



NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Registered Charity: 1074676

Company Number: 3555199



Welcome to the 18th edition of Cheshire Rural View.

In this edition you will see many good examples of community spirit, volunteering and the good work done throughout Cheshire and its rural communities.

There are many events coming up in the next two months, details of which can be found in the insert in this publication

If you have any ideas for information or articles you would like to see in our next issue or, if you have any community news please feel free to contact me on 01244 323 602 or email tamara.bainbridge@cheshireaction.org.uk

The Editor

In this edition:

Editorial	page 1
Have your say	page 2
Parish Plan Round Up	page 3
New Project Basis 2	page 4
Meet the Staff	page 4
Women's Rural Awards	page 5
Congratulations Willaston	page 6
Community Pride	page 7
Funding	page 8

Improve Rural Areas CWAC

O2- it's your community

Inserts -What's on in Cheshire

- Cheshire East Congress
- CWSEP AGM & Network meeting
- Cheshire Community Action AGM
- West Cheshire Together LSP
- CCA Mince Pie Event



Cheshire Community Action
is the working name for the registered charity,
Cheshire Community Council

Contact Us:

If you require any further information, you can contact Cheshire Community Action on **01244 323 602** or email:

enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk

Or visit our website at:

www.cheshireaction.org.uk

Have Your Say for the Future of West Cheshire!!

The three most important strategy documents under the new Cheshire West



Cheshire West
and Chester

& Chester Council are being released for consultation. These documents will shape the future of the Borough and affect the lives of the local population over the next 15 years.

West Cheshire Together is the Local Strategic Partnership of organisations working with the Council to improve the quality of life for local people. This includes public, private and third sector (charities, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises etc.).



The three strategy documents out for consultation are the:

- **Sustainable Community Strategy** which sets out the key social, economic and environmental priorities for the area. This is a hugely important document for allocating resources. (Consultation period – 11th November 2009 to 13th January 2010)
- **Local Development Framework** which is the vision that forms the core planning and land use policies for West Cheshire. (Consultation period – 11th November 2009 to 13th January 2010)
- **Local Transport Plan** which focuses on the transport priorities for West Cheshire. (Consultation period – mid-October 2009 to 13th January 2010)

During the consultation period, there will be lots of opportunities for individuals, communities and organisations to get involved. You may complete the consultation documents on-line at <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk> (you can search for all the strategy documents on this website).

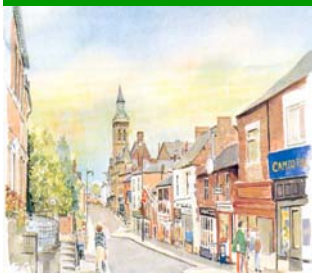
There is an event being held in Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on Friday 20th November 2009 from 9:00 – 1:30pm and lunch will be provided. There will be presentations and workshops looking at the above strategic documents in detail. Contact Elaine Grant in the Partnerships Team for further information Tel: 01244 973334 or e-mail: elaine.grant@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



You may also get involved by attending your local Community Forum. Contact Lyn Raynor in the Partnerships Team for details of a Forum near you Tel: 01244 972370 or e-mail:

lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Parish Plan Round Up



The total number of completed Parish Plans in the sub-region of Cheshire, Warrington and Halton is now running at 47 with Willaston being the latest to launch in mid October. All the signs are that this will rise to the heady heights of 50 by the end of the year. As always, this is down to the hard work, persistence and enthusiasm of a wide range of well motivated volunteers all around the sub-region.

New Plans Completed

One new plan has been completed and launched since the last Newsletter in September at Willaston near Crewe. Many congratulations to everyone involved.

Brand New Plans Underway

Tarvin held a very well attended public meeting in the Methodist Church at the end of September and the community voted in favour of proceeding with a plan. A large number of volunteers came forward and a Steering Group is being formed to take the Plan forward. Culcheth has been working hard publicising its public open events on 30th and 31st of October to launch a new Plan.

Funding Stage

Dunham & Hapsford has now received full Development Grant funding for its plan and is working on its questionnaire and Tarvin has been awarded Starter Grant funding. Henbury will be applying for Development Grant funding shortly, whilst Lower Peover is working on its questionnaire now that its Development Grant funding is in place.

Analysis and Drafting Stage

Knutsford, Disley, Great Budworth, North Rode and Wincham are all working very hard on finishing the analysis of their data and progressing with the drafting work.

Final Drafting stage

Alderley Edge, Ashton Hayes, Haslington, High Legh, Holmes Chapel, Pickmere, Tilston, and Wistaston have all produced fairly well advanced drafts of their final documents and will shortly be launching them.

The Parish Plans Development Officer, Bron Kerrigan, is funded by both Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils to facilitate the process. If you don't have a Parish Plan but are thinking about producing one, or if you already have a Parish Plan, but have stalled, run out of steam or want help implementing it, contact Bron for an informal chat, help and further information. You can email her on bron.kerrigan@cheshireaction.org.uk or telephone her on 01606 881760

New Project.... Basis 2



LOTTERY FUNDED

'Strengthening Rural Services in Cheshire and Warrington'

Cheshire Community Action is the lead body of the Basis 2 project working in partnership with Chester Voluntary Action and Macclesfield & District CVS. The partnership received the BIG Lottery BASIS 2 funding to increase support for rural voluntary, community and faith groups across Cheshire & Warrington for the next three years. Rural groups will have access to the BASIS 2 team for increased information and networking, one to one support, signposting for training, identifying and writing funding applications, advice and support for setting up and developing new groups.

Meet the New Rural Project Team!

Melanie Sheward - Basis 2 Rural Officer



Melanie is a former Architect and Development Manager for Housing Associations in South Wales and in the Midlands. She moved to Cheshire and became a project officer and project champion for the NWDA funded Rural Enterprise Grant programme, which supported businesses Countywide, including community projects and Market Towns across rural Cheshire and Warrington.

Melanie is looking forward to utilising her skills, experience and local knowledge as the Rural Officer at Cheshire Community Action. She will be coordinating and leading the Big Lottery Fund BASIS 2 project 'Strengthening Rural Services in Cheshire and Warrington'.

To make contact, or have an informal chat please call **Melanie Sheward** BASIS 2 Rural Officer, 01606 881760 or email on melanie.sheward@cheshireaction.org.uk.

James Cartledge – Village Halls Adviser



James has a BSc Outdoor Studies, and has experience working in customer service, retail and leisure environments. James has undertaken different types of voluntary work such as assisting in the running of a local scout group, fund raising for different charities and coaching football sessions for street children in Malawi.

James is working for Cheshire Community Action as a Village Halls and Community Buildings Adviser, he is looking forward to meeting people and working with community building management committees and rural groups.

Meet the New Rural Project Team Cont...

Aoife Middlemass - Rural Development Worker Cheshire East Macclesfield



Aoife was formerly an office manager in the private sector, she ran a Business Incubator in Manchester looking after start up companies. Aoife also administered several ERDF projects supporting variously the creative and business sectors.

She will be working with rural groups in East Cheshire to provide support and advice to help develop their communities. To contact **Aoife Middlemass** phone 01625 428301 mdcvs@btclick.com

Christine Dodd - Rural Development Worker Cheshire West



Christine has 30 years experience in banking and finance, most recently as a business analyst for M & S Money. She took a break from finance in 2005, previously she worked for Cheshire Community Council as a Rural Project Coordinator. Christine hopes to bring her project management experience to the team and look forward to working closely with Melanie, Aoife and James as well as getting out and about meeting people in rural West Cheshire. To contact Christine Dodd phone 01244 323 527

Cheshire Women's Rural Awards



Our Chair, Mrs Maureen Warmsley was presented with the Womens's Rural Award from Cheshire Community Action in October.

Maureen used to work for the library service working at Holmes Chapel Library. For ten years she was an Adviser with Citizens Advice

specialising in debt work and she was also a volunteer with the Family Planning Association. Maureen has been a member of the WI for a number of years eventually becoming Chairperson of the Cheshire Federation 1999 to 2003.

Maureen has been Chair of Cheshire Community Action for the last 3 years. She said she was motivated to become a Trustee of CCA because her interests lie in communities and the environment, and CCA works with communities, helping to improve their quality of life.

She also plays many other roles in the community including; being a member of the CFWI Public Affairs Committee, NFWI Craft Judge, Vice President Jodrell Side WI, Council Member of Cheshire Agricultural Society, (Member of the Strategic Board) Cheshire and Warrington Rural Partnership, and (Member of the Strategic Board), Sandstone Ridge EConet Partnership.

Congratulations Willaston



On October 15th 2009 Willaston, near Crewe, which is internationally renowned for its World Worm Charming Championships each June, became the latest Parish to launch its Parish Plan. Willaston began its Plan with the Parish Council first floating the idea of producing a Parish Plan at a very well attended Annual Parish meeting on 4th June 2007. The idea of producing a Parish Plan for Willaston really captured residents' imaginations that night and the audience readily embraced the idea of working pro-actively to shape the future of Willaston.

Interested volunteers (who are still on the Steering Group today) then attended a Parish Plan Network meeting at Reaseheath College run by the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council and the rest, as they say, is history. The community and the Parish Council have continued to support the volunteers very strongly over the period of 2 years that it has taken to formulate the Plan.



Willaston achieved a 51% response rate to their questionnaire, with over half the households in the Parish taking the time to reply. Large numbers of enthusiastic residents of all ages (including the Guides) have turned out to public meetings and consultation events throughout the process as did the local Mayor, the local elected Cheshire East member and MP, Edward Timpson. Attendances and support may have had something to do with the wonderful home baked biscuits that the WI has continued to produce at events but even more to the excellent publicity and effective communication that the Steering Group has achieved throughout the process with its 'Willaston Newsletter'.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to have worked with the Willaston Parish Plan Steering Group, which has introduced me to at least 2 new public houses and a social club that I had never visited before, which have hosted some of the meetings. In addition, there have always been lovely refreshments and warm welcomes at various homes around Willaston where the rest of the meetings have taken place. It was always lively, noisy and fun attending their meetings and events as well as highly productive and effective. This is a community that is highly skilled and works well together to effect the changes that it wants to see.



Many congratulations to you all in Willaston for a job well done and for fantastic team work.

COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION 2009

The 53rd Community Pride Competition sponsored by Shell UK, was celebrated at Northwich Memorial Hall in the presence of a large gathering of Civic Leaders, Parish Councillors, Competition Judges and enthusiasts who had travelled from all parts of the County.



The overall award for the **2009 BEST KEPT VILLAGE/MARKET TOWN** Competition was presented to **NANTWICH**. A Market Town which is well cared for and attractive to all who visit it. Mrs. Maureen Walmsley, Chairman of Cheshire Community Action which organises the Competition, presented a plaque and a cheque.

The Cheshire **Community Spirit Award** was Presented to **Rainow** who will now be the Cheshire nomination for the Calor National Village of the year Competition.



KINGSLEY won the **Community Safety Award**, which is sponsored by Cheshire Constabulary. The Chief Constable of Cheshire, Mr. David Whatton, presented a plaque and a cheque for £250.



A New Award has been created this year to support the work of volunteers or individuals who look after their environment. There were 26 **The Little Gem Award** winners this year; to see results visit

www.cheshireaction.org.uk/community-pride-2009.php

Mrs Walmsley presented the **Shell UK Awards** in the seven population categories. The winners were **Siddington, Eaton village & Rushton, Peover Superior, Audlem, Helsby, Wistaston and Nantwich**. She congratulated all those who had entered the Competition and we look forward to another successful competition next year. Shell's support for this competition is of great importance and ensures its continued presence in the rural life of Cheshire.



The Competition exemplifies the community spirit in all the villages. It demonstrates and emphasises just how much voluntary work is undertaken to keep Cheshire a vibrant County. The competition encourages villages to improve every aspect of their village life which is under threat in so many different ways.

The volunteer judges come from all over the county and spend a considerable time looking at the villages and interacting with community volunteers. They all agreed that standards are improving every year.

Funding

£200,000 fund to improve rural areas across Cheshire West and Cheshire



Cheshire West
and Chester

Local groups, charities and small organisations can apply for funding between £5,000 and £20,000 and any grant must be match-funded 50 percent from another source.

The grant programme will be administered by the Rural Agenda and Market Towns Team.

The Rural Funding Programme will provide support for community groups and organisations and improve opportunities within rural communities. Applications must meet at least one of the following priorities:

- Community Safety
- Healthier Communities
- Rural Economy
- Environment
- Children and Young People
- Village Halls and Community Buildings
- Services for Older People

For further details contact ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

O2 - IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



It's Your Community Programme aims to enable people to make real improvements to where they live. Grants are available to support local environmental, urban renewal and conservation projects and funding is available for both groups and individuals. The grant scheme will be changing it's focus to young people in January 2010. Applications will be accepted until the end of December 2009 for community projects.

Awards of between £100 and £1,000 are available. Awards may be used to hire tools and equipment, or to purchase plants, paint, signs and materials.

Projects must benefit the local community's environment or build community spirit. The following are examples of eligible projects:

- *Rebuild and Restore* - cleaning and painting a bus shelter, restoring a sports pavilion's leaking plumbing, and fitting insulation to a local hall.
- *Active* - funding for equipment for local clubs from football to cycling,
- *Green and Clean* - setting up and supporting community gardens, woodlands, beaches and paths, and improving public access to river banks and green spaces.

For further details visit www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk or phone 0800 902 0250