



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Town Clerk: **BRIAN HOGAN**



14th November 2013

Dear Councillor,

Community, Environment and Services Committee – Thursday 21st November 2013

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Community, Environment & Services Committee, to be held in the Town Hall, High Street, Congleton on **Thursday 21st November 2013 at 7.00pm.**

NB

At 6.30pm there will be a private briefing for Councillors concerning an Understanding of Policing Issues

The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting. There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press.

Yours sincerely,

TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence. (Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence).
2. Minutes of Last Meeting (enclosed)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd October 2013 as a correct.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

Tel: 01260 270350 Fax: 01260 280357

Email: info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

4. Outstanding Actions

CES/34/1213

The Committee support the "Responsible Dog Scheme" pilot being introduced at Bromley Farm and will evaluate its success in 6 months with a view to rolling out the scheme throughout the town.

CES/05/1314

That the proposed arrangement on CCTV provision to be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. Connecting Cheshire (enclosed)

To receive a project update on the roll out of fibre broadband in Cheshire

6. Boat on the River Dane (enclosed)

To receive and consider correspondence from Fiona Bruce MP concerning advice on the Canal Trust in relation to the issue of the Boat on the River Dane.

7. Manchester Road Signage (enclosed)

To discuss and consider the outstanding issue of speed road signage changes on Manchester Road.

8. Peel Bridge (enclosed)

To consider a response from Cllr David Topping CEBC concerning the problems being experienced at Peel Bridge.

9. Carbon Reduction Scheme (enclosed)

To review and consider correspondence from Cheshire East concerning the street lighting carbon reduction scheme.

10. Making Cheshire Safer (enclosed)

To consider a summary of proposals from Cheshire Fire Authority aimed at making Cheshire Safer in 2014-15 and the launch of a consultation process on its future plans.

11. Community Rights (enclosed)

To receive and consider a quick and simple guide to community rights from DCLG .

12. Town Twinning (enclosed)

To consider a letter from Quievrain in Belgium concerning some proposals for twinning and further collaboration.

13. Parking Outside Schools (enclosed)

To consider a response from Cllr David Topping relating to Traffic Regulation Orders outside schools in Congleton.

14. No Parking at Mereside (enclosed)

To consider a request to replace a no parking sign at the end of Mereside.

15. Fellowship House Conditions of Hire (enclosed)

To consider the Conditions for Hire for the use of Fellowship House where the Luncheon Club is located.

16. Rural Fair Share Petition (enclosed)

To receive and consider correspondence from Fiona Bruce MP concerning the Rural Fair Share Petition.

17. CEBC Green Waste Collection

To consider the decision by CEBC to cease green waste collection from the 18th November 2013 until 14th March 2014.

18. Vehicle Allocation Scheme (enclosed)

To consider the proposals put forward by Cheshire East Borough Council in respect of the community led initiative concerning the vehicle allocation scheme.

19. Cheshire Police

To receive and consider a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

To	Members of the Community and Environment Committee
	Appointed Member, Hon Burgess Mrs M M Williamson
ccs.	Other members of the Council and Honorary Burgesses (4) for Information; Press (3)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillors G S Williams (Chairman in the Chair)
 Mrs D S Allen
 P Bates (Vice Chairman)
 Ms L Bours
 D T Brown
 J S Crowther
 G R Edwards
 Mrs A M Martin
 D Murphy
 Mrs J D Parry

 Mr E Clarke (Appointed Members)

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Miss R K Williams.
Apologies were also received from Cllrs G Baxendale, G Brittain, D A Parker and N T Price who are not members of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

CES/28/1314 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th August 2013 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Cllr D Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council and abstained from voting on item 14.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

CES/34/1213

The Committee support the "Responsible Dog Scheme" pilot being introduced at Bromley Farm and will evaluate its success in 6 months with a view to rolling out the scheme throughout the town

CES/05/1314

That the proposed arrangement on CCTV provision be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORKING GROUP

CES/29/1314 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Floral Arrangement Working Group meetings dated 9th July and 2nd September 2013 be received.

6. BOAT ON THE RIVER DANE

It was reported that the owner of the boat had lodged an appeal in the Magistrates Court against the S215 notice. A court date to hear the appeal is awaited, reported the Town Clerk.

CES/30/1314 RESOLVED to receive the report on the Boat on the River Dane.

7. RAILWAY BRIDGE AT PEEL LANE

It was noted that both the Police and Network Rail had responded to correspondence from the Town Council concerning problems at the railway bridge on Peel Lane. It was noted that Traffic Calming Measures were ultimately the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

CES/31/1314 RESOLVED that :-

1. Cheshire East Council be requested to conduct a speed survey of vehicles passing down Peel Lane and request them to remove the route from Sat Nav systems.
2. Local Cheshire East Council Ward Councillors to be requested to raise the issue on the Local Traffic Committee.

8. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was noted that Mrs M Williamson will represent the Cheshire Lord Lieutenancy at Remembrance Sunday.

9. CAMPAIGN AGAINST LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

Correspondence from Cheshire East Council concerning the Campaign Against Loneliness and Isolation was considered by the Committee.

CES/32/1314 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

10. CONGLETON POST OFFICE

Correspondence from the Post office on Mill Street concerning the proposed change to a new main style branch was discussed. It was noted that during the refurbishment work, the Post Office will be closed from 14th October to 23rd October 2013.

CES/33/1314 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

11. PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

Correspondence from a number of sources including the Police and Cheshire East Council relating to parking outside schools was considered.

It was noted that Cllr David Topping, on behalf of Cheshire East Council, had agreed to look into the matter to see what could be done.

CES/34/1314 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and proposed solutions noted.

12. COMMUNITY SPEED SYSTEMS

The notion of introducing a Speed Indicator Device (S.I.D) was considered by Members.

CES/35/1314 RESOLVED that :-

1. The Town Council borrow a S.I.D from Cheshire East Council to evaluate its effectiveness.
2. The matter to be evaluated again at the meeting of the Community, Environment & Services Committee planned to take place on 6th February 2014.

13. NAMING OF 3 STREETS IN CONGLETON

A considerable debate took place on the naming of 3 new streets in the area Brook Street.

CES/36/1314 RESOLVED that: -

1. Local schools to be invited to suggest names for the streets.
2. Cllrs to consider producing a name bank for future use.

14. BRIDESTONES 2

It was noted that there were some contractual difficulties being experienced with the land lease document being prepared by Cheshire East Council and Scarborough Developments which revolved around a termination clause.

Two possible remedies to this dilemma have been proposed, one was to bring in a third party Arbiter, a second was to transfer the lease of the Public Square, at no cost to the Town Council.

CES/37/1314 RESOLVED that to accept in principle the notion of the Town Council taking over the lease of the Public Square.

15. CHESHIRE POLICE

Sgt Thomas provided an update on policing matters in the Town. He pointed out that in August crime fell, particularly anti-social behaviour. There has been a concern about begging in the Town, but, an individual is being dealt with through the courts.

The Police are being vigilant about drug related issues, but, when incidents occur residents need to report the matter officially to the Police.

The Police consider that alcohol related incidents are a much bigger problem in the area and place a drain on Police resources.

Travellers are causing a problem once again at Barn Road, but, it is the responsibility of the Local authority to take appropriate action to have them moved on. If such people commit offences, they will be dealt with, but, the Police will need clear identification on who committed the crime before they can take action.

Residents should be encouraged to report all incidents using the appropriate numbers to report crime

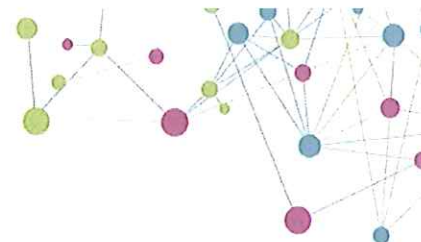
- **Advice on anti-social behaviour, crime prevention, neighbour disputes. Safer Cheshire East Partnership – 0300 123 5030.**
- **To report anti-social behaviour/neighbour issues to Plus Dane:**
 - **0800 169 2988 (free from most UK landlines)**
 - **0300 123 4560 (local rate from a mobile phone)**
- **Noise Nuisance – Environment Health 0300 123 5015.**
- **998 to report a serious crime or a danger to life issue.**
- **101 to report non-emergency incidents to the Police.**
- **Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111**

CES/38/1314 RESOLVED that the report from the Police be received.

16. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There was no resolution to exclude the public and press.

G Williams
Chairman (In the Chair)



PROJECT UPDATE

November 2013

Connecting Cheshire is a £31m council led programme to bring fibre broadband to 96% of premises in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. This will bring superfast fibre to over 80,000 additional premises mainly in our outlying and rural areas by summer 2015.

Introduction

The purpose of this update is to inform you of the publication of a map showing where Connecting Cheshire will be rolling out fibre broadband over the next 2 years and to update you on the work required to facilitate deployment.

Coverage

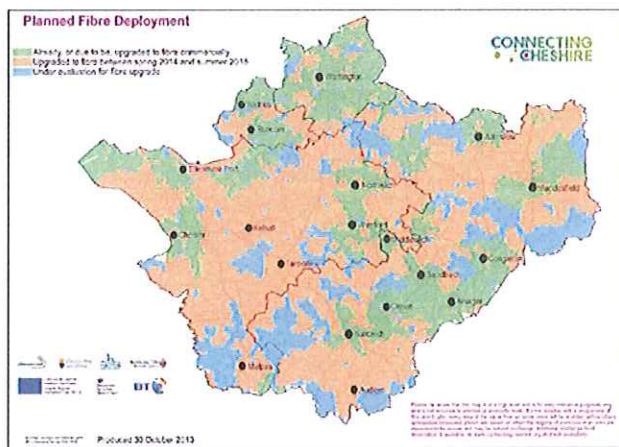
The map illustrates where communities throughout the county can expect the high-speed technology to arrive by the end of summer 2015. The map is available to view on our new website at www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/check-availability.

The Connecting Cheshire programme will reach over 80,000 additional premises in mainly outlying and rural communities. The map also shows where more than 80% of premises, mainly in urban areas, are already able to access fibre broadband, and those areas still under evaluation.

Deployment Plan

The Connecting Cheshire broadband programme will be delivered by Openreach - BT's local network business, following the signing of our infrastructure contract in April 2013. A massive 875 miles of fibre-optic cable will be laid – more than the distance between Lands end and John O Groats. This will be a significant engineering challenge to upgrade the county's infrastructure including the commissioning of new roadside cabinets. As a result of the programme, broadband speeds will increase significantly, 96% of Cheshire premises will have access to speeds of up to 80Mbps¹, whereas Cheshire's current average downstream speed is 16Mbps (Ofcom UK Broadband Speeds Report; June 2013).

The final 4% of premises are under evaluation and the project is seeking additional funding or technological solutions to facilitate their upgrade to high speed broadband as soon as practicable, however these areas will see faster speeds as the project aims to deliver 2Mbps or more to all homes and businesses by the end of 2016 via enhancements to the existing copper network. This will be as a significant speed boost for our most remote homes and businesses as 12% currently receive less than 2Mbps.



¹ 80Mbps is the wholesale speed. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may use different speeds in their advertising. Individual line speeds will depend on network infrastructure and the service chosen by the ISP.

There are a range of factors which impact on the viability of our upgrades to fibre within the Connecting Cheshire programme; these include the number and density of premises, the deployment cost, the proximity to existing fibre infrastructure and whether eligible small or medium sized businesses would be served – which is a condition of our European funding.

Current Position

On behalf of Connecting Cheshire, BT Openreach's work on designing the fibre infrastructure is well under way to ensure the most efficient and rapid roll-out. This includes surveying all the underground ducts serving homes and businesses so that they can map where the fibre, new ducts, street cabinets and additional overground equipment will be sited.

First Phase Announcement

The first phase announcement will take place on 6th December, when we will make public which specific areas will be included in our first stage roll-out with further phased announcements thereafter. We will be inviting representatives from these communities to a briefing event to explain more about our deployment plan, and we will hold similar events for our subsequent phase announcements, so please don't worry if you are not invited to our first phase briefing.

Homes and businesses in at least 20 telephone exchange areas will see upgrades as part of the first phase and be able to contact their Internet Service Provider to order a switch to fibre broadband from the end of March 2014 onwards. BT's network will be open to all communications providers on an equal wholesale basis and so Cheshire consumers and businesses will benefit from a highly competitive market, in turn bringing greater choice and lower prices.

Street Works

As the pace of the project picks up you may see lots of BT Openreach vans and engineers as they begin the roll-out. A key element of our infrastructure deployment is the positioning and building of over 450 new green roadside cabinets. These will house the necessary communications equipment which will provide high speed broadband connectivity to homes and businesses. These new cabinets will be positioned within 50 metres of the existing cabinets and are of a similar size and shape.

Any delays in the commissioning of the new cabinets will put our ambitious roll-out plans at risk. As such the Government has removed much of the 'red tape' related to the commissioning of these cabinets to assist in the rapid deployment of fibre networks across the country.



We hope they will be a welcome sight in your community, as a visible sign of the Connecting Cheshire programme. Once ready for service we look forward to working with your community to help raise awareness of fibre availability and help everyone exploit the benefits.

If you require any further information please contact us at info@connectingcheshire.org.uk

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk



FIONA BRUCE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Mr B Hogan
Town Clerk
Congleton Town Hall
High Street
Congleton, CW12 1BN

7 October 2013

Our Ref: C/Congleton/FB/HC
Please quote the reference on any correspondence

Dear Brian

I had a meeting with a number of councillors about a month ago and was asked to make enquiries about legal powers regarding removal of the boat on the River Dane.

I received the attached advice from House of Commons to contact the Canal and River Trust.

By good fortune I was with their new Chief Executive only last week and have therefore written the attached letter.

I realise that this will be a very hard nut to crack and that so many others have tried, but I will do so!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fiona'.

Fiona Bruce MP
Member of Parliament for the Congleton Constituency
www.fionabruce.mp

Serving communities across Alsager, Congleton, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach

Westminster Tel: 0207 219 7042 • Constituency Tel: 01260 274 044
Email: fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk • www.fionabruce.mp

Mr R Parry
Chief Executive - Canal and River Trust
First Floor (North), Station House
500 Elder Gate
Milton Keynes, MK9 1BB

7 October 2013

Our Ref: C/Congleton/FB/HC
Please quote the reference on any correspondence

Dear Richard

It was a pleasure to meet you in Manchester last week; I thoroughly enjoyed the event, particularly as one of my enthusiastic constituents was involved, Bob Luscombe.

Please be assured of my ongoing support for the work of the Canal and River Trust in my constituency.

I am writing, coincidentally, regarding an issue which has been raised with me by local Councillors. There is a large abandoned boat on the river in the middle of Congleton. It has been there for some years and the owner is known. I understand he has property in the area from which, I would have thought, costs for the removal of the boat could be secured. I recently asked the House of Commons Library to advise me on the legal powers for the removal of an abandoned boat and they have informed me that these powers lie with the Canal and River Trust, on the particular waterway involved, in this case the River Dane.

This boat is a dangerous eyesore on the main gateway to the town centre (some 2 minutes walk from the Town Hall). I should be grateful if you could assist in facilitating the removal of the boat, an action which I believe would endear the Canal and River Trust to Congleton residents for a very long time to come! – This problem has appeared in the local press on a number of occasions over several years.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bruce MP
Member of Parliament for the Congleton Constituency
www.fionabruce.mp

cc Congleton Town Council

Brian Hogan

From: Andrea Morris-Wild
Sent: 11 October 2013 17:05
To: JohnJane (jsj.crowther@talktalk.net)
Cc: Brian Hogan
Subject: FW: Community and Environment Committee Thursday 21st November 2013

John

I have forwarded your request to Brian for his attention.

Regards

Andrea

From: JohnJane [<mailto:jsj.crowther@talktalk.net>]
Sent: 11 October 2013 14:13
To: Andrea Morris-Wild
Subject: Community and Environment Committee Thursday 21st November 2013

Hi Andrea,

Could I please request for the outstanding issue of the road signage changes on Manchester Road to be put on the next agenda for the above committee meeting. This has still not been completed by CE Highways.

Thanking you.

Regards,

John

Brian Hogan

From: TOPPING, David (Councillor) <David.Topping@cheshireeast.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2013 09:13
To: Brian Hogan; BROWN, David (Councillor); THWAITE, Andrew (Councillor); BAXENDALE, Gordon (Councillor); MASON, Peter (Councillor); DOMLEO, Roland (Councillor)
Subject: RE: Bridge at Peel Lane

Brian

I am picking this up with Highways.

DT

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Hogan [bh@congletoncouncil.co.uk]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 08:09 AM GMT Standard Time
To: BROWN, David (Councillor); THWAITE, Andrew (Councillor); TOPPING, David (Councillor); BAXENDALE, Gordon (Councillor); MASON, Peter (Councillor); DOMLEO, Roland (Councillor)
Subject: Bridge at Peel Lane

Cllrs,

At the meeting of the Town Council's Community, Environment and Services Committee, the issue of the problems that are being experienced at peel Bridge, which suffers periodic vehicle collision damage, was discussed.

The committee resolved to request Cheshire East to install traffic calming measures leading up to the bridge and requested that I seek your support in raising this matter on the Local Traffic Committee to request appropriate action be taken.

Kind regards

Brian

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Security and Viruses: This note confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses. We cannot accept any responsibility for any damage or loss caused by software viruses.

Monitoring: The Council undertakes monitoring of both incoming and

Member Update

Street Lighting Carbon Reduction Scheme

Following our recent briefings, we are writing to provide clarification and update you all regarding the Street Lighting Carbon Reduction Scheme.

The Council is making changes to its street lighting as part of its efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce light pollution and save money whilst keeping the safety of Cheshire East residents very much in mind. Following successful trials and consultations, phased operations commenced at the end of 2012 to adjust around 1,700 lights (4.5%). Of these 700 have been switched off; these lights are mainly on inter-urban routes with lights at junctions or intersections remaining. Around 1,000 lights have been dimmed to approximately 60% of normal strength, not a noticeable difference to the naked eye.

Phase 2 of the operation is due to start this winter once planning, information briefing and operational details are complete. Sessions have been held with local members to inform them of the impact of these changes on their areas. Further detail will be provided to Members, Parish & Town Councils and residents in advance of operations starting and information will be posted on the Service Information Centre.

Currently the plan for Phase 2 is to introduce part night lighting to around 3,300 'alternate' lights between the hours of midnight and 5.30am in residential areas across the Borough. This equates to less than 10% of the 38,000 Council-operated street lights. Additionally approximately 3,400 lights will be 'trimmed'. This is where light sensors are set to switch at predetermined levels meaning lights come on a bit later and go off slightly earlier saving around 1 hour per day, per lamp. Also, a number of lights will be dimmed.

The safety and wellbeing of residents and motorists is always a prime consideration and we continue to work closely with the fire and police services to ensure this is achieved. We will be taking into account areas where anti-social behaviour is prevalent and sheltered accommodation.

Further details will be made available as soon as possible.
Regards

Mark Averill
Service Leader

16 Oct 2013

Cheshire Fire Authority is the public body, which is accountable to the communities of Cheshire for ensuring they are protected by an effective fire and rescue service.

The Authority has published a four year strategy – Planning for a Safer Cheshire - which identifies the key challenges facing both local communities and the organisation and sets out the approach it will take in response. Annual action plans, called Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs) set out in more detail the projects and work scheduled for each year.

Last year the organisation completed its most extensive public consultation to date as it sought views on options to build some new fire stations, keep virtually the same number of fire engines but make significant changes to how many of them are staffed.

The three month consultation was overseen the Consultation Institute and Cheshire subsequently became the first fire and rescue service in the country to be successfully accredited through its Compliance Assessment scheme.

The outcomes from the consultation were used by the Authority in confirming which of the options it intended to pursue and the map contained in this summary shows the current plans.

Innovative community safety work and campaigns delivered by staff across the organisation have been key to ensuring that Cheshire is now a much safer place to live than it was a decade ago, with far less fires and injuries, as the graphs below show.

The Authority's programme is expected to take up to four years to complete and will be scrutinised through the ongoing annual risk management process, to ensure it still meets the Authority's objectives and the challenge of saving over £8 million by 2017-18.

Implementing the programme will clearly be the Service's main focus in the coming years. However, it is important that efforts are made to review and improve all aspects of the organisation.



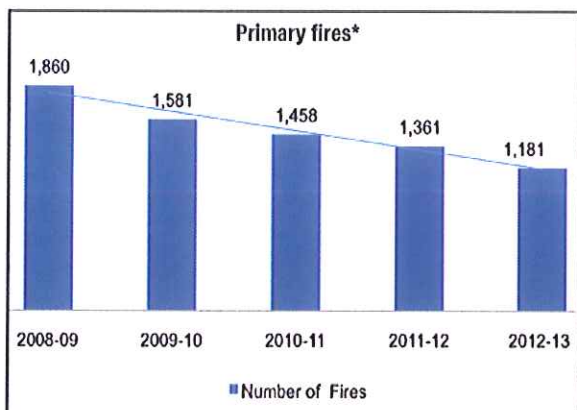
Therefore, the organisation's draft plan for 2014-15, summarised here, also includes a number of new proposals for developing the organisation, protecting local communities and responding to emergencies.

While these are not as far reaching as those set out in last year's plan, the Authority remains committed to ensuring that residents, businesses, partners and staff have the opportunity to give their views.

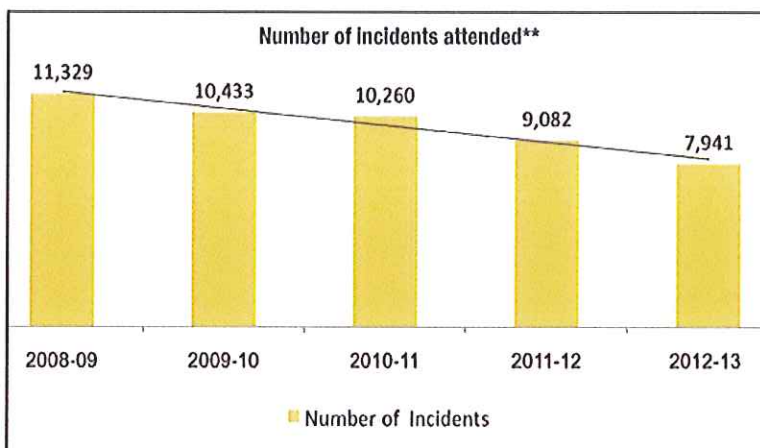
Have your say

Residents are urged to have their say on the projects included in the Integrated Risk Management Plan and in this summary document by visiting the Service's website – www.cheshirefire.gov.uk – where there is an online survey and details of community roadshows being held across Cheshire.

You can also email consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk or phone 01606 868408 for alternative ways to comment. The consultation period runs until 16 December 2013.

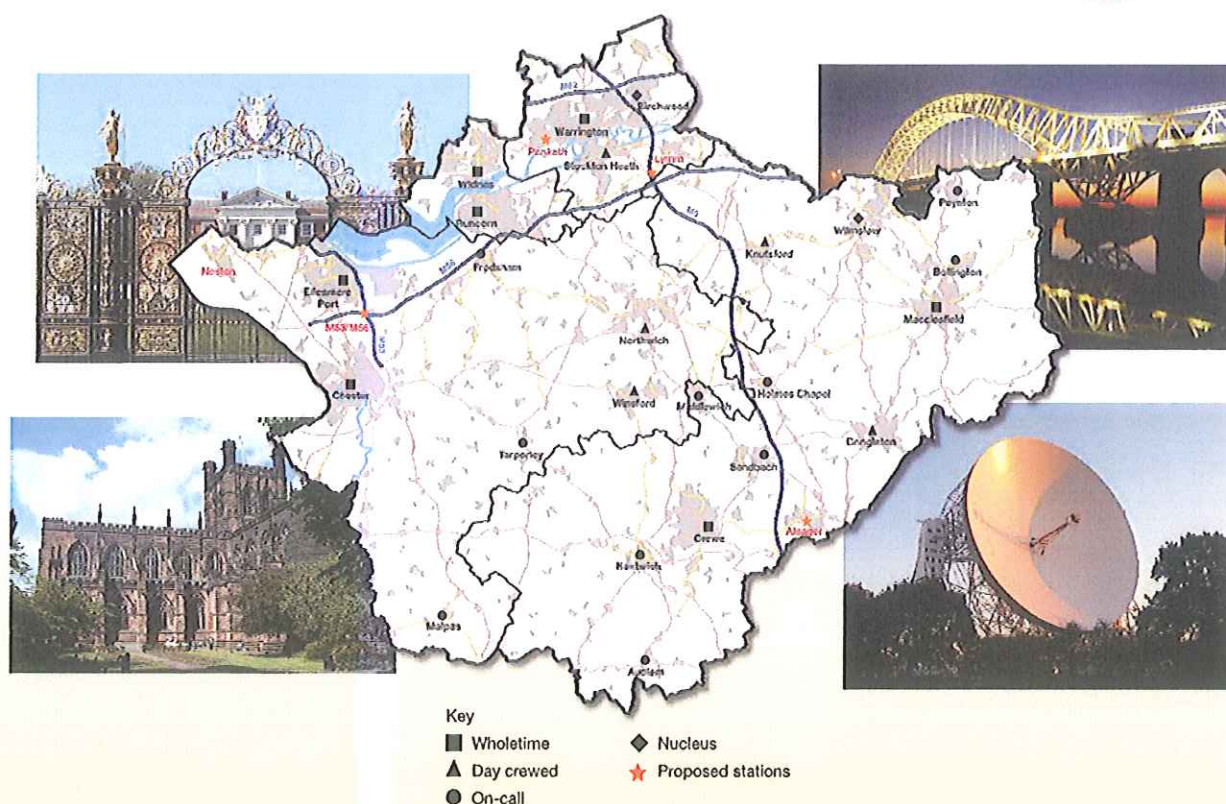


* Those involving homes, businesses, cars, injuries and incidents where more than five fire engines were used



** Excludes incidents attended outside the Service's area.

Planning for a



Warrington

Proposals:

1. Penketh – build a new wholetime community fire station with two fire engines, one operated by on-call staff in 2015-16
2. Warrington – move the second fire engine to Penketh the same year
3. Lymm – build a new wholetime station near the M6/M56 motorway interchange and use it as a base for other specialist vehicles in 2015-16
4. Stockton Heath – change crewing to on-call and move the aerial appliance to Warrington the same year
5. Birchwood – no change.

Halton

Proposals:

1. Runcorn – change the crewing of the second fire engine to on-call from 2014-15
2. Widnes – stop crewing the second fire engine with support provided by the new station at Penketh from 2015-16

Cheshire West and Chester

Proposals:

1. M56/M53 motorway Interchange – open a new wholetime station near the M6/M56 motorway interchange and use it as a base for other specialist vehicles from 2016-17
2. Chester – move the second fire engine to the new motorway base the same year
3. Neston – continue to review the feasibility of creating a new on-call station with one fire engine
4. Ellesmere Port – change the crewing of the second fire engine or move it to a new on-call station at Neston in 2016-17
5. Winsford and Northwich – change from day crewing to a nucleus crewing arrangement in 2015-16
6. Frodsham, Malpas and Tarporley – no change.

Cheshire East

Proposals:

1. Macclesfield – introduce a new crewing system for the main fire engine during 2014-15
2. Knutsford – change to on-call from 2015-16
3. Alsager – open a new on-call station with one fire engine in 2015-16
4. Congleton – remove the second engine and change the station to a nucleus crewing arrangement in 2015-16
5. Crewe – crew the second fire engine by on-call staff from 2016-17
6. Wilmslow – no change.

safer Cheshire

Draft Timetable

The Fire Authority has set out the draft timetable below for the implementation of the emergency response programme. It reflects current anticipated activity over the next three financial years. Given the scale and complexity of the projects, the programme is being reviewed and updated annually to reflect local consultation and land development issues.

2014–2015

1. Start recruiting for On-call staff at Penketh and Alsager
2. Introduce new crewing arrangements for the second fire engine at Runcorn
3. Introduce new shift system at Macclesfield
4. Start riding four firefighters across all stations
5. Start recruiting for On-call staff at Congleton, Knutsford, Northwich, Stockton Heath and Winsford

2015–2016

1. New On-call fire station at Alsager – “go live”
2. New fire station at Penketh – “go live” using the second fire engine from Warrington
3. Remove the second fire engine from Widnes
4. New fire station at Lymm – “go live”
5. Transfer Technical Rescue Unit from Knutsford to Lymm and Incident Response Unit from Winsford to Lymm
6. Transfer the hydraulic platform from Stockton Heath to Warrington
7. Introduce On-call model for Stockton Heath and Knutsford
8. Implement new crewing arrangements at Congleton, Winsford and Northwich
9. Start recruiting for On-call staff at Crewe and Ellesmere Port

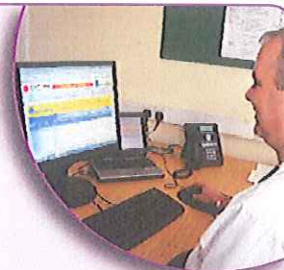
2016–2017

1. Introduce new crewing arrangement for second pump at Crewe
2. New fire station at M53/M56 interchange – “go live” using the second fire engine from Chester
3. Introduce new crewing arrangement for second pump at Ellesmere Port or move it to a new station at Neston
4. Transfer Foam Unit from Ellesmere Port and Incident Response Unit from Chester to M53/M56 station
5. Transfer High Volume Pump from Congleton to Ellesmere Port

Projects and proposals 2014-15 - summary

Developing the organisation

- Ensure the Authority participates and influences national debates over the future delivery and management of emergency services
- Finalise the outcomes of all value for money reviews, carry out a fundamental review of key service-wide systems and evaluate options for future collaboration following the launch of the North West Fire Control
- Implement the outcomes from the Service's income generation working group
- Launch a pilot apprentice scheme for the Service



Protecting local communities

- Develop new data sharing agreements with local health partners and take a lead role in negotiations with the Government over access to national data sources
- Set up a pilot project to provide a paid-for Home Safety Assessment programme for low risk households
- Establish the landlord pledge project in support of the smoke alarm campaign and implement the first phase of the project to part fund the retro-fitting of sprinklers in some high rise blocks of flats across the four unitary council areas
- Carry out a feasibility study into the potential for the Authority to establishing Cheshire's own dedicated Safety Centre for young people
- Review options to further reduce the number of false alarms from automatic fire alarm systems which the Service attends.



Responding to emergencies

- Continue to implement the Authority's emergency response programme including new crewing arrangements for the second fire engine at Runcorn, a new shift system at Macclesfield and the launch of on-call recruitment at Congleton, Knutsford, Northwich, Stockton Heath and Winsford
- Review the impact of the Service having a presence at the former Redsands Children's Centre in Willaston, Nantwich
- Carry out a detailed review in to how the Service's fleet of fire engines should be bought, specified and maintained in the future.



Brian Hogan

From: Graeme Worrall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 September 2013 16:26
Subject: Cheshire Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014/15 Consultation
Attachments: Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service IRMP 2014-15 Summary.pdf

Dear Town and Parish Councils,

LAUNCH OF CONSULTATION ON FUTURE PLANS FOR CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Cheshire Fire Authority is the publically accountable body, which manages the fire and rescue service on behalf of local people.

The Authority has now published its draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2014/15, titled '*Making Cheshire Safer*'. A 12 week consultation was launched on 23rd September, which runs until 16th December.

Please find enclosed a summary of the draft Plan, which details the next steps of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Emergency Response Programme and includes significant changes to the way the Service would operate in the future in order to meet its financial challenges and continue to provide an effective and efficient service to the people of Cheshire. This was subject to extensive public and partner consultation last year.

This year's 2014/15 draft plan also contains a number of other proposals that views are being sought on, including;

- Campaigning to make it a legal requirement for private landlords to install long life, linked smoke alarms in their properties.
- Campaigning to make it a legal requirement for sprinkler systems to be fitted in all new domestic properties in England.
- Running a pilot project to provide a paid-for Home Safety Assessments (HSA) to households that are at a low risk of having a house fire.
- Not attending Automatic Fire Alarms in commercial premises during the week between 9am and 5pm, unless the alarm is followed up by a phone call confirming a fire. (Properties such as hospitals, hotels and care homes would be exempt from this policy).
- Undertaking a study into the feasibility of establishing an interactive safety centre for young people within Cheshire.

As town and parish councils, we welcome your ability to relay to us the views of local communities on the proposals we're outlining.

A specific partner survey, which we encourage you as councils to complete, can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IRMP-11-consultation-partners>

You will also be able to access a summary of the plans (attached), as well as supporting material and a full copy of the IRMP 2014-15 through visiting our website: <http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/home/current-consultation>

Equally, we welcome any written submissions on the proposals, which can be sent to;

FREEPOST
CHESHIRE FIRE CONSULTATION

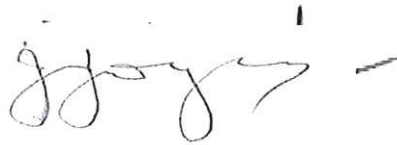
Tel: 01606 868407

Or email: consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Please feel free to publicise the separate public/residents survey within your local communities, both by including a link to the public survey [<http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/home/current-consultation>] on your own council's website and/or by displaying the attached poster on your community notice boards. For further copies and any issues please contact us using the details above.

Please take the opportunity to comment on our plans through the consultation and feel free to contact us if you require any additional information, using the details above. We look forward to receiving your views.

Yours sincerely



Cllr John
Joyce
Chair
Cheshire Fire Authority

Paul Hancock
Chief Fire Officer
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

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www.cheshirefire.gov.uk
Smoke Alarms Save Lives - Check Your Batteries



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

You've got the power

A quick and simple guide to community rights

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Your rights and opportunities

People around the country value and love the places they live in. They want great local public services, to protect the things that make their neighbourhood special and to help their community grow and develop in the right way.

To make sure that you and your neighbours have the community that you aspire to, the government has given you legal powers and new opportunities to preserve what you like and change what you don't like about the city, town or village you live in. Whether you want to stop the local shop closing, get more homes built, or improve local public services, this quick and simple guide will point you in the right direction. It also gives you just a few examples of the thousands of people, in hundreds of communities, who are already using their rights to make changes for the better in their area.

We're helping communities to take control

What do you want to do?

Have ideas about how your neighbourhood or community should develop?

Local places such as pub, shop or community centre closing?

Want to raise money for local community projects?

Have ideas about how to fix local problems?

Think you could run a local public service better?

Want to run your community with your neighbours?

Could you improve the way your housing is managed?

Could you make better use of vacant or underused land or buildings in your community?



What's the solution?

Neighbourhood Planning
Community Right to Build
Community Infrastructure Levy

Community Right to Bid
Community Asset Transfer

Community Shares

Our Place!

Community Right to Challenge

Establish a Parish Council

Right to Manage

Right to Reclaim Land
Compulsory Purchase Order

Help and support

There is plenty of advice, support and funding to help you get started. Go to www.mycommunityrights.org.uk/my-community-rights/ or phone **0845 345 4564** to find out more.

Neighbourhood Planning

Have you got ideas about how your neighbourhood should develop?

Neighbourhood planning enables local communities to shape the future of the places where they live and work. Neighbourhood plans have exactly the same legal status as those developed by councils.

Residents are directly able to:

- decide where new homes, shops and offices will go
- decide what new buildings look like
- decide what facilities, services and infrastructure is needed
- grant planning permission for new buildings through a Neighbourhood Development Order.

Communities which have neighbourhood plans can also receive part of a new levy on development in their area, which can be invested in local facilities. Funding and practical support is available to help you and your neighbours get started.

Here's how - Step 1: decide the area the plan will cover

Your plan might cover the parish boundaries, or just the centre of town, or perhaps include or exclude particular parts of the neighbourhood. The local planning authority will check the boundaries make sense and give approval.

Step 2: develop your ideas

What already exists in your neighbourhood and what's missing? Who lives in your neighbourhood – is it families, the elderly, young professionals – and what do they want? What sort of housing do they need? What sort of infrastructure and public services will be needed to support your plans? How will your plans attract businesses and create jobs?

Step 3: engage and consult with your local community

A neighbourhood plan needs 50% of local people to say 'yes' in a local vote, so it's crucial your neighbours are on-side. They will also have ideas which will help make your plan stronger. It will then be checked by an independent examiner.

In Thame, Oxfordshire, residents are protecting the character of their traditional market town while planning for the future, with more housing, a primary school and community centre. Their neighbourhood plan had a big 'yes' vote in the referendum as a result of the strong community involvement which shaped the plan.

Nigel Champken-Woods, Thame Mayor said "This is an excellent result and the networks and relationships formed throughout this process will go from strength to strength and the community spirit, which is a significant part of what Thame is, will continue in abundance as the plan is implemented."

Step 4: community referendum

Your council will organise a referendum so people who are eligible to vote and are affected by the plan have the final say. If it gets approved, it comes into force and will help determine planning applications and decisions in your area.

Alan Warburton, Winsford Town Council

"Neighbourhood planning offers a wonderful and exciting opportunity for local people to help shape the future of our town."

Community Right to Build

Want to build something your community can be proud of?

A Community Right to Build Order gives communities the ability to build their own housing, shops or community facilities without going through the traditional planning process. It will help communities deliver small scale projects, though it can also be used as part of the neighbourhood planning process so communities not only make the decisions but also take responsibility for building what they want.

Here's how - Step 1: get together with your neighbours

At least ten residents must be part of the scheme and you need to register as a legal body before you can proceed. Locality (our support provider) or the Charity Commission can help with this.

Step 2: come up with your ideas

Work with your neighbours to develop a proposal that the community can get behind. You need to work out which area the proposal will apply to and the local planning authority will need to approve this. Then identify suitable land, ensure you have the funding, and work with all interested parties to secure the right result. Then draft a Community Development Order which shows what you are proposing to build, where it is and how you have arrived at your decision.

Slaugham Parish Council, in Mid Sussex, has made two Community Right to Build Orders. They will pave the way for much needed new homes (some of which will be affordable) and a community centre, with the benefits of the development being retained by the community, for the community.

The first Order is for 76 new homes, 38 of which are affordable, as well as plots for 'self-build'. The second Order is for a new multi-functional community centre and bowling green. The Orders are an integral part of the Slaugham Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Step 3: submit your plans

An independent examiner will then check your proposal to make sure it fits with national policies and other legal tests – for example on conservation or protection of listed buildings.

Step 4: vote in a referendum

Your local authority will then organise a referendum for you. If there is a majority 'yes' vote then you can start getting ready to build.

Chris Hinchey, Chair of Slaugham Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

"The Orders offer the Parish Council the opportunity to make clear the full details of the Plan's flagship proposals with the local community, rather than leave this to later planning applications. These proposals are central to achieving the community's vision for the parish."

Community Right to Bid

Worried about local places that you love – like the pub, shop or community centre closing?

The Community Right to Bid helps to protect locally important community assets. You and your neighbours can nominate any local building or land you love and then, if it comes up for sale, you have six months to raise the funds to buy it. People have used this right to list shops, libraries, football stadiums, community centres and land like parks or riversides.

Here's how - Step 1: get together with your neighbours

Nominating a community asset needs the support of 21 people on the local electoral register. However other groups such as Parish Councils can also make nominations.

Step 2: list your asset

Many councils now have a form on their website for nominating assets. Over 90% of all nominations are accepted for listing.

Step 3: if the asset comes up for sale, the group who nominated the asset will be informed

There will be a six month period where your community has the opportunity to decide whether to bid for it and raise the money. To trigger this six month pause in the sale you'll need to become an incorporated group. You can of course involve far more people than the original group who nominated the asset. If the building or land is currently publicly owned, talk to your local authority about whether they will accept an offer beneath the market value: this is known as a community asset transfer.

Step 4: raise the money to buy your asset

There are a variety of ways to do this, for ideas see:

www.mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-to-bid/grants/

If your offer is accepted, the asset is now owned and run by the community.

The Ivy House Pub in Nunhead, South London, is a well loved pub in where people like Elvis Costello and Joe Strummer have played. Residents of Nunhead found out it was going to be sold for redevelopment. A group got together to list the pub and then had six months to raise the money to buy it. They received a loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund, a government grant, and almost 400 people bought shares in the pub. It has just reopened as a co-operative pub, with music and comedy nights, real ale and food.

www.ivyhousesunhead.com/

CAMRA

"CAMRA is delighted that the Government has recognised the vital importance of pubs and empowered communities to protect them. By listing their local, communities are ensuring that if the pub is under threat in the future, there is a much-needed extra layer of protection which "stops the clock" should it be put up for sale.

"CAMRA's 'List Your Local' campaign is aiming to get 300 pubs listed as community assets. We're now a third of the way there and we encourage communities to make the most of these new powers to help us achieve that goal."

Ivy House – Tessa Blunden

"If you care about an asset in your community then consider nominating it for listing through Community Right to Bid. We were very pleased with the support we received throughout the process and the listing bought us enough time to put together a bid to save our pub."

Supporters Direct – Tom Hall, Head of England

The Community Right to Bid recognises the importance of a football stadium, not only to the club itself but also to the fans and the community in general. The stadium is both symbolic and an asset used to provide social value to the communities it interacts. The listing of stadia as Assets of Community Value recognises this vital role clubs and their stadium play and that football clubs are not a normal business but have a clear social purpose that requires protection. Supporters Direct will continue to encourage its members to request their club's stadium are listed under this community right.

Community Shares

Want to raise money for local community projects?

Community shares enable residents to invest financially in community projects. By buying shares and becoming part-owners of a business, local people can become supporters, volunteers and advocates - not just customers - and projects get much needed funding to get started and become financially sustainable. They can be used to run community farms, establish community shops or purchase solar panels. Not all the funding for the project needs to be raised through shares: you may find that having this base attracts larger private investors too.

For further information go to
www.communityshares.org.uk

In Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, the owner of the village shop was retiring but residents wanted to see the shop continue. So they formed a community group and raised the money to keep it open by selling community shares at £10 each. More than 100 bought shares and the group raised £18,000, while other volunteers gave their time and expertise refurbishing and modernising the premises. The Green Valley Greengrocer opened six weeks after the shop closed, creating new jobs and retaining a much loved focal point for village life.

Here's how – Step 1: develop a business plan

For your venture to succeed and attract financial support it needs to be as professional as possible. Your plan needs to demonstrate that your business will be viable, profitable and sustainable.

Step 2: engage the community

Gain support from as many people as possible: this creates customers as well as attracting investors.

Step 3: register your community organisation

To raise capital by issuing shares, you need to set up as an Industrial Provident Society and will need to abide by the rules which govern co-operative societies.

Step 4: develop a share offer prospectus

This should be a powerful document which inspires people to invest and gives them all the information they need to make that decision.

Step 5: issue share offer

Once your funding is secure, you can get your community enterprise off the ground.

Simon Opie, Chief Executive of Hastings Pier Charity

"We are engaged in creating a unique operating model for the Pier and I can honestly say we could not be doing this work without the support of the Community Shares Unit. The success of the Community Shares offer is the key to sustaining the future of the Pier as a thriving social enterprise and to ensure that success requires access to experience and knowledge of the social investment landscape. We have been very fortunate to benefit from the expertise available to us within the Community Shares Unit team. "

Our Place!

Have you got ideas about how to fix local problems?

Our Place! helps residents work together with councillors, service providers, businesses and voluntary and community organisers to solve local problems and improve local services. Our Place! ensures that public money is being spent in the ways local people want. It enables people to take ownership and responsibility for their area, creating positive changes. It could be used to address health problems, tackle anti-social behaviour, improve the local environment, raise skill levels or whatever else matters to local people.

Here's how - Step 1: identify the problem you want to solve and bring people together

What do you want to achieve? Who has an interest in the problem? Think more widely than public services: what about businesses, voluntary groups and faith organisations. What are they already trying? Why isn't it solving your problems?

Step 2: work together to agree your vision and to develop a plan to bring it to life

Starting with a powerful and clear vision means people are more likely to get behind it. Maintain their enthusiasm by sharing information and reporting back on results regularly.

Step 3: sign up to the Our Place! programme to find out what advice and/or funding is available

For more information, email ourplace@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Advice and support is available from government and from those who are already working in the Our Place! way.

Step 4: put your plan into practice

Residents of **Haverhill, Suffolk**, were concerned about levels of youth unemployment. Through the Our Place! approach they brought local businesses, colleges and schools together with the local chamber of commerce to ensure that school leavers were equipped with the skills which local businesses needed. Government funding paid for a youth skills worker to co-ordinate an ambitious programme of work experience, apprenticeships and careers advice to help local young people get a foot on the jobs ladder and raise their aspirations.

Sarah Howard, Vice Chair, One Haverhill Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

"By bringing business, community and voluntary organisations and the public sector together we are making progress on what's needed for our town."

Cllr Ron Ley Ilfracombe Town Council

"We were fed up of thinking of ourselves as victims and holding out the begging bowl – so we decided to manage our town for ourselves."

Community Right to Challenge

Think you could run a local public service better?

The Community Right to Challenge enables communities to bid to take over local services they think they can run differently and better. This might include youth services, parks, libraries, allotments, children's centres and a whole lot more.

Here's how - Step 1: identify the service

Decide which service you want to run and where and how you would make improvements. Perhaps it would make sense to achieve economies of scale through running more than one service: for example running youth services across the district. Ensure you fully understand how it is currently run and what that costs.

Spotting a gap in the market **Brent Tenants Rights Group** submitted an Expression of Interest to their local authority to take on the Housing Tenancy Relations and Advice Service. Their proposal was accepted by Brent Council and this has given the group the opportunity to bid to deliver the service and improve local public service provision.

Step 2: make sure your organisation is ready to deliver the service

If successful, your group will have a legal and contractual obligation to deliver the service. Invest time in making sure you are ready for this: that you have the structures, skills and finance in place and ready to go. You may be eligible for government funding to develop the capacity of your organisation. Build a business case which shows how you will deliver your objectives, cover your costs and improve the service.

Step 3: submit an expression of interest to your local authority

Your expression of interest will need to be in writing and explain how your proposal will meet the needs of those who will use the service, as well showing that your organisation is suitable to run it. Check your local authority's website to see whether they take expressions of interest all year round or only during certain periods.

Step 4: bid to run the service

If the expression of interest is accepted, the authority will put the service out to tender. Your organisation may be in competition with other groups who also want to run the service.

Janet Murphy, Chief Executive of Escape Family Support said on working through the issues for taking over a service and the expert support available:

"We quickly realised that if we were going to be able to continue to grow and compete effectively we would have to evolve rapidly as an organisation. With support from Locality we were able to secure funding from the Social Investment Business which allowed us to conduct a pre-feasibility analysis which provided us with a firm platform from which to improve performance quickly and deploy our resources more effectively. If we have a word of advice for others it is to be proactive, start as early as you can and develop the right support networks."

Town and Parish Councils

Want to run your community with your neighbours?

Town and parish councils are the most grassroots form of local government. Town or parish councils enable people to have a big involvement over a small area. They run everything from job clubs to leisure centres, parks to community cinemas, all on behalf of local people. Though parish councils have traditionally existed in the countryside, there is no reason why they cannot be established in towns and cities; recently the first parish council for fifty years was established in London.

We are making it quicker and easier to set up parish councils and there is government help available for people who want to start one. Parish councils can also use other rights featured in this document: for example, they can bid to run local services, develop a neighbourhood plan which covers the parish and list local assets.

See www.createacouncil.nalc.gov.uk for more benefits and advice.

Sevenoaks Town Council

manages open spaces, recreation areas, a gym, a community centre and a tourist information centre as well as a cemetery, parks, allotments, public toilets, lighting and grit bins. It also helps the local economy, running a job club and Business Shows. It has a Youth Council and a youth café.

The Town Council has taken over the Stag Community Arts Centre which now operates a 2-screen cinema (including a 3D screen), theatre, function and wedding venue, and a youth theatre group, and has developed a very large network of local volunteers.

Here's how – Step 1: draw up the boundaries

These should reflect a common sense 'feel' for the community – for example, perhaps it will be centred around the local high street – but also needs to take into account other electoral boundaries.

Step 2: gather support for your proposal

You need to collect signatures in support of your proposal. How many signatures depends on how many people live in the area.

Step 3: submit your petition to the principal local authority

A review of community governance is then carried out and a report will recommend either accepting or rejecting your proposal. If accepted, the principal authority will make a 'reorganisation order', so that staff or property can be transferred to the new parish council.

Step 4: arrangements are made for elections to be held for the new parish council

In the meantime, a shadow or temporary council may be set up

"Neighbourhood Manager for Queen's Park Fabian Sharp

I welcome the measures which will make it easier for other aspiring neighbourhoods to embrace grass-roots democracy. Doing so, puts the community in the driving seat, in charge of local spending and free to do what local people think is best for their area. More is needed to capitalise on the energy in our communities, but this is a welcome move in that direction. "

Cllr Ken Browse, chairman of the National Association of Local Councils

"As champions for local councils and communities, we are delighted to support the positive steps in making it easier to create new local (community, parish, neighbourhood or town) councils – in previously un-parished areas. We believe that this is right considering the overwhelming response from people, communities, and local government to make the process of creating new local councils quicker, easier to understand and initiate. We particularly note and welcome the opportunity to create new parish councils in previously un-parished urban areas. "

Right to Manage & Community Cashback

Could you improve the way your housing is managed?

The Right to Manage enables **council tenants** to take control of major housing services such as repairs, grounds maintenance and security. When people are in control of their own services, they are often more satisfied with the quality and value for money.

The Community Cashback scheme enables **council and housing association tenants** to manage smaller-scale services, such as cleaning, which cost under £170,000, through a voluntary agreement with the landlord.

Right to Manage here's how - Step 1: form a Tenant Management Organisation

Check www.nftmo.com for advice and possible sources of funding. Unless your building is very small, it's likely you will want to appoint a management company to run it for you.

Step 2: get resident support for your plans and notify the council that you wish to exercise your Right to Manage

To win support from your neighbours you need a clear plan outlining the benefits of your proposals.

Step 3: finalise your agreement with the council and hold a ballot of tenants to sign off the new arrangements

Community Cashback, here's how –

Step1: decide what services you want to run

Step 2: gain support from your neighbours and develop a proposal

Step 3: draw up an agreement with your landlord

Step 4: once the service is up and running reinvest any savings for community benefit

Leathermarket Joint Management Board is **Southwark's** largest resident-managed housing organisation, managing 1500 homes in Borough and Bermondsey. Rents and service charges are invested in a variety of services including repairs, maintenance, cleaning and gardening, as well as carrying out major improvement works.

The Bloomsbury Estate Management Board was set up by residents in **Birmingham** who believed they could run their housing services more effectively. Run by a management committee largely made up of elected tenants, they provide traditional landlord functions like repairs and maintenance, as well as helping tenants with benefits, offering debt counselling and addressing community safety. It has created a strong community spirit among residents.

***Nick Reynolds (Chair National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations
and Secretary Roman Way Estate CiC)***

"We used the Right to Manage to set up a Tenant Management Organisation on our estate and we have been able to improve housing services and strengthen community spirit as a result. Thousands of tenants around the country have had the same positive rewards for taking control."

Right to Reclaim Land

Think that land in your community could be better used?

Across the country there are significant amounts of land, owned by public bodies, which are vacant or derelict and which could be better used for housing, business or parks. The Community Right to Reclaim Land enables individuals, community groups and other organisations, including developers, to ask that it be brought back into use and even bid to buy it.

Here's how - Step 1: check that the land you are concerned about is publicly owned

You can establish who the registered owner of the land is by contacting your local authority or the land registry.

Step 2: fill in a Public Request to Order Disposal (PROD) form

You will need to set out evidence making a case for why the land should be sold off and also make suggestions as to how it should be used. Further information and forms can be found at www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-people-more-power-over-what-happens-in-their-neighbourhood/supporting-pages/community-right-to-reclaim-land

Step 3: Send this to

NPCU@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Or post it to:

National Planning Casework
5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Step 4: your request will be considered by the Secretary of State

If your evidence is solid, the Secretary of State will issue a notice requiring the landowner to sell. This will normally mean that the land is sold on the open market.

Stage 5: put a bid together

You and your community will have an opportunity to purchase the land on the open market. Discuss your proposals with the existing landowner: they may be prepared to sell at less than market value.

Compulsory Purchase Orders

Local authorities can compulsorily purchase derelict/disused land and buildings if they cannot be bought by agreement. If you have ideas to improve land and regenerate your area, but are struggling to reach agreement with the landowner, see if your council can help.

Further information

You've got the powers; the organisations below will help you to use them

Locality (www.mycommunityrights.org.uk, 0845 345 4564) can give you support, advice and funding to help you exercise the rights outlined in this document

Social Investment Business (www.sibgroup.org.uk) offers grants to help kick start your community venture

The **Community Shares Unit** (www.communityshares.org.uk) will help you develop community share offers to raise money for community enterprises.

The **Homes and Communities Agency** (www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/community-right-to-build) can offer financial support for you to exercise the community right to build

The **Greater London Authority** (www.london.gov.uk/priorities/housing-land/increasing-housing-supply/build-your-own-home-the-london-way) can do the same for those in London

The **National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations** (www.nftmo.com/) can help council tenants exercise their right to manage

Congleton Town Council -Town Hall
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Votre communication du
September 24, 2013

Date
Le 24 septembre 2013

Concerns : The Town twinning between Quiévrain Town (Belgium) and Congleton Town (Cheshire, UK)

Dear Sirs,
Dear Mr Hogan,

The city of Quiévrain has been working to the twinning town project through the exchange of mails with the T. E. Pickering Major and we would like to come to the accomplishment of this topic by suggesting you collaborations on different subjects: educational , cultural & linguistics exchanges based on our common historical heritage.

In 1914, the battle of Audregnies through which the Cheshire Regiments defended our Belgian village from the German invasions, was the evidence of great skills, bravery and brotherhood of the British Battalions. For Audregnies – Quiévrain, the commemoration of this act of courage is taking a large importance. On 24th August 2014, the Cheshire Regiment Association will be travelling to Audregnies to remember those valiant men of a Century ago. We could consider collaboration with the Congleton Museum to manage an exhibition in Quiévrain for example.

That long lasting relationship between our two municipalities involves links between local communities on a broad basis, an active citizen participation that could include a "learning by doing" approach. The Quiévrain's authority (which includes Audregnies) would like to work, in that order of idea, on a language exchange between schools, personal friendships between our youths in their twinned town.

All this brings about friendship, mutual understanding and solidarity between people, providing knowledge about the European Union and about life, culture, patrimony of its citizens.

Belgium is also known for its beers and we could imagine a project with your brewery or local products or create some exchanges with our mutual artists and associations (Danside Theater for example).


We do have large green spaces as well and we do organize events as the "Flowers market" once a year, that could be the engine of new collaborations, as you have also beautiful parks and gardens, but also a way to work on the awareness of environmental protection.

The Quiévrain's municipality would like to know your position about that Town twinning between Congleton and Quiévrain, and if you do have propositions to offer in that framework.

In the hope that our common bond get stronger by the town twinning,

Best regards,

Philippe BOUCHEZ
Secrétaire communal
General director



Véronique DAMEE
Bougmestre
Mayor



Frédéric Depont
Echevin de la Culture
Echevin of Culture





SENT VIA EMAIL

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Tel: 01270 686014

David.topping@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Date: 7 November 2013 OUR REF: MJ/DT/nb

YOUR REF:

Dear Mr Hogan

Thank you for your request to introduce TRO's at zigzag markings throughout Congleton, I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

In order to make a zigzag marking enforceable a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required.

If a School Keep Clear is not backed up by an order then the police can enforce but only on the basis that a vehicle is causing an obstruction, which is subjective. Those in the former Crewe and Nantwich Area are backed up by a TRO and are enforced by Cheshire East Council under decriminalisation powers. The Order is a No Stopping Order and can be ticketed immediately.

In order to progress, all the locations would need to be surveyed and existing zig zags altered if required to comply to regulations (there is a maximum length) so that means removing existing markings or possibly resurfacing many areas and remarking with new signs and posts, advertising and consultations. Cheshire East Highways would need to ascertain the number of locations as we do not have plans or any details.

Cheshire East Highways are currently undertaking an assessment to determine the resources required to implement Orders at all schools across the Borough. This will then be considered as part of next years budget making process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Topping".

Councillor David Topping
Portfolio Holder for Environment

Brian Hogan

From: JohnJane <jsj.crowther@talktalk.net>
Sent: 03 November 2013 18:33
To: Glen Williams; Brian Hogan
Subject: Re: Community Environment & Services 7pm on 21st November 2013.

Hi Brian/Glen,

Could I please request for an item to be added to the agenda for the above committee meeting.
A **NO PARKING** sign to be placed at the bottom end of Mereside. This is to replace the original that is missing.

I have reported this to CEBC Highways also residents on Mereside reported it as early as March this year. I reported it again on 26/09/13 when this time I was given a Job No: 3205066. I reported it again to a Mr Bateman at CEBC Highways on 28/10/13 by email but this time I have not had a response at all.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

John

Fellowship House Hire conduction and Application

The Hirer should retain the Hiring conditions and return the Hiring Application to the Visyon.

1. In this Agreement:

- 1.1. "the Owners" means Visyon Ltd, Fellowship House, Park Road, Congleton, Cheshire. CW12 1DP.
- 1.2. "the Hirer" means the person signing the application form and in addition any organisation for whom he/she is stated in such form to be representing. The liability under this Agreement of such person and such organisation shall be joint and several unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 1.3. "the Premises" means Fellowship House or any part of it

2. The Hirer shall:

- 2.1. not use the Premises or the relevant part thereof other than for the purposes and the times stated on the application form.
- 2.2. accept that this Agreement is personal to the Hirer and any organisation which he/she represents and is not assignable and no other person or organisation shall be permitted to use or share the Premises under the terms of this Agreement. It constitutes permission only to use the Premises and confers no tenancy or other right of occupation on the Hirer.
- 2.3. comply with and observe Visyon's strict no-smoking policy on all parts of the Premises including its grounds.
- 2.4. indemnify and keep the Owners indemnified against all personal injury claims damage to the Premises and/or damage or loss of any property on the Premises occurring in relation to the hiring or while persons are entering or leaving the Premises pursuant to the hire however and by whomsoever caused and shall obtain public liability insurance cover in a minimum sum of £5m for the period of hire. A copy of such insurance cover must accompany the application form and be submitted to the Owner at least 48 hours before the hiring.
The only exception to the above insurance requirement is if the Hirer is an individual person hiring for sole use, or loose-knit group using the building for the benefit of the community. In these circumstances the Owner can exempt the Hirer from the need to have Public Liability insurance, providing risk management controls are in place.
For the loose-knit community groups a risk assessment must be completed by the hire for the activity itself and submitted to the Owner with the application form.
- 2.5. accept that the Owners shall not be responsible for any loss, theft or damage to any property arising out of the hiring nor for any loss, damage or injury which may be suffered by or be done or happen to any person using the Premises during or in relation to the hiring arising from any cause whatsoever or for any loss due to any breakdown of machinery, failure of supply of electricity, leakage of water, fire, government restriction, requirement of the Local Authority or Act of God which may cause the Premises to be temporarily closed or the hiring to be interrupted or cancelled and the Hirer shall indemnify the Owners against any claim which may arise out of the hiring or which may be made by any person using the Premises during or in relation to the hiring in respect of any such loss, damage or injury.
- 2.8 accept that the use of the Premises is in common with the Owners and any other persons authorised by them and the right at any time to enter the Premises and remain on the premises during the hiring is reserved to the Owners.
- 2.9 shall ensure that at all times good order is kept on the Premises

- 2.10 ensure they have access to a mobile to use in case of an emergency. The Premises has no public use telephone.
- 2.11 accept that the Owners may put a stop to any activity on the Premises which in their opinion is not properly conducted or which may infringe the Hirer's obligations set out in this one for the use in case of an emergency.
- 2.12 ensure that no structural alterations whatsoever shall be made to the premises.
- 2.13 leave the Premises in a clean and orderly state at the end of the hiring or each session of use.
- 2.14 ensure that all property brought onto the Premises during each hiring is removed on the expiration of the hiring or each session of use. The Owners shall not be responsible for any property left behind and reserve the right to charge extra while it is on the Premises.
- 2.15 ensure that appropriate independent fire safety measures are implemented. The Hirer shall ensure that no exits are blocked or chairs or obstructions are placed in corridors or fire appliances are removed or tampered with and the Hirer shall ensure that users of the Premises are aware of the locations of emergency exits and fire-fighting equipment.
- 2.16 ensure that any lights or other electrical apparatus which shall be connected to the electrical installation in the Premises shall be properly insulated and fused and electrical plugs and sockets shall not be overloaded. All must be fully electrically tested and comply with the current Electricity at Work Regulations. No unauthorised heating appliances shall be brought onto the Premises or used in them.
- 2.17 comply with all conditions attached to any music licence for the Premises.
- 2.18 strictly comply with all legal requirements regarding the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor, the performing of plays and the exhibition of cinematograph film and shall not infringe any copyright subsisting under the Copyright Act 1956. The Owners or the Owner shall be entitled to require proof that the provisions of this clause have been complied with 48 hours before the hiring. All legal requirements of Gaming and Lottery legislation shall similarly be observed without infringement.
- 2.19 if the hiring includes the use of the kitchen ensure compliance with all such conditions as the Owners may prescribe at the time of the hiring.
- 2.20 ensure compliance with food hygiene standards.
- 2.21 ensure that nothing shall be done on the Premises which shall endanger other users or invalidate any insurance cover relating to the Premises.
- 2.22 ensure that any activities involving children comply with all relevant safeguarding legislative.
- 2.23 ensure that payment is made to "Visyon Ltd" and sent to the Owner no less than 7 days in advance of the hiring. The Hirer will have no right to use the Premises until full payment is received. In the event of cancellation howsoever caused the question of any refund shall be at the absolute discretion of the Owner
- 2.24 comply with any guidance on acceptable/unacceptable behaviour produced by the Owner or other representative of the Owners and provided to the Hirer
- 2.25 ensure supervision of all members linked to their group. Ensuring all members have left the building at the end of the hire period.
- 2.26 ensure that appropriate health and safety measures are in place, including a visual inspection of the area to be used at the very start of each letting period. If any unusual risks are identified these must be immediately brought to the attention of the Centre Manager and, if the area cannot be made safe immediately, the period of letting must be cancelled. Carry out recording and record keeping of accidents related to their groups.

2.27 the Hirer must be responsible at his/her own expense for carrying out his/her own risk assessment with regard to the Hirer's activities.

2.28 ensure that cars shall not be parked so as to create an obstruction at the entrance, or exits from the centre.

2.29 comply with the Equality Act 2010.

This hiring agreement may be terminated by either party giving to the other one month's notice.

Notice to have immediate effect may be served by the Owners in the event of mis-use, damage caused to property, fixtures and fittings or damage to persons or other fundamental breach of these terms and conditions

3. Visyon shell:

3.1 ensure the building complies with Health and Safety requirements

3.2 provide a PRS/PPL music licence for the Premises

3.3 inform the hirer of the procedure for evacuation of the premises.

3.4 arrange with the hirer how the building will be left securely after use.

NOTE: All arrangements for use of the Premises are subject to the Owners reserving the right to cancel bookings when the Premises are required for use by Visyon or are rendered unfit for the intended use howsoever caused.

Fellowship House hall has a maximum capacity of 45 seated (if a group can provide their own seats this can be higher) or 100 standing

Cancellation charges

One week or less - 100%

Less than one month – 50%

Please see next page for Hire Application:-

Visyon Ltd

Registered charity number: 1107951. Company registered number: 5250758

Registered office: Fellowship House, Park Road, Congleton, Cheshire. CW12 1DP

Tel: 01260 290000, web: www.visyon.org.uk

Hiring Application

Date(s) required:

Day(s) Mondays and Wednesdays

Month Ongoing

Time required (Hours) 9am to 2pm

Preparation required

The Hirer/ User

(a)	Name	Brian Hogan
(b)	Organisation	Congleton Town Council
(c)	Address	Town Hall High Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 1BN

Contact Telephone Number(s)

Hire Fee

Fee	£0
-----	----

Booking Deposit Paid	£0
----------------------	----

Balance	£0
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To be invoiced.	£200 per quarter to go towards the electricity.
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Invoice address is different to the above

.....

.....

.....

.....

Opening and Closing the Community Centre

[A] The keys have been provided to Yvonne Philips (when needed)

OR [B] The Centre will be opened for your hiring by – Visyon member of staff as the hire time is general office hours - and will be closed for you at the time you have indicated.

I have read, understood and agree to observe and perform the Hiring Conditions attached to this application.

..... Signed Date

Visyon Ltd

Registered charity number: 1107951. Company registered number: 5250758

Registered office: Fellowship House, Park Road, Congleton, Cheshire. CW12 1DP

Tel: 01260 290000, web: www.visyon.org.uk

FIONA BRUCE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Mr D Murphy

11 November 2013

Our Ref: C/RFS/FB/JD

Please quote the reference on any correspondence

Dear Mr Murphy

Dear,

Thank you for signing the Rural Fair Share Petition. I presented this Petition to the House of Commons on 5th November. I enclose a copy of the Official Record of Hansard showing this.

Several Members of Parliament presented similar Petitions. We did so together to show the strength of feeling from our constituents on this issue. The Petition you signed asks for a fairer share of Government support for residents towards the cost of services in rural areas and the closing of the gap of Government funding support whereby at present urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas. This is simply unfair and is an injustice, which whilst inherited from the previous Government we as campaigning Members of Parliament are pressing the current Government to do something to address this injustice, without delay. This surely cannot wait several years.

The Petition I presented to the House of Commons on behalf of Congleton Constituents reads as follows: *"The Petition declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013/14 settlement for six years until 2020. The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020."*

Please be assured that I shall continue my fight with residents in support of the Rural Fair Share Campaign and enclose some further details on this issue.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Fiona Bruce MP
Member of Parliament for the Congleton Constituency

Serving communities across Alsager, Congleton, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach

Westminster Tel: 0207 219 7042 • Constituency Tel: 01260 274 044

Email: fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk • www.fionabruce.mp

Tuesday
5 November 2013

Volume 570
No. 70



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES
(HANSARD)

Tuesday 5 November 2013

Petitions

Tuesday 5 November 2013

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor, received 4 November 2013.

Rural Fair Share Campaign

The Petition of residents of South East Cambridgeshire,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Sir James Paice.]

[P001245]

The Petition of residents of the North Dorset Parliamentary constituency,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Mr Robert Walter.]

[P001253]

The Petition of residents of Saffron Walden,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Sir Alan Haselhurst.]

[P001280]

The Petition of residents of Hereford and South Herefordshire,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban

areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Jesse Norman.]

[P001282]

Petitions presented to the House today but not read on the Floor

Rural Fair Share Campaign

The Petition of Howdenshire Consituency,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Mr David Davis.]

[P001279]

The Petition of residents of Congleton,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities; notes that the Rural Penalty sees urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural areas despite higher costs in rural service delivery; and opposes the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013–14 settlement for six years until 2020.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce the Rural Penalty in staged steps by at least 10% by 2020.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Fiona Bruce.]

[P001281]

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Children Placed in Foster Care

The Petition of members of the Association of McKenzie Friends,

Declares that the Petitioners express their grief for the thousands of British and foreign families whose children were taken against their will; children who were placed in foster “care”, with private foster “parents”, in foster homes or were adopted without parental consent, especially in the case of foreign nationals, parents who are falsely imprisoned and adoptions which take place in court hearings in their absence, without full knowledge and certainly without due process.



Rural Fair Share Campaign

Briefing: 29th October 2013

- Overall, rural residents earn less, on average, than those in cities, pay council tax which is £76 higher per head but see urban areas receive government grants 50% higher per head than those in the countryside - despite evidence that many services are more expensive to deliver in rural areas.
- The Rural Fair Share campaign supports impartial, objective, needs based policy which is equitable to all. The aim of the campaign on the 2012/13 Local Government Finance Settlement was to reduce the rural penalty - which sees urban councils receive 50% more per head than rural councils - to no more than 40% per head by 2020.

The 2012/13 Settlement

- Last December, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced the outcome of the review along with the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2013/14. During 2012 consultation the review acknowledged the rural case and several formulae were amended accordingly.
- "Damping" is used as a way of minimising violent swings in funding for councils. The final damping method chosen by DCLG – along with other changes - wiped out all gains from the improved formulae for rural authorities and actually saw their total funding fall faster than their urban counterparts.
- However, a 500,000 increase in the London population estimates meant the funding gap per head had narrowed fractionally (by about 0.1 or 0.2 percentage points)
- In response to rural representations following the December announcement, DCLG allocated a further £8.5m to the most sparsely-populated authorities. This was a one-off grant for 2013/14 called the "Efficiency Support for Services in Sparse Areas" (ESSSA).
- Though welcome, this sum made no material change to the funding disparities within the £22bn settlement.

- The settlement determined the outcomes not for just one year, but for 2014/15 as well. The 2014/15 settlement is to then be frozen for five years to 2020 so that any inequities in funding will be perpetuated until then.

2014/15 Settlement & Next Steps for the Campaign

- The campaign's aim remains to reduce the funding gap per head between rural and urban councils by 10% by 2020. This can be achieved easily within the existing resources over the period to 2020 by reducing urban funding by an extra one-quarter of one per cent per year and without placing any individual authority in a worse position than others are already facing.
- Our view is that all aspects of all the formulae should be subject to scrutiny, not simply maintaining the status quo until 2020 because that is somehow easier.
 - We appreciate that damping is an essential part of the local government finance system. However, damping must be used to ease the transition to a desired outcome, not cement acknowledged inequities for years on end.
- This means re-opening the 2014/15 settlement and not freezing the outcome until 2020.
- Freezing the system until 2020 is indefensible, locking-in past unfairness and preventing the Government's recognition of the rural case through various formulae being implemented. There is no evidence to support the massive weightings for population density in some of the existing formulae. In fact, these were designed by the previous Government to replicate spending choices in many inner city authorities. These weightings are here because of past funding decisions and political choices, not needs. They cannot be justified.
- We accept the need for all areas to contribute to deficit reduction. We are saying that at a time of austerity it is more, not less, important that allocations are fair and based on objective need not historic lobbying power.
- If changes to the formula cannot be carried out this year, we want a grant of £30m for rural authorities. This is just over 0.1% of the £24bn settlement and just over 0.2% if we only consider the £12bn of Revenue Support Grant.
- It is simply not enough for the Government to be sympathetic to rural life; it must act to change a system which is biased and unfair. Rural areas often make great use of the limited public funds that are offered. This has sometimes been used as an excuse to provide them with less funding. It is essential that the Government make adjustments and give rural areas the resources they need.

Fia Bruce MP.
November 2013.

KEY FACTS

Vehicle Allocation Scheme

What is the purpose of the Vehicle Allocation Scheme?

The Council is keen to help support local people to develop community-led initiatives and the Vehicle Allocation Scheme offers an opportunity for communities to improve access to key services (e.g. healthcare, shopping, and leisure). By 'gifting' vehicles, the Council hopes to support initiatives such as community bus schemes, which are operated 'by the community, for the community'.

Why is the Council making this scheme available?

Cheshire East Council's Transport Service has a number of fleet vehicles that are surplus to requirements and which could be 'gifted' to the community and voluntary sector to help support local schemes. Allocating vehicles to local communities will help deliver Council priorities such as 'Nurturing Strong Communities'. It is recognised that local communities are often best placed to identify their own transport and accessibility needs and the Council recognises that by working in partnership, it can better understand local needs and how best to support community-led solutions.

What type of vehicles will be available through the scheme?

All vehicles available have been operating as part of the Council's fleet and include 2 cars and 7 minibuses – all of which are fully accessible. Vehicles will be 'gifted as seen' and organisations will subsequently become responsible for any maintenance, repairs and other ongoing running costs. Further information about the vehicles, along with photographs, will be published on the Council's website.

Who can apply for a surplus council vehicle?

Applications will be invited from voluntary or community organisations, registered charities or other not for profit organisations. In all cases the scheme must operate within the Cheshire East area. Other qualifying criteria apply and further details are included in the Policy for the Allocation of Surplus Council Vehicles to Community & Voluntary Groups, which is available on the Council's website (see below).

How can organisations make an application for a surplus vehicle?

Application forms are available on the Council's website or if preferred a form can be posted to you. It is important that forms are completed in full and submitted, along with all necessary supporting documentation, before the deadline which is **5pm on Friday 06 December 2013**.

How can I find out more about the scheme?

Further to the Community Transport Workshop, all information is available to view on the Council's website: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/communitytransport. From here you will be able to access the full Policy document, application form and other useful information, including contact details.

Surplus Council Vehicles - Available to Allocate								
Registration No.	Make	Model	Seating Capacity	Tail Lift	Tax Due	MOT Due	Approx. Mileage	Brochure Page**
MX04 KUG	Renault	Master	9 seats + 1 w/c	Yes	Sep-14	16-Mar-14	113,000	3 to 5
MX04 KUH	Renault	Master	8 seats + 1 w/c	Yes	Sep-14	22-Apr-14	146,000	6 to 8
MX05 FXW	Vauxhall	Movano	6 seats + 1 w/c	Yes	Sep-14	12-Apr-14	125,000	9 to 10
MX06 BFZ	Renault	Master	8 seats + 1 w/c	Yes	Sep-14	04-Jul-14	125,000	11 to 13
DK57 CCY	Ford	Transit	9 seats + 2 w/c	Yes	Oct-14	02-Oct-14	102,000	14 to 16
DK08 CRZ	Renault	Kangoo	2 seats + 1 w/c	Ramp	Apr-14	12-May-14	98,000	17 to 19
KP08 VAU	Fiat	Scudo	4 seats + 1 w/c	Ramp	Apr-14	07-May-14	64,000	20 to 23
Vehicle 8	TBC*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle 9	TBC*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*To be confirmed

** See web page for brochure - www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/communitytransport

*These vehicles may have been used by transport people to inform drug centres?
The question I have is this a genuine reduction of demand or is it
part of the process by which closure of drug centres can be achieved.
i.e. the death of a thousand cuts (thousands of cuts)
reduction in each centre?*

KEY FACTS

Transport & Accessibility Grant Scheme

What is the purpose of the Transport & Accessibility Grant Scheme?

The Council is keen to help support local people to develop community-led initiatives and the Grant Scheme offers an opportunity for communities to improve access to essential services (e.g. healthcare, shopping, and leisure) either by means of transport schemes or initiatives to improve the availability of local services, thereby making them more accessible to local residents.

Why is the Council making this scheme available?

Communities in which people can influence the decisions that affect their locality are at the heart of Cheshire East's Sustainable Community Strategy. It is recognised that local communities are often best placed to identify their own transport and accessibility needs and the Council recognises that by working in partnership, it can better understand local needs and how best to support community-led solutions.

What types of activities or initiatives is the Council looking to support?

The Council is looking to support a range of initiatives and has identified four themes to reflect the broad nature of the transport and accessibility agenda, these are:

- Theme 1: Vibrant Rural Communities
- Theme 2: Community Transport Initiatives
- Theme 3: Encouraging Active Travel
- Theme 4: Publicity & Information

Further details about each of the themes can be found in the Policy for Allocation of Transport & Accessibility Grants which is available on the Council's website (see below).

What level of funding will be available through the scheme?

To enable the Council to support a variety of schemes and initiatives across the borough, there are two tiers of funding available:

- Small Grants of up to £9,999 to pump-prime small projects or co-fund a larger initiative
- Larger Grants over £10,000 to pump-prime new larger scale projects or extend an existing initiative

Who can apply for a Transport & Accessibility Grant?

Applications will be invited from voluntary or community organisations, registered charities or other not for profit organisations. Town or Parish Councils can also apply if they are able to match fund at least 50% of the projected scheme costs. In all cases the scheme must operate within the Cheshire East area. Other qualifying criteria apply and further details are included in the Transport & Accessibility Grant Policy document.

How can organisations make an application for a Grant?

Application forms are available on the Council's website or if preferred a form can be posted to you. It is important that forms are completed in full and submitted, along with all necessary supporting documentation, before the deadline which is **5pm on Friday 06 December 2013**.

How can I find out more about the scheme?

Further to the Community Transport Workshop, all information is available to view on the Council's website: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/communitytransport. From here you will be able to access the full Policy document, application form and other useful information, including contact details.

KEY DATES –

Transport & Accessibility Grant and Surplus Vehicle Allocation Schemes

Date	Action
14 November 2013	Bidding window opens for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Small Grant Applications ◦ Large Grant Applications – expressions of interest ◦ Surplus Vehicle Applications
06 December 2013	Closing date for <u>all</u> applications / expressions of interest
13 January 2014	Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Small Grant – Awards ◦ Large Grant – Short listing expressions of interest ◦ Surplus Vehicle – Awards
29 January 2014	Organisations notified of small grant award / vehicle allocation (grant payment and vehicle gifting to take place in February)
29 January 2014	Bidding window opens for short listed organisations to develop a Business Plan for a large grant
17 February 2014	Closing date for Business Plan submissions
10 March 2014	Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Large Grant Awards
19 March 2014	Organisations notified of large grant allocations (large grant payments / part payments to be issued by end of March)