

Guilden Sutton Parish Council Newsletter

November 2011, no 144

A Quality Council promoting democracy and community engagement

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Parliamentary Boundary Review.

**An informal drop in
will be held in the
Village Hall Committee Room
on
Tuesday 29 November at
7.30pm.**

**Further details will be available on the
proposal that Guilden Sutton should
move to a new Winsford constituency.**

**Come along, find out more and give your
views.**

Boundary review

The Boundary Commission is nearing the end of a 12-week public consultation on proposals for redrawing every constituency in England. Residents of Cheshire West can comment on suggested changes to the North West region.

In Chester, the boundary review sees the City of Chester constituency increase from just under 70,000 electors to just over 80,000. The Commission has used the ward boundaries that existed at the 2010 General election in their proposals which add the old Mickle Trafford ward, including Mickle Trafford, Barrow and Elton, to Chester. It is also proposed the Ledsham and Willaston ward and the Groves and Whitby ward should move to Chester from the Ellesmere Port and Neston constituency.

Christleton, Littleton and Guilden Sutton and also the old Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross ward would be removed from the Chester constituency and added to a proposed Winsford constituency which would succeed the present Eddisbury seat.

The Ellesmere Port and Neston constituency would be abolished. Politically the proposed Chester and Winsford constituencies would have been Conservative in 2010.

Stephen Mosley, MP for Chester, has said “I welcome the fact that Chester will have its own Parliamentary Constituency at the next General Election, but understand that people living so close to the city centre may find it unusual to be moved out of Chester to a predominately rural Winsford constituency”.

Maps and accompanying information are on public display throughout the consultation period in The Forum in Chester.

Steve Robinson, Returning Officer and Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council, said: “I would encourage residents to pop along to view the information from the Boundary Commission. They can take away a summary of the proposals to study at home. It is important that people have their say about any proposed changes”.

The consultation closes on 5 December so there is still time to comment.

Guilden Sutton: At the last review when a proposal was made that the former Christleton ward, including Guilden Sutton, should be moved to what is now Eddisbury, your Parish Council objected and the parish remained within the Chester constituency.

The Parish Council and the overwhelming majority of objectors in the ward argued the community's links were with Chester and not with the proposed new constituency. The assistant commissioner accepted the case at that time for removing the ward from Chester "had not begun to be made out".

As a holding measure, the Council appeared at hearings held last month (October) and reiterated the case (available on the village web site) that Guilden Sutton should remain part of the City of Chester constituency based on local ties.

What are your views? Please contact any of the parish councillors or the Clerk or come along to the drop in. Remember the closing date for you to contact the Commission is **5 December**.

Cllr Bill Moulton

The Council has co-opted Bill Moulton of Moorcroft Crescent to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Michelle Kerfoot.

Cllr Moulton served on the Council prior to the elections in May this year when he was the unsuccessful candidate.

Chester One City Plan.

This plan is intended to guide future development in the city. The Council felt it should comment on public transport aspects and made the following response:

The Council welcomes the inclusion within the draft of principles for developing a comprehensive bus strategy for the city and agrees this should be focused on providing solutions for local residents who use the public transport network regularly. This should include communities on the immediate fringe of the city such as Guilden Sutton to cater for residents who depend on the bus to reach, for example, doctors, dentists, chemists, the hospital, the railway station and educational and recreational facilities within the built up area.

Members support the possibility of improvement through the introduction of cross city connectivity with a number of bus hubs being created in key locations such as lower Foregate Street and within the Northgate development area. It is noted these hubs would then be supported by an interchange facility with one option for this being the use of Gorse Stacks. Proposals to better integrate buses with the railway station are strongly supported.

So far as the proposal for a hub in lower Foregate Street is concerned - which, due to its location, could become a terminus for services from Guilden Sutton - Members recognise the benefit of removing buses from Frodsham Street and Foregate Street. However, they believe this could be outweighed by the disbenefit resulting from passengers, particularly the elderly and those with children, facing a lengthier walk into the city centre. The solution could be a shuttle between the hubs and the interchange but the need to change buses is not ideal.

The Council believes the plan should seek to develop the evening economy by solving the problem that people in villages such as Guilden Sutton without cars, particularly younger people, simply cannot reach the city centre in the evening as there are no buses.

There is the wider argument that innovative thinking is needed across the whole range of public transport from the rural area to the city, for example the provision of a railway halt at Mickle Trafford to boost rail travel into Chester, but the lack of evening buses has long been an issue. Improved public transport into and out of the city to the adjoining rural area would clearly add to the vitality and viability of the city itself and would contribute, along with regularly extended shopping hours, to the city centre becoming far more family friendly in the evening.

Cheshire West and Chester's budget.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is inviting residents to have their say on draft budget proposals for the next financial year.

The Council has now published its proposals for budget spending and savings in its document 'Spending money on your local services' and wants to encourage as many people as possible to contribute their views on them before **15 December.**

Cheshire West and Chester Council spends around £730 million per year, and has been consulting with local residents, businesses and partners to help shape its budget for the forthcoming financial year. The authority needs to save £38m over the next three years and is keen to hear people's views on the best ways to do this.

Final proposals will be considered for approval at the Council's annual budget setting meeting in February 2012.

The Parish Council will be consulting on what its own proposals should be on Tuesday December 13. More details in the next newsletter.

Crime note.

With the clocks having gone back at the end of October and darkness descending earlier in the day, residents are being encouraged to play their part by switching on to some simple crime prevention tactics.

“Leaving your house in total darkness is a sure sign no-one’s at home and an invitation to burglars”, according to crime prevention specialists.

“Burglars look for quick win opportunities; they don’t want to run the risk of a confrontation so simply leaving a light on to give the impression someone is at home is often enough to deter them.

“Timer switches can also be fitted to operate radios and lights if you’re not back from work until after dark or if you’re away for a few days.

“Leaving a light on costs literally pence in electricity – and that pales into insignificance compared to the hundreds of pounds in insurance excess you might have to pay should your home be broken in to.

“A high proportion of all break-ins are as a result of properties being left insecure so checking all windows and doors are locked before leaving the house is crucial.

“Other home security essentials are to use your burglar alarm if you have one – it’s amazing how many households don’t bother – and also to never leave a spare key under the doormat or a flowerpot. Burglars will always look there first so it’s not much of a ‘hiding place’.”

Anyone wishing to find out more about crime prevention advice and home security should contact the local Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0845 458 6394.

Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane.

Concerns continue to arise at the practice of a minority of drivers of entering the gap in the central reservation when it is already occupied by another vehicle. Please remember it is an offence to park on the white hatch markings.

The Area Highways Manager is aware of the situation and is considering what might be done to make motorists emerging from Guilden Sutton Lane more aware of the restriction before they move off.

Doggie notes.

Cleaning up after man's best friend.

Dog fouling is consistently one of the highest sources of complaints by the public to MPs, local councillors and local authorities. It is estimated dogs in the UK produce 1,000 tonnes of faeces every day.

What are the health risks associated with dog fouling?

Dog faeces carry harmful infections, the most widely known being Toxocariasis. Human toxocariasis is a potentially serious infection and is a direct consequence of contamination with faeces carrying eggs of the parasite. The parasite can only infect humans if it is swallowed.

Toxocariasis is mainly found in children between 18 months and five years. Eye disorders are the most commonly reported complaint associated with Toxocariasis, although other symptoms are vague aches, dizziness, nausea, asthma and epileptic fits.

Toxocara eggs are not infectious until they mature, which usually takes at least two to three weeks after they have been deposited by a dog. Dog faeces will only contaminate the soil when it has been left on the ground for this period of time, so if owners immediately clean up after their dog the threat of toxocariasis would be virtually eradicated.

What are the dog fouling laws?

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 allows local authorities to designate any public land as poop scoop areas where dog owners must clean up after their pets.

What action can local authorities take?

Under the Act, failure to clean up dog fouling is an offence subject to a maximum fine of £1,000. Local authorities can also give offenders the option of paying a fixed penalty fine of £50 rather than going to court. Dog wardens and Cheshire West and Chester Council's new community enforcement team, which include staff from Streetscene, community safety and parking, are able to issue fixed penalties for dog fouling offences.

What can individuals do?

To take action against a dog owner who was not cleaned up after their dog, note the details of the offence as soon as possible. Details should include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog, a description of the dog plus details of the date, time and place. Then contact the community enforcement team on 0300 123 7033.

What is the best way to clean up after a dog?

If you walk your dog always carry the means to clear up after your dog fouls. Every time your dog fouls "bag it and bin it". Bag the dog foul and either take it home or place it in a dog or litter bin. Poop scoops can also be used and are available from most pet stores.

To protect children from picking up dog faeces, the advice from Cheshire West and Chester Council is:

- * Bag that poo - any rubbish bin will do.
- * Report dog owners who don't pick up. Contact the community enforcement team on 0300 123 7033.
- * Get it cleaned up. If an area needs to be cleansed of dog fouling call Streetscene on 0300 123 7026.
- * Complete an animal fouling report form online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- * Call the dog warden service on 0300 123 8123.

And a final request

Although the majority of dog owners walk their dogs responsibly in Guilden Sutton, the Parish Council has been concerned to hear of a very small number of incidents where a dog being walked has attacked another dog or cat or has distressed a passer-by who was not comfortable with dogs. Please make sure if you are walking your dog that you are able to keep it under control at all times.

Methodist Church

Many people will know the Chester Methodist Circuit generously gave the village six months to prove that the church building is appreciated and can be successfully utilised and maintained by the village community. Volunteers need help to keep this lovely village building intact for the community to use well into the future. The village hall is often oversubscribed and they say the village desperately needs more facilities.

If they can count on your support it may well be possible to obtain initially a three year lease. They are looking to set up a "Friends of MC2 " and ask for a £5 a year payment per household. Supporters will have access to MC2 to use as a venue for their activities and interest groups as well as securing it as a permanent meeting place for Guilden Sutton Scouts and St John's Lazars.

If you are interested in using MC2 and/or have an idea for an interest group, event or activity, contact us Trisha on 300307 or Sue on 300320.

Information. The Council's e mail address is info@guildensutton.org.uk and its web site is at www.guildensutton.org.uk The web site includes a blog of current issues.

Future meetings:

Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 5 December 2011 and 9 January, 6 February, 5 March, 2 April, 14 May, 11 June, 16 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December 2012.

All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council. A monthly surgery is also held, normally on the first Saturday, at the Summerfield Road shops at 10am.

Contacts

Councillors Jane Hughes (Chairman) 300863, Imogen Brown 300812, Alan Davis 303022, Danny Fisher 301398, Derek Hughes 300185, Bill Moulton 348473, Trisha Paterson 300307 and Mike Roberts 300684. The clerk is David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Mr Brian Lewin 301501 is the Rights of Way Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young, 301558. Cllr Jane Hughes deals with recycling issues. Cllr Moulton 348473 is the Local Bus User Contact. p8