have to be disbanded

**We did....** the resident concerned was directed to the appropriate Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council, to ensure that Vale Royal Women's Aid would be included in the Council's current funding review of such organisations

## Connexions

Jennifer Hulme, Team Leader at Connexions, attended the meeting and gave a brief outline of the wide range of activities carried out by Connexions.

**Question:** Are any youth outreach services provided in local villages such as Moulton and Davenham?

**Answer:** There are currently no services of this kind, but the need for outreach services will be looked at, with a view to introducing a level of provision, if it is found that a need exists

## 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.

**Question:** Can anything be done about updating highways roadworks signs that display inaccurate information, in terms of the start or completion dates of highways works, when works are not carried out to their original schedule?

**Answer:** Changes to schedules of work are usually advertised in the local press, and can be viewed on Cheshire West and Chester Council's website. Officers of the Highways and Transportation Service would continue to look at ways of minimising the dissemination of misleading information.

## It's good to talk...

**You said....** the on-line highways fault reporting system does not allow for the reporting of more than one fault at a time. Also, it does not send emails either to confirm receipt of a fault report, or confirm when a fault has been rectified.

**We did....** Cheshire West & Chester Council would investigate improvements to the on-line fault reporting system, as now suggested

## 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](mailto:jane.binyon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## Your Six "Community Champions"



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### Cllr Simon McDonald

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## The next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 December 2009 at Winnington Park Recreation Centre, starting at 7.00 pm

## Possible Topics for future meetings

- Consultation on major Council Strategies, ie Local Development Framework, Local Transport Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Update on Connect 2 Northwich project

## 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

**All Services: 0300 123 8 123**

### 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)