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LATEST**• COUNCILS TOGETHER EVENT – Tuesday 16 September 2014**

Further information regarding this event....

A programme for the day is starting to take shape, and we can confirm that Justin Griggs (Head of Policy & Development at NALC) will be our keynote speaker with a slot entitled: *“Celebrating Local Councils”*. A regular speaker at a wide range of conferences and events at both national and local level, Justin is spearheading NALC’s campaign to raise awareness of Local Councils and the positive difference grassroots democracy and community action can make to people and communities.

In addition, four workshops are currently being developed around the following themes:-

- Innovation in Finance
- Unlocking community benefit from the planning system
- Building your profile
- Delivering services differently.

A more detailed programme will be circulated towards the end of the month.

Please register for this event as soon as possible as we have limited places available left.

To register for this event, please email:

partnershipsandareaworking@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

• TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Partner organisations from across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington are joining forces to tackle community safety issues with the emphasis on early intervention and prevention.

The *“Transforming Community Safety”* programme brings together the four local authorities with Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Probation Service and health agencies. They will jointly set and manage community safety priorities, working together to ensure that the right service is commissioned in the right place, at the right time to help create a safer community for everyone.

The programme will be co-ordinated by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, with the different agencies taking the lead of five different workstreams as follows:

- Reducing Harm through Alcohol (led by Cheshire East Council)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (led by Cheshire West and Chester Council)
- Domestic Abuse (led by Halton Borough Council)
- Reducing Re-offending (led by Cheshire Police)
- System Change, Performance and Governance (led by Warrington Borough Council)

In addition, two cross-cutting themes of “Case Management” and “Single Front Door” have been identified across all workstreams, and a thematic approach has been adopted to join up the activity in these two areas.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is leading on the ASB workstream.

Anti-Social Behaviour is a major challenge for public services and places significant demands on police, local authority, housing and other support services. It can have a detrimental effect on the community and can seriously affect the quality of life for individuals, increasing their risk and vulnerability. This workstream aims to tackle these issues via three elements in order to deliver streamline sub regional ASB and community safety solutions:

- Sub-Regional ASB Strategic Group
Established in February with a ‘core’ and ‘associate’ membership – the core members meet monthly and the associates are invited to join the group on a quarterly basis. The vision of the group is to develop and test sub-regional working opportunities. Core members include Community Safety Managers from cross the sub-region, Cheshire Police, Victim Support, and the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) Office. In addition, there are some associate members who are invited to meet with core members on a quarterly basis: these include Youth Offending Probation, and Cheshire Fire and Rescue.
- Implementation of new ASB Tools and Powers
A sub-group of the ASB Strategic Group has been established to look specifically at the implementation of new tools and powers, ensuring that there are high-level sub-regional processes in place. The sub-group comprises Community Safety representatives from the sub-region, Cheshire Police and the PCC Office. Registered Housing Providers have also agreed to join the group.
- Mediation
Funding has been awarded by the Transforming Community Safety Programme to enable us to commission ‘Train the Trainer’ mediation training for key officers across the sub-region. This will enable us to offer a standardised sub-regional mediation service at first point of contact, in order to prevent cases escalating to a more serious level, requiring more costly intervention. In addition, this initiative will support victims at an early stage. A selection of PCSOs, Community Wardens, and other frontline officers will be offered the limited places. Using ‘train the trainer’ makes the model sustainable as additional frontline officers can be trained as necessary.

A series of briefing sessions have been arranged on the ASB workstream and Town and Parish Council representatives are welcome to attend any of the following sessions:

- 1st September 2014, Winsford, 5.15pm – 6.15pm (Room 1, Wyvern House)
- 8th September 2014, Ellesmere Port, 5pm – 6pm (Room 2.4, Civic Way)
- 15th September 2014, Northwich, 5pm – 6pm (Condate Room, Northwich Town Hall)
- 17th September 2014, Chester, 5pm – 6pm (Room 2.4, HQ)
- 22nd September 2014, Frodsham, 5pm – 6pm (Castle Park Frodsham)
- 29th September 2014, Neston, 4pm – 5pm (Neston Town Hall)

For further information, please contact:

Michelle Nicholson, Community Safety Manager

Telephone: 01244 972360

E-mail: michelle.nicholson@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

- **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTING**

Working in partnership with Cheshire Police, Cheshire West and Chester Council has decommissioned the dedicated ASB line which, since the introduction of the national 101 number, had received significantly fewer calls.

The partnership arrangements with the Police allow chronic ASB issues that do not require an immediate response to be emailed directly to the Integrated Partnership ASB Units.

The units can be contacted directly for information, advice and action via the following email addresses:

For Chester and Rural Areas

ASBUnitChesterandRuralWest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For Ellesmere Port (including Neston)

ASBUnitEllesmerePort@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For Northwich and Winsford Areas

ASBUnitNorthwichandWinsford@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

It should be noted that emails to the above are not monitored 24 hours a day and the units will aim to respond to enquiries as soon as possible and at the very least within 48 hours.

If you need to report a crime or anti-social behaviour that requires immediate attention, Cheshire Police should be contacted on **101 (non-emergencies)** or **999 in the case of an emergency**.

Complaints about noise nuisance should continue to be directed to the council **unless** the noise is linked to domestic violence, a dangerous dog or a party where people are spilling out of premises into the public realm with the potential to cause public disorder. If noise relates to these highlighted issues, Cheshire Police should be contacted on **101**.

Noise complaints continue to be managed by the Environmental Protection Team through either the 'golden number' **0300 123 8123** or the dedicated noise nuisance number **0300 123 7038**, unless other factors, as described above, are involved. Noise can be reported to the council from 8am – 7pm on weekdays and outside of those hours will be directed to an out of hours service. This will result in someone from the Environmental Protection Team re-contacting the caller to discuss the complaint, usually within office hours.

Complaints about issues such as littering and dog fouling should still be reported to the council 0300 123 8123 as usual.

As a general rule, the Police will only deal with noise complaints that are linked to domestic violence, a dangerous dog or a party where people are spilling out of the premises into the public realm with the potential to cause public disorder.

If the call relates to chronic noise issues that do not meet the above criteria, the Police will direct the caller to contact the local authority.

- **SKY LANTERN RELEASES**

A new Code of Practice has been launched which covers the supply and use of Sky Lanterns. Cheshire West and Chester Safety Advisory Group do not support the use of Sky Lanterns at any events. Private event venues and organisers should be aware of the dangers associated with the release of Sky Lanterns and take appropriate steps to minimise the risks involved. The Code can be obtained at: <http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/policy/skylanterns.cfm>

Further advice is available by emailing: Nicki Rose, Regulatory Services – nicki.rose@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

• HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days runs from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th September. This year's programme, produced by Cheshire West and Chester Council in partnership with the Chester Civic Trust, commemorates the Great War.

Heritage Open Days offers free access to a wide range of attractive and historically important buildings and sites throughout West Cheshire. This is an opportunity to discover 'hidden' buildings and to find out what is behind their front doors. Many of the buildings are not open to the public, except during this celebratory weekend.

There are a range of free walking tours including 'Chester Life in the Months leading up to August 1914', 'Upton by Chester historical walking tour' and 'Frodsham restoration in progress' plus a guided tour of Chester Railway Station and Chester Racecourse.

The Cheshire Military Museum will be open free of charge on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September.

Other buildings open free of charge include; The King Charles Tower on Chester's Walls (with stonemasons demonstrating their skills) and the Lion Salt Works (Saturday 13) in Northwich giving visitors a glimpse of the transformed site as it prepares to re-open as a heritage attraction in 2015.

Experts at many of the buildings and sites will be on hand to answer questions from visitors and give an informal explanation of the building history.

The booklet is available from Chester Visitor Information Centre, Town Hall Square, the Grosvenor Museum, History and Heritage in St Michael's Church, and local branch libraries. The booklet is also available online at www.heritageopendayschester.co.uk

Advance booking is required for most of the guided tours; bookings can now be made.

Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and sponsored by English Heritage nationally, it happens thanks to a large numbers of local voluntary societies, building owners and volunteers who are happy to welcome the public to drop in and look around a selection of our stunning architectural heritage.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.heritageopendayschester.co.uk/>

UPDATES

• COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – UPDATE

At its meeting on 30 July, the Community Governance Review Committee considered phase one consultation feedback and draft recommendations for the parishes of:

- *Comberbach; Anderton with Marbury; Little Leigh; Whitley; Antrobus; Great Budworth; Marston; Wincham; Lostock Gralam; Lach Dennis; Allostock; Nether Peover; Byley; Sproston; Moulton; Bostock; Davenham; Rudheath; Barnton; and Hartford.*

These have been published for a further period of consultation prior to be finalised.

The Community Governance Review Committee also considered final recommendations for the parishes of:

- *Tushingam-cum-Bradley, Macefen and Bradley;*
- *Bickley, Edge, Hampton and Larkton;*
- *Chorlton;*
- *Cuddington;*
- *Poulton and Pulford;*
- *Eaton, Eccleston and Claverton;*
- *Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache;*
- *Burwardsley;*
- *Aldersey, Barton, Carden, Clutton, Coddington and Stretton;*
- *Broxton, Duckington and Harthill; and*
- *Saughall and Shotwick Park.*

These have been formally published within the parish and on the Council's website for further representation prior to being agreed by Full Council later in the year.

The agenda and supporting paperwork for the 30 July 2014 meeting can be viewed at:
<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=852&MId=4341&Ver=4>

At the next meeting of the Governance Review Committee to be held on 27 August 2014, the Committee will receive:

- Phase one consultation feedback and draft recommendations for the reviews of the following parishes:
 - *Huntington; and*
 - *Dutton.*
- Draft recommendations for the review of *Puddington, Shotwick and Woodbank* parishes.
- Final recommendations and revised final recommendations for the reviews of the following parishes:
 - *Acton Bridge;*
 - *Weaverham;*
 - *Cuddington;*
 - *Whitegate and Marton;*
 - *Little Budworth;*
 - *Utkinton;*
 - *Darnhall;*
 - *Capenhurst and Ledsham;*
 - *Crewe-by-Farndon, Farndon and Kings Marsh;*
 - *Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoke and Wervin.*

The agenda and supporting paperwork for this meeting will be available on the Council's website from 20 August 2014:

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=852&MId=4467&Ver=4>

Information relating to the overall process is available on the Council's website at:
http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/voting_and_elections/community_governance.aspx

For further information, please contact:

Alison Armstrong, Senior Manager - Partnerships & Development

Telephone: 01244 973336

E-mail: alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

• **CONNECTING CHESHIRE – UPDATE**

Connecting Cheshire has announced that a further 16,000 premises now have access to the high-speed technology that can transform lives and businesses.

The latest areas in West Cheshire to benefit from the expansion of the network include much of Tarporley, Tarvin, Sandiway and Saughall.

They follow parts of Chester, Christleton, Tattenhall, Guilden Sutton, Neston and Weaverham, which went 'live' during the spring.

Further information and latest update can be viewed on the following website:

<http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/project-update-documents>

CONSULTATIONS

- **CHILDREN'S CENTRES CONSULTATION**

Cheshire West and Chester Council is consulting on proposals affecting five Children's Centres across the borough.

A Children's Centre is a place or a group of places where parents with children under five years old can access early support services. These services may be provided at the centre, or advice and assistance may be given in order that children and families can access services at a different location.

Public funding for Children's Centres has reduced significantly and we need to make sure that the available money can be focused more on direct service delivery from experienced professionals for children and families and less on running buildings and associated overhead costs.

We need to change the way we work currently so that we can manage within a reduced budget yet still meet the needs of our children and families, particularly those who need our support most and are our most vulnerable.

We are consulting on one proposal for change of use, de-registration, of five Children's Centres across the Borough, and would like to identify any potential impact on children and families using the services offered from these venues. This will help us to identify alternative solutions if required and minimise any adverse impact on them.

The consultation document can be viewed on the council's website which explains this proposal in more detail and shows what this means for different parts of Cheshire West and Chester.

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/consultations_and_petitions/council_consultations/childrens_centres_consultatio.aspx

The consultation will be running until **28th October 2014**.

For further information please:

Email: childrenstrustwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 01244 976052

- **HOUSING STRATEGY FOR WEST CHESHIRE**

A reminder that consultation on a new draft Housing Strategy for West Cheshire will run until **Friday 26th September**.

The draft strategy document sets out the Council's vision and aims for housing in the borough for the next five years, the key issues affecting the local housing market and what the Council intends to do to help overcome these challenges and improve housing outcomes for local people.

The consultation aims to capture the views of as wide a range of people as possible, from all tenures and backgrounds, including those living and working in the borough and those involved in the local housing sector.

Full details of the consultation, including an online questionnaire, can be found on the Council's website here: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/housingstrategyconsultation>

Paper copies of the strategy will be available in local libraries, partner offices and main Council buildings, and the feedback we receive will be used to inform the final version of the Housing Strategy, which will go to Executive Committee for approval in November and will be launched later this year.

- **GROWTH & PROSPERITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

There is still plenty of time to comment on Cheshire West and Chester Council's consultation seeking views of stakeholders and residents on a number of services that are being reviewed within the Growth & Prosperity Directorate. Views are being sought on a number of its services e.g. Museums, Markets, Development Planning, Housing Solutions, Property Assets and Estates Management and Capital Delivery.

The consultation period runs until **5th October 2014** and the consultation document and on-line questionnaire can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/consultation.

Alternatively hard copies of the consultation documents will also be available from libraries, museums and council offices, or can be requested by emailing: GandP.consultation@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or telephoning 0300 123 7031.

Feedback from the consultation will inform recommendations being considered by the council's Executive later in the year.

- **LEISURE CONSULTATION**

Cheshire West and Chester Council would like to know what you think about the services operated by Brio Leisure.

Brio Leisure operates the Council's leisure services which includes local leisure centres, entertainment venues and local golf courses. It is a not for profit company owned by the Council but separate from it.

The Council has made an in-principle decision to grant Brio a new contract from March 2015 and wants to make sure that the views of residents, users and interested organisations are taken into account when the new specification is written.

As part of the consultation process the Council would like to know what current users of Brio's services think of them, but we are also interested in the views of non-users.

Your answers will be used to shape the new leisure contract. All answers will be kept confidential.

As a thank you for taking part in this survey, you can enter a draw to win a FREE 1 month Brio Leisure pass (existing members will be credited for 1 month instead). There are three prizes available. Details are at the end of the questionnaire.

There are a range of ways to express your views:

- you can complete an online survey
- pick up a copy of the survey at your local Brio Leisure venue,
- email: research@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or
- write to: The Research Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Goldsmith House, Hamilton Place, Chester, CH1 1SE.

For further information, please visit the Council's website at: http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/consultations_and_petitions/council_consultations/leisure_consultation.aspx

The consultation will end **7th September 2014**

OTHER INFORMATION....

• **COMMUNITY ASSETS AND SERVICES FEASIBILITY GRANTS (ENGLAND)**

Community and charitable organisations, parish councils and local authority employees looking to develop and run local services have until the 30th September 2014 to apply for funding under the Community Assets and Services (CAS) - Feasibility Grants Programmes.

Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available to organisations that can demonstrate good potential to compete effectively to deliver public services. Grants of £10,000 to £100,000 are available to support organisations to develop project and business plans to become investment ready and take on asset development projects preparation for delivering services.

The types of revenue expenditure that qualify for feasibility grants include:

- The purchasing external expertise
- Development of comprehensive business plans
- Training
- Market research
- Product development.

Before applying, applicants have to speak to the advice service run by Locality. They will give guidance on the project and the type of finance that would be most suitable. Only applications referred by Locality will be processed.

For more information, please visit the Social Investment Business Group website:
<http://www.sibgroup.org.uk/communityrights/guidance/>

• **COMMUNITY ASSETS AND SERVICES PRE-FEASIBILITY GRANTS (ENGLAND)**

Community based organisations thinking of running a local service or taking over the management of a local building or land have until the 31st October 2014 to apply to the Community Assets and Services Pre-Feasibility Grants scheme.

Through the Pre-feasibility grants scheme, grants of £5,000 to £10,000 are available to build the internal capacity of organisations to help them compete to deliver public services and/or run assets. The grants can be used to:

- Undertake work to assess and address the capacity of organisation's to bid for service delivery contracts, to deliver services, or to own and manage buildings and land
- Improve governance and leadership
- Support the costs of incorporation or forming a consortium
- Coaching and mentoring for existing staff to build their skills for service delivery or asset management.

Before applying, organisations have to speak to the advice service run by Locality. They will give guidance on the project and the type of finance that would be most suitable. Only applications referred by Locality will be processed.

For more information, please visit the Social Investment Business Group website:
<http://www.sibgroup.org.uk/communityrights/>

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Cheshire West and Chester Council's dedicated Hotline number exclusively for the use of Town and Parish Council representatives is: **0300 123 7049**

Best wishes.
Emma Stevens,
Parish Support Officer – Localities
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Tel: 01244 972671
Email: emma.stevens@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk