

## READERS RESPOND TO FOCUS SURVEY

*Replies are still coming in from the questionnaire we included in the last edition of "Focus".*

*(And we would still like to receive your answers).*

*Since the beginning of April, all local services have been provided by the new Cheshire East Council.*

*We asked what you thought about some of the things the new Council has to make decisions about.*

*Here are the results so far.*

### **Contacting the council**

Most replies show **support for Sandbach as the Headquarters of the new Council.**

We shall be taking up your ideas for making it **easier and simpler** to contact council staff.

### **Collecting rubbish**

There is **very little opposition to the present system of black and silver bin collections** in alternate weeks.

Most replies **show support for free collection of garden waste.** An alternative point of view is that the Council should do more to **encourage home composting**, and also make compost from the brown bin collections to sell.

### **School Governors**

There is **general support for the new Council selecting school governors from members of the public who apply.** The old County Council system where governors were recruited by the political parties left huge numbers of vacancies!

### **Council Tax**

Most people who replied say **the Conservatives should have kept their pledge to freeze the Council Tax.** The minority view is that the present recession makes this unrealistic.

### **Car Parking**

**Answers to these questions vary widely**, and it will be hard to get general agreement on charging policy for car parks owned by the Council.

**Residents' parking schemes are sought in several parts of the Ward** and we want to see progress with this.

### **Area Working in Crewe**

**Mixed responses** to these questions, and some confusion with the **separate issue of a Town Council for Crewe.** We shall return to this topic in future editions of "Focus" because little has yet been decided about how area partnerships will work.

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Inside this edition of "Focus" ...

• **Alley gates**      • **South Cheshire College**      • **Wordsearch competition** *back page*

## ALLEY GATES

In the past few years, a frequent question to councillors has been, “*When are we going to get our alley gates?*”.

The programme of installing gates in Crewe South Ward is almost complete but there have been delays in some areas.

### Getting agreement

Before any gate is installed, agreement is needed from all the people affected by it. This delayed installation of some gates, because either property owners were hard to contact, or plans had to be reworked to meet objections. Some objections are still not fully resolved, but most gates were installed without problems. The widespread agreement was a surprise to councillors and council officers!

### Practical difficulties

All the alley gates in Crewe South Ward look the same but there are lots of differences in the sites for them. There are practical difficulties to be overcome in some places. If the gates make the alley narrower, this can be a problem, particularly if the alley is used by bin lorries. Also it is normally not possible to install a gate across an alley if this is the only entrance to a property. This has meant that some of the gates originally proposed have not been installed.

### Gating orders

Most of the alleys where gates have been installed are not maintained by the Council. Some of them are - so that they are regarded as “highways” - and others are recognised as public rights of way. For these the legal process of obtaining a “gating order” is necessary. All residents - not just those whose homes are affected - have the right to object to a gating order. The long legal process is still not complete in some areas.

## SOUTH CHESHIRE COLLEGE

South Cheshire College, in Dane Bank Avenue, is right on the boundary of Crewe South Ward. So, it might seem that redevelopment of the College is a minor issue for the ward councillors. In fact, the impact on the lives of people living in the adjacent streets has been enormous. The issues thrown up involve both former councils and other agencies as well. Now that Cheshire East Council has taken over from Cheshire County and Crewe & Nantwich Borough, the regulatory background is simpler. The three ward councillors address the problems on a cross party basis, and draw on knowledge of the Borough and the County.

Clair Edwards-Steele, the Borough Council’s Community Development Officer, is in regular contact with both the College administration and BAM Construction, the company who are building the new college. The newsletter which BAM produce at regular intervals has not reached many residents. We have agreed with Clair that all the homes affected by the new building or by construction traffic need to receive the newsletters, and we shall give whatever help is necessary to achieve this.

Construction of the new building and demolition of the old is not the end of the story. Cars parked by staff and students already have an unacceptable impact on the surrounding streets. Residents fear a worse situation when the new building opens. This was recognised when planning permission was given for the new building. The College must have a “Travel Plan” to reduce the impact on the surrounding area. In the coming weeks, the ward councillors will be investigating (1) whether the Travel Plan is still adequate for conditions likely when the new building opens, (2) whether the Plan will be properly monitored, and (3) what additional measures may be necessary from Cheshire East Council.

## CHARTER TRUSTEES OF CREWE

### *Who are the Charter Trustees of Crewe?*

A Parliamentary Order which took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April makes the twelve members of Cheshire East Council who represent Crewe wards “Charter Trustees”.

### *What does that mean?*

The trustees are holding the Crewe & Nantwich mayoral regalia - most of which belonged originally to the pre 1974 Borough of Crewe. The regalia would otherwise pass to the Cheshire East Council. The Trustees are required each year to elect one of their number as Charter Mayor of Crewe.

### *Why is the Mayor chosen from such a small number of people?*

This is a temporary situation. When a Crewe Town Council is established, the Trustees will no longer be needed. The Chair of the Town Council will be Mayor.

### *Why are Crewe residents paying extra Council tax this year?*

This gives the Trustees a small budget to work with - approximately £27,000. It may not all be needed this year. But some events that used to be organised by Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council - such as the civic service on Remembrance Sunday - will not happen unless the Trustees take over. The Trustees will also incur costs of identifying and safeguarding Crewe’s historic records and artifacts.

## This is not an election leaflet!

**If you live in the former Alexandra and St John’s Wards of Crewe & Nantwich Borough then you are used to annual Council elections.** County elections were held every four years, with Borough elections in each of the three years in between. **That system came to an end last year.** Members of the new Cheshire East Council were elected for a three year term last May. The next council elections do not take place until May 2011. Then all the seats on Cheshire East will come up for election, using new ward boundaries, and those elected will serve for four years.

**The polling cards now being delivered are for the election on 4<sup>th</sup> June for members of the European Parliament to represent the North West of England.** By now you have probably also received election leaflets from candidates, mostly using the free delivery by Royal Mail that is provided for parliamentary elections.

**This is the first election to be supervised by the new Cheshire East elections office - and it is reassuring to know that the Crewe & Nantwich team are continuing in their jobs. There is now a new number for election queries: 537005.**

## No change to “streetwise”

For the present there is no change to the Borough Council’s “Streetwise” service. For problems with waste collection, abandoned vehicles, litter and dumping, continue to use the **Freephone number 0800 387491**.

The e-mail address remains [streetwise@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk](mailto:streetwise@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk) but will later change to [s-wise@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:s-wise@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood action in Crewe South

The new Council is pledged to continue the programme of Neighbourhood Action meetings in Crewe South.

**Alexandra Ward** (south of Nantwich Road)  
Meeting dates: **11<sup>th</sup> June** and **10<sup>th</sup> September**  
Meeting place: **St Andrew’s Church Hall in Bedford Street**  
Contact: **Dawn Clark T. 537339**  
E-mail: [Dawn.Clark@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Dawn.Clark@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**St John’s Ward** (north of Nantwich Road)  
Meeting dates: **29<sup>th</sup> July** and **28<sup>th</sup> October**  
Meeting place: **Ruskin School Dining Hall**  
Contact: **Clair Edwards-Steele T. 537432**  
E-mail: [clair.edwards-steele@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:clair.edwards-steele@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood policing

When neighbourhood policing was first introduced in Crewe a few years ago, beat officers were linked to the Borough wards. From the beginning of May policing is organised around the (larger) Cheshire East Council wards. Each ward will have a single beat manager. **PC Matt Dutton is the manager for Crewe South.**

Police Community Support Officers will continue to work in the Borough ward areas, where they are now familiar figures.

**Alexandra** (south of Nantwich Road):  
**Ainsley Threadgold and Craig Simpson**  
**St John’s** (north of Nantwich Road):  
**Michelle Minton and Vicki McKenna**  
**Valley** (Alton Street/ Stewart Street): **Greg Greaves**

**All the officers stress the importance of reporting incidents that do not need immediate attention using the contact number 0845 458 6370.** It is the clustering of reports that determine which areas of the Ward get attention.

### **YOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS**

**David Cannon T. 650279**

**E-mail [david.cannon@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:david.cannon@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**

**Betty Howell T. 584689**

**E-mail [betty.howell@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:betty.howell@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**

# IT'S YELLOW AND BLACK ... AND IT'S READ!

*The first "Focus" in Crewe was published in 1981. Parts of Crewe South have received regular newsletters for over ten years. We think it is the best way of reporting back to residents and letting you know what our Council is doing. Lots of you agree with us! We regularly receive compliments about "Focus"- and not just from those of you who vote Liberal Democrat.*

*But "Focus" delivery is not something that we can do on our own. There are about 7,000 homes in Crewe South Ward. To deliver to each one, we rely on the help of volunteers. Some are Liberal Democrat Party members, and others simply want to keep up the delivery in their area.*

*Would you be willing to join the team, and deliver one or more streets close to your home? There are usually 5 or 6 editions of "Focus" each year. We ask before each delivery, so it doesn't matter if you cannot help with each one.*

*If you would like to help us in this way, please ring Robert Icke on 668135. Rob is our Local Party Secretary, and he also helps to produce and distribute "Focus".*

## WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

**We shall announce the winner of the March Word Search in the next edition of Focus. The hidden names of Mayors of Crewe & Nantwich were:** BEDSON, BIRCHALL, BLACKLAY, DAVIES, FURBER, JONES, KENT, ROBERTS, STAFFORD, and THORLEY.  
Well done to those who successfully found all the names!

New competition: **Hidden in the grid are the names of ten streets or roads in Crewe South Ward.** All the names **except one** have something in common. The names run in straight lines going forwards or backwards, and horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Letters may be used more than once. **To enter the competition, discover the odd one out and write this in the space below. Add your name and address (or tel. no.) and send this sheet to our Freepost address to arrive by 1<sup>st</sup> July. All correct entries will go into a draw for the prize of £25.**

B E D G O P H E R S  
O H L E W I S T U N  
X I C N E G R S E O  
R M H I D A S E L W  
U T A R W L E N L D  
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T O T H R E N E V A  
R S U T D A A A E P  
A T N A I L R M N E  
K I N C H I F Y O S

*The name which is the odd one out is:— — — — — .*

*Your name & address/ tel. no.— — — — —*

Post to: (you don't need a stamp)

**Crewe & Nantwich Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST NWW1448A, CREWE CW2 5BG**

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