



Summer Edition 2015

Welcome

Welcome to our summer edition of Your Council

In this edition, you can find out more about the [groundbreaking housing and regeneration work](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/spotlight-on-housing-and-regeneration-across-flintshire) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/spotlight-on-housing-and-regeneration-across-flintshire) that is taking place across the County; our [What's On guide](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/whats-on/theres-lots-to-do-in-flintshire-this-summer) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/whats-on/theres-lots-to-do-in-flintshire-this-summer) will give you plenty of ideas for fun activities; you can find out more about any changes to your Waste and Recycling service [here](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-your-waste-collection-service) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-your-waste-collection-service); and you'll find lots more [Council news](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/your-council/council-news) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/your-council/council-news) too.

These are unprecedented and challenging times for local government, but we hope that this newsletter shows that Flintshire continues to work hard, across the board, to deliver the services that matter most to our local residents.

Spotlight on...

Flintshire's Major Housing and Regeneration programme

Across Flintshire, there is a major housing and regeneration programme underway, as Flintshire County Council delivers upon its priorities of providing new Council Homes, affordable housing and job opportunities.

Find out more by clicking the links below.

[Groundbreaking housing and regeneration scheme reaches major milestone](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/groundbreaking-housing-and-regeneration-scheme-reaches-milestone) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/groundbreaking-housing-and-regeneration-scheme-reaches-milestone)

[Latest on the Flint maisonettes](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/latest-on-the-flint-maisonettes) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/latest-on-the-flint-maisonettes)

[Multimillion pound housing upgrade gets underway](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/multi-million-pound-housing-upgrade-gets-underway) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/multi-million-pound-housing-upgrade-gets-underway)

[Flint Extra Care housing scheme is named](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/flint-extra-care-apartments) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/flint-extra-care-apartments)

[New housing list launched](http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/new-housing-list-launched) (http://yourcouncil.flintshire.gov.uk/english/summer-2015/spotlight-on-1/new-housing-list-launched)



Groundbreaking housing and regeneration scheme reaches major milestone

SHARP programme: developer partner announced

A major milestone has been reached in Flintshire's ambitious Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), which will see new council homes and affordable housing being built in the county.

Affordable housing contractor, Wates Living Space, has been appointed as the development partner for the project, which is the end result of a major procurement process.

Wates Living Space is one of the UK's leading construction and development services businesses, working in partnership with local authorities to deliver much-needed new housing and community regeneration programmes. The company has previously worked with the Council on its Welsh Housing Quality Standard improvement programme.

This means that the proposals to build 500 new homes - of which approximately 200 will be council homes - can now be finalised. The programme will start with the redevelopment of three sites – two urban and one rural. These are the cleared sites of the maisonettes in Flint, with a mix of approximately 95 houses and apartments, the cleared site of the former Custom House School in Connah's Quay and a rural site in Leeswood.

Proposals are based on a Flintshire Housing Standard, which has been developed in consultation with tenants. The standard will inform the design and specification of the proposed new housing, including the consistency and quality of the internal and external appearance, in addition to standards of energy efficiency and an importance placed on adequate parking.

Councillor Aaron Shotton, Leader of the Council, said: "It is wonderful news that we are now taking another major step forward in the most exciting housing and regeneration programme that this County has seen in many years. The SHARP programme will deliver upon this Council's priorities, not only to provide new Council homes and affordable housing for the people of Flintshire, but also providing local work and training opportunities."

Councillor Bernie Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "This is very much a red letter day for Flintshire. Within a context of continuing pressure on Council services, the SHARP programme provides real optimism and opportunities for all communities in Flintshire."

Councillor Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing said: "It is very exciting to see the appointment of Wates Living Space as the development partner who will work with the Council to provide new and much-needed affordable housing across the County. Further consultation on the design of the new homes is planned, with planning applications estimated to be submitted in late 2015."

Lee Sale, Regional Business Director at Wates Living Space, commented: "Wates Living Space has a long-standing relationship with Flintshire County Council and we are extremely proud to have been entrusted with its new Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme."

"In addition to high quality homes that improve the quality of life for Flintshire tenants, we bring to this programme a deep commitment to creating lasting local benefit, including opportunities for local training and employment."

Flint maisonettes



Pictured left to right are: Cllr. Alex Aldridge, Clare Budden, Chief Officer, Community and Enterprise, Cllr Helen Brown, Nik Evans, Senior Manager Council Housing Services, Tony Jones, Capital Works Manager, Michael Freeley of J. Freeley Ltd. (demolition contractor) and Cllr David Cox

The last remaining blocks in the maisonettes complex in Flint have now been demolished.

The Walks will be the first site to be re-developed as part of the Council's Strategic Housing And Regeneration Programme (SHARP) where a combination of 95 new council and affordable homes will be built with construction work scheduled to begin in Spring 2016.

The redevelopment of The Leas site will see the construction of a new 72 unit Extra Care scheme for the town to be built and managed by the Pennaf Housing Group. Work is anticipated to begin on the scheme in November 2015, with an anticipated completion in April 2017.

The Leas site will see the development of a new medical centre by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board with construction due to begin in November with completion due in November 2016.

Cllr. Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing said

"These are particularly exciting times, not only for Flint town centre which will see 167 new homes built over the next two years on the former maisonettes complex, but for the whole county as the council's SHARP aims to build 500 new homes across Flintshire over the next five years, including over 200 new council homes. A Flintshire Housing Standard developed in consultation with tenants, will guide the design and specification of the proposed new housing, including the quality of the internal and external appearance, energy efficiency standards and parking provision."

Clare Budden, Chief Officer Community and Enterprise said

"The maisonettes complex has been cleared in a phased way to enable us to carefully re-house those tenants affected and council officers have worked hard with our tenants to allocate new homes that meet their requirements for the type of property and location as far as possible.

"As the council and its partners move closer to realising their ambitions for the regeneration of Flint Town Centre I would like to thank the people of Flint and local businesses for their patience and understanding whilst this work has been undertaken."

Cllr. Ian Roberts, Chairman of the Flint Masterplan Committee said

"Along with my fellow local councillors Alex Aldridge and David Cox I would like to thank everybody who moved home to allow this exciting development to take shape. Their cooperation and understanding has been invaluable. Our thanks and appreciation also go to all involved with the project for their vision, skills, dedication and determination to drive the scheme forward.

"Work to develop the new extra care scheme accommodation will begin this Autumn and by this time next year we should have a clear view of the new Flint town centre emerging from the old."

Multi million pound housing upgrade gets underway



A major, multi million pound upgrade to Council homes across Flintshire is now underway.

From April 2015, Flintshire County Council is spending £111 million over six years to bring its 7,200 Council homes up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

This unprecedented programme of works will create modern, efficient, quality homes for Council tenants across the county. It will be largely funded through the Housing Revenue Account, with some prudential borrowing, to ensure that all Council owned homes meet the WHQS by 2020, which is the date stipulated by Welsh Government.

Internal improvements to properties will be carried out first, followed by external improvements such as new windows and then improvements to the outside of properties including footpaths and fences.

There will also be a large programme of environmental works at locations across the County following extensive consultation with tenants and local members.

Around 200 local jobs and 20 apprenticeships are being created by the companies carrying out the work on behalf of the Council.

First to get underway are the high rise tower blocks in Flint, which are being upgraded by contractor SERS Energy Solutions Ltd, who have been awarded the contract by Flintshire County Council. SERS Energy Solutions Ltd will deliver concrete repairs, external wall insulation and roof insulation to increase the longevity and improve the energy efficiency of the buildings. The programme will also include the replacement of thousands of original windows, presenting a logistical challenge to coordinate trades in the most exposed of locations.

Councillor Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

"This is an extremely exciting time for Housing at Flintshire County Council. This major scheme demonstrates the Council's commitment to our tenants, our Council homes and to ensuring that we meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within the Welsh Government's time scale."



The view from Richard Heights in Flint.

Flint's Extra Care housing scheme is named

The new Extra Care Housing Scheme for older people in Flint is to be named Llys Raddington.

Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, which is part of the Pennaf Housing Group, recently received planning permission for the scheme to be built on land off Coleshill Street which is currently owned by the Local Authority.

Work is scheduled to start on site from October 2015 and last for approximately 18 months.

Llys Raddington will provide 72 self-contained high quality one and two bedroom apartments together with a wide range of communal facilities, and will be managed by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association in partnership with Flintshire County Council.

Cllr Ian Roberts, who is Chairman of the Flint Masterplan Steering Group, explains:

"Raddington is a name deeply connected with Flint's history, as it was the name of the original settlement. The town now known as Flint was first mentioned in the Domesday book in 1086, where it was referred to as Raddington. It is the area where Flint Castle was built, but by the end of the 13th century, the borough of Flint was created, and the name Raddington disappeared from use.

"Raddington was first suggested by Councillor Vicky Perfect, who wanted to see the name featured as part of the regeneration of Flint. When it came to deciding upon a name for the new Extra Care facility, I felt that this would be the perfect opportunity, and so Llys Raddington was agreed upon.

"We are discovering more and more about the town's medieval origins. We feel that this name is perfect and appropriate, connecting Flint's proud history with the town's exciting future."

Councillor Christine Jones, Flintshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Social Services said:

"This is another great step forward for our latest extra care scheme in Flintshire. With the Council and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association working in partnership together, we are all looking forward to seeing this scheme come to fruition. Llys Raddington will provide excellent facilities to make a real difference to residents' lives."

Councillor Helen Brown, Flintshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Housing added:

"The name of Llys Raddington is a wonderful and inspired choice. The Extra Care scheme at Flint is another great opportunity to develop housing which enables older people to have a new choice, whilst maintaining their independence and wellbeing."

Graham Worthington for the Pennaf Housing Group said:

"The new scheme, like the original settlement of Raddington, will be in a key location providing a focus for the community. We think it's an ideal way of embracing the future with a fitting sense of respect for the heritage of the area."

Anyone who would like to register for an information pack on the new apartments can contact Clwyd Alyn Housing Association on 01745 538300 or email enquiries@clwydalyn.co.uk (<mailto:enquiries@clwydalyn.co.uk>)





Artist's impressions of the new Extra Care Housing for older people planned for Flint.

New Housing List launched

Single Housing Registers in Flintshire and Conwy

The way that you apply for social housing and how homes are allocated in Flintshire and Conwy has changed.

Flintshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council and all the Housing Associations in the two counties are working in partnership to make it easier for people to apply for social housing.

There's now just one housing register in each county and all properties are allocated from that single register. Previously the Councils and each housing association had their own housing registers and prospective tenants had to apply to each separately.

The new system aims to make it easier to apply for social housing and make the housing register easier to understand.

Cllr Phil Edwards, Conwy's Cabinet Member for Communities said, "There is a shortage of social housing and this new approach will help us provide a range of realistic options for people; to help them secure housing in the areas they want, by exploring the range of options available in the county."

Under the new system, people who apply for social housing will be assessed to see if they meet certain statutory criteria, which will determine their level of housing need.

They will also be assessed as to their local connection with the area and community in which they want to live. The new system has a number of bands and only those people in the greatest and most urgent need will be in the higher bands and therefore get priority for housing.

Councillor Helen Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing at Flintshire County Council, said, "The new system also applies to those on one of the previous separate waiting lists. We wrote to all applicants explaining the new system and asking if they wanted to be considered for the new list."

If you are applying for a home in Flintshire or Conwy, you must make an application to:

Flintshire:

Flintshire Housing Solutions 01352 703777

<http://www.flintshirehousing.co.uk/> (<http://www.flintshirehousing.co.uk/>)

Conwy:

Conwy Housing Solutions

0300 1240050 www.conwyhousing.co.uk (<http://www.conwyhousing.co.uk/>)

Council news

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Council has been updating its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to ensure that it continues to be a high performing local authority despite a challenging financial gap, with its budget being reduced year on year.

The MTFS 2015 – 2018 forecasts the resources that the Council is likely to have over the next three financial years, and to guide planning on how best to use them. Reductions in Welsh Government grants, rises in demand for critical services and the cost of legal obligations are just some of the financial pressures that the Council is facing. The current projected gap that the Council needs to find in three years is £52.8 million: £18.3m in 2015/16; £20.8m in 2016/17 and £13.7m in 2017/18.

Part one of the MTFS focuses on the financial forecasts. The five principal factors taken into account are: national cost pressures, local cost pressures, income, the Council's workforce, and inflation.

Part two of the MTFS is being developed and will set out the solutions and options available to the Council to help close this funding gap. Chief Officers and Cabinet Members have been reviewing options for the next two financial years, drawing on the developing business plans for each portfolio. This work, as well as the Council's strategies for organisational change and service reform, will form the second part of the Strategy. Full Member engagement on its development will take place over the summer months.

Cllr Aaron Shotton, Leader of the Council, said,

"All councils in Wales are finding themselves in this unprecedented financial situation. Predicting an accurate medium term forecast in these times of economic uncertainty is challenging, and we have to make some assumptions, but we feel that this Strategy is a fair assessment. Flintshire is working tirelessly to meet this major funding gap and we remain committed to being an efficient and cost effective Council but there is a limit to how much our public services can take in the face of year on year cuts."

Colin Everett, Chief Executive of the Council, said:

"The Medium Term Financial Strategy is a significant document which forecasts this Council's financial picture for the next three years. In the current financial year, we found the majority of the savings, once again, from streamlining the Council and savings costs, but every year we are having to become more creative with our savings – and that is why we continue to appeal to local communities to work with us under our community asset transfer programme. I would also encourage everyone to read this document – it sets out the Council's financial position in a very accessible way."

The Medium Term Financial Strategy document can be found as part of June's Cabinet agenda [here](http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.sirymflint.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=3319&Ver=4&LLL=undefined) (<http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.sirymflint.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=3319&Ver=4&LLL=undefined>).



Council welcomes its annual report from the Wales Audit Office

An annual external report on Flintshire County Council shows that the Council is a well run and efficient public authority which continues to perform well.

The Council has welcomed its Annual Improvement Report published by the Wales Audit Office (WAO).

The conclusions are largely positive, with the external regulators confident that the Council's strong track record enables it to be well placed to face up to future financial challenges. The report shows that the Council is free of regulatory concern and Government intervention during a difficult time for local government.

Flintshire County Council has made good overall progress in delivering its improvement priorities and shows strong performance across a number of service areas. The performance of the County's schools is particularly highlighted as providing good value for money. The Council's work to help mitigate the impact of cuts to welfare benefits and to reduce fuel poverty is also praised.

Welcoming the report, Cllr Aaron Shotton, Leader of the Council, said:

"This latest report by the Council's external auditors highlights how well Flintshire County Council continues to perform. Under the current administration, the Council has improved in all areas highlighted by Wales Audit Office for attention in the last three years. Despite the intense financial pressures, Flintshire is continuing to deliver on its priorities: housing, social care, education and the economy."

Colin Everett, Chief Executive, added:

"We can take satisfaction that Flintshire is improving year on year. We are a high performing Council and one which is cost efficient; we are not complacent and always strive to improve. However, the financial future concerns us greatly and it will be a major challenge to hold this position with no end to the considerable reductions in our funding."

Holywell Learning Campus



Work is now well underway at the site of the £30 million Holywell Learning Campus.

One new primary school will replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants and Ysgol y Fron Junior school and will cater for learners up to the age of 11. This will be on the same site as the new facility for Holywell High School, which will be built to provide for the education of 11 to 16 year olds.

The new schools are due to be open from September 2016 with the existing facilities remaining in use until that time to ensure no disruption for learners.

The proposed new three storey secondary school will have 600 places and the single storey primary school will have 315 places. Primary children and secondary age students will be educated in the latest state of the art accommodation with all modern IT facilities to assist with learning.

Members of the Temporary Governing Body of the new Holywell Primary School recently appointed Mr Peter Davies, currently Headteacher at Ysgol y Fron, Holywell to the post of Headteacher-Designate of the new school when it opens next year.

In the meantime, Mr Davies remains in post as Headteacher of Ysgol y Fron and Mrs Yvonne Barker continues in her post as Headteacher of Ysgol Perth-y-Terfyn. The headteachers, staff and governors of both schools are working together to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the new school.

This project is being match funded by the Welsh Government through its 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, a unique collaboration with local authorities to create educational communities fit for the 21st Century in Wales.

Details of the proposals, including a 3D virtual tour, can be found on the Council website.

State of the art sixth form hub



In recognition of reaching the final stages of erecting the steelwork at the Post 16 Education Centre, Deeside, one of the beams has been personalised with the signatures of local school pupils, staff from Coleg Cambria, local councillors and members of Flintshire County Council.

The pupils from Connah's Quay High School and Holywell High School along with other key stakeholders, had the opportunity to add their signatures to the beam before watching it being inserted into the new building last Friday morning.

The new £13m education centre is being jointly developed by Coleg Cambria, local schools and Flintshire County Council and will occupy a centralised location between Coleg Cambria's Deeside site and Connah's Quay High School. Designed to offer post 16 learners a wider curriculum, the Centre will boast state-of-the-art facilities to provide a truly inspirational learning experience for up to 700 students.

The three-storey building includes specialist performing arts, music, science and creative arts facilities as well as general teaching classrooms and social and private study spaces. Accessed via a newly formed entrance from Golftyn Lane, the scheme will also include staff and visitor car parking as well as a coach park area to serve the wider Coleg Cambria site.

The hub will be open to students in Autumn 2016. Wynne Construction, the main contractor, started work on site in March 2015

Flintshire welcomes highways funding

Following a successful bid to Welsh Government, Flintshire County Council is delighted to announce that £1.4million of funding has been secured for transport related schemes to be implemented within this financial year.

Among the planned improvements are a complete refurbishment of the traffic signals at the A548 Sealand Road / Seahill Road Junction, the introduction of a fixed speed camera on the A541 Pontblyddyn dual carriageway (Mold bound), enhancements to the existing carriageway markings, signing and surfacing to three roundabouts within the extents of the A548 Deeside Industrial Park Zones 2, 3 and 4 and the implementation of a footpath facility serving Argoed High School in Mynydd Isa.

The funding comes as part of an annual bid submission to Welsh Government following the assessment and prioritisation of all sites within the County.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Bernie Attridge said;

"The programmed improvements will go a long way in achieving the targets set by Welsh Government for the reduction of casualties on the Flintshire road network. The proposals will deliver much needed safety improvements benefitting the most vulnerable of users. I am sure the works will be well received by all who utilise the routes."



Pictured in Mynydd Isa are Cllr Bernie Attridge and Anthony Stanford, Senior traffic engineer at Flintshire County Council

Minister visits new Flying Start Centre



Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, pictured at the Flying Start centre, along with Flintshire County Councillors, officers and representatives from Flying Start.

Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, has visited the new Flying Start centre at Ysgol Bryn Deva in Connah's Quay to see the fantastic childcare services and facilities it offers.

The centre was opened last year, thanks to a Welsh Government capital grant of £825,000.

Flying Start facilities offer eligible parents free quality childcare for two to three year olds, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help for early language development. They help families to look after their children's health and well being.

Before the new provision, Flying Start services in Connah's Quay operated from a number of locations in the town. Childcare was provided at Ysgol Bryn Deva and demand for places often exceeded availability. Working in partnership with the school and Jigsaw Playgroup, the purpose-built centre provides the full range of Flying Start services under one roof. This includes parenting programmes, health sessions for children, an early language group and crèche facilities. 48 children are now able to take up their Flying Start childcare entitlement at the centre, which means that requests for childcare places can now be fully met.

Flying Start services at the school have also been extended to include baby massage courses, early language development and parenting programmes, which are delivered to parents who are able to bring their children with them to be cared for by qualified staff, in the onsite crèche.

Council receives highest evaluation in Care Home Review

Flintshire County Council has received the highest level of evaluation in the Older People's Commissioner for Wales' recent Care Home Review.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, recently published a report 'A Place to Call Home?', following her review into the quality of life and care of older people living in care homes across Wales.

It was the biggest review of its kind ever undertaken in Wales, and the report sets out requirements for action to ensure that quality of life is central to the delivery of residential and nursing care.

In the report, all local authorities in Wales have been allocated seven specific requirements for action, which include ensuring that older people have a voice and quality of life in their care homes, including opportunities to retain existing friendships; that there is access to specialist services if required and that staff undertake dementia training as part of the ongoing development of this vital care home workforce.

In all seven recommendations, Flintshire County Council's response received the highest rating level from the Commissioner. The category ratings range from the highest ('acceptable'), to 'partial' and 'unacceptable'.

Councillor Christine Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services, said:

"This is an excellent endorsement from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. Flintshire County Council values its relationships with local care homes within the County, and we have long invested time into working together to look after our older people. The Council is committed to our partnership working with care homes and with care home managers in particular, and I am pleased that that commitment is being recognised."



Full details about the report can be found at

http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Reviews/Residential_Care_Review.aspx

Former landfill sites generate substantial income for the County Council

Two former landfill sites in Buckley have generated over £400,000 of income for Flintshire County Council in a twelve month period.

Methane gas is generated at the Brookhill and Standard landfill sites through the anaerobic biological decomposition of the waste deposited when the sites were operational. The gas is converted into electricity through a purpose designed, gas fuelled electricity generation plant, from where it is metered and distributed at high voltage (11,000 volts) into the National Grid.

The power is then sold at auction through the Non Fossil Purchasing Agency at current electricity market rates, using industry approved six monthly short term contracts.

During 2014 the two plants produced a total of 4,300 megawatts of electricity- the equivalent of meeting the annual energy needs for approximately 1,700 homes.

The total income generated from the methane gas during 2014 was approximately £440,000, which provides a much needed revenue stream for the County Council.

There are also plans to develop energy production further, with the possibility of solar panels at both landfill sites. It is anticipated that the introduction of PV panels would further increase the delivery of electricity into the National Grid, with a potential increase in income of £50,000 per annum. This could also present an opportunity to power the County Council's vehicle fleet through its own renewable energy supply.

Kevin Jones, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, said:

"At a time when the County Council is facing unprecedented cuts, it is welcome news that two of our former landfill sites are generating such a significant amount of income for the local authority- money we can then use to offset some of the financial pressure we are facing.

"The Council's use of renewable energy is also helping to deliver the Welsh Government's targets for production of energy from renewable green energy sources and it also helps preserve national air quality standards."

New Chairman



Councillor Peter Curtis, Vice Chairman and Councillor Ray Hughes, Chairman.

Flintshire County Council has elected Councillor Ray Hughes as Chairman.

Cllr Ray Hughes has represented Leeswood since 2008. He was a councillor for Delyn Borough Council and has also been a community councillor for over 40 years. He is married to Gwenda and has three sons.

A former joiner, Cllr Hughes is very actively involved in his local community and is very interested in football and sport generally.

The Vice-Chairman for the coming 12 months will be Councillor Peter Curtis.

Councillor Curtis represents Holywell Central and has been a member of Flintshire County Council since 1995. He was the Council's Chairman in 2005/6. He is also a member of Holywell Town Council, three times serving as Mayor.

Councillor Curtis lives in Holywell and is married to Jenny with two children.

Volunteer to help children and young people

Volunteering can be a rewarding way to use your spare time. If you are looking for an interesting and worthwhile opportunity, then our Children's Social Services could really benefit from your time and experience.

The Family & Adolescent Support Team (FAST) has been recruiting volunteers to act as mentors for children and young people for six years. The team of volunteers is diverse and recruits men and women from across Flintshire with different skills and experiences.

Mentors are matched with a young person and build a relationship for up to 12 months. Generally, mentors meet with a young person once a week for a couple of hours to work towards agreed goals and discuss any issues and problems the young person is experiencing. Each mentoring experience varies from the next, and much will depend on the personality and needs of the young person.

Louise began volunteering last year and is enjoying her new mentoring role: "A big part of the role is to build confidence and self-esteem. It's good to be able to offer young people the opportunity to try different activities which they can still pursue when the mentoring has finished. I like to think I can offer encouragement and guidance to a young person whilst ensuring that they also have fun."

Julie, another volunteer adds: "I love being a volunteer mentor because I really feel like I am making a difference to a young person and their family. We have fun too and there is a good rapport between mentors in our monthly get together."

Emma has been a volunteer mentor for three years and agrees that it is a personally rewarding experience for the volunteers, "This role has given me the confidence to use skills and abilities that I didn't know I had and I feel proud knowing that we as a team can achieve great results."

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor, please contact Andrea Wade on 01352 701089 or email andrea.wade@flintshire.gov.uk

Changes to Services

Changes to your waste collection service

We would like to thank our residents for another record recycling year for Flintshire. Current figures for 2015/16 are indicating an overall recycling rate of 58%, which is great news.

However, to ensure that our performance continues to improve and also to deliver essential savings needed in the coming financial year, the Council is having to introduce a number of changes to your waste collection service.

Full details can be found at <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/> (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/>)- some of the changes are listed below:

Household Recycling Centres

The Council currently provides seven Household Recycling Centres across the county.

The Council's larger centres perform much better than those with limited space as they can offer a greater number of recycling opportunities. Some of the Council's existing sites are not large enough to provide a full recycling service and, in an effort to improve overall performance, we have made the following changes:

Connah's Quay and Flint Household Recycling Centres are opening on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only, which reflects the higher footfalls at these sites on these days.

Hope Recycling Centre is now being run as a 'recycling only' facility at the weekends only.

On the days these sites are closed, residents will be directed to our larger recycling centres.

The Mold, Buckley, Sandycroft and Greenfield sites will see increased staff numbers, whose role will be to promote a "recycling first" ethos. Additional recycling skips will be introduced to replace general waste skips, because all waste brought to the centres will be inspected to ensure recycling is maximised. The current van permit scheme will see stricter rules applied.

Missed Bin Collections

The County Council carries out up to 264,000 waste and recycling collections every week. Inevitably a small number of collections can be missed. These can sometimes be missed by the collection crew, but many are because residents have not placed their waste out on time, or have presented the wrong bin for collection. The cost of returning for these bins creates a significant financial burden for the service.

From 1st November we will no longer return for bins reported as being missed. To ensure that bins are not missed on collection day we are introducing a 'charge hand' on each main collection round, whose responsibility will include signing off each road or street once the waste collection has been completed.

The County Council will no longer return for collections reported missed once a street has been signed off. Residents will be asked to use the nearest Household Recycling Centre or place their waste out on the next scheduled collection day.

Garden Waste Service: Charging for additional brown bins

Many local authorities in both England and Wales are now charging their residents for the collection of all garden waste. However, as the garden waste collections contribute significantly to our overall recycling performance and the service is widely valued by our customers, Flintshire County Council will continue to collect one brown bin from each property.

However, from March 2016, an annual charge will be introduced for any additional bins that residents present.

As many residents don't use the garden waste collection service during the winter months, brown bin waste will not in future be collected during the months of December, January and February. The change to this service will be introduced from 1 December. Residents will receive a new calendar explaining the changes. The frequency of black bin, recycling and food collections will not change.

7 day collections

During September, the Council will increase the number of properties collected on a Saturday with a small number of rural properties having collections introduced on a Sunday. This follows the launch of six day collections for waste and recycling in November 2011. The service has provided significant savings in fleet costs and has been well received by residents in the areas where it has been introduced.

Councillor Kevin Jones, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, said:

"We are always grateful to our residents for their continued commitment in recycling their waste. The level of recycling collected through our weekly kerbside collections means that the county is in the top quartile in Wales, but we must continue to work hard to increase our recycling performance. These changes are being made as part of our challenge to find significant financial savings and these will further strengthen our position as a leading authority in Wales."

Introduction of Car Parking Charges



A county wide car parking strategy which includes the introduction of parking charges at all viable County Council owned town car parks has been approved by the Council's Cabinet. The new strategy will provide a consistent approach to off-street parking in town car parks.

Parking measures and enforcement are key tools in managing an effective highway network and helping to avoid congestion. Effectively managing off street parking is essential to help maintain the vibrancy and vitality of a town.

Charging for parking will be implemented on a phased approach throughout the county between now and the end of the year. Charging was introduced in Buckley on Monday 17 August along with new charging tariffs in

Mold Town Centre. The timescale for the remainder of the county is as follows:

September - Holywell

October – Flint, Connah's Quay, Queensferry, Shotton

Timescale to be confirmed – County Hall, Mold

The full list of towns and affected car parks, along with tariffs and charging hours is available on the Council's [website](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Related/Pay-and-Display-Car-Parking.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Related/Pay-and-Display-Car-Parking.aspx>).

There are no plans to introduce charges for disabled car users at Council car parks in designated disabled parking bays.

Councillor Bernie Attridge, Cabinet Member for Environment and Deputy Leader, said:

"The Car Parking Strategy is being introduced as part of our challenge to find efficiencies in the order of £18+m in the coming financial year. We have modified the original proposals to take account of the main concerns raised during consultations, and I would like to thank all

those who shared their views.”

Deeside Leisure Centre library hub

Plans for a brand new library within Deeside Leisure Centre, to serve the communities of Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry, are now taking shape.

A proposal to relocate the libraries of Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry into the new library was approved by Cabinet at its May meeting, and is part of an overall medium term plan for libraries in Flintshire,

The new hub is expected to cost approximately £130,000, with the majority of the funding - over £90,000 - coming from a CyMAL grant. It will also save the library service in the region of £50,000 a year.

A recent consultation about the proposals took place in the affected communities. Although it was recognised that it was in the overall best interests of future library provision to progress with the development of a new hub, many library users also emphasised that the service must be designed to reflect all three local communities, and asked that it is also supplemented by additional community based services. The possibility of a Community Asset Transfer has also been raised.

The development has now been approved with the provision that the library service works with the three communities to address the feedback received during the consultation, and that work is also carried out to assess whether a Community Asset Transfer is possible.

Councillor Chris Bithell Cabinet Member for Education said:

“To ensure that the Council has a sustainable, modern library service in the future, we are having to think of ways we can deliver it differently, whilst maintaining its quality. It is important that we work closely with our communities, and, in this case, library users in particular, to develop a service that best meets their needs including local community based services as well as the new hub library. The brand new library hub at Deeside Leisure Centre is a very exciting development which will provide easy access to books, computers and study opportunities.”

Flintshire Connects – coming to Buckley and Mold

Two more Flintshire Connects centres will be opening in the coming months within Buckley Library and Mold Library.

The Council currently has three successful Connects centres at Holywell, Flint and Connaught's Quay where the public can access a range of public services under one roof.

Working in partnership with the library service the two new Connects centres will provide the community with full access to a wide range of services including:

Housing Access and Advice

Streetscene Services

Blue Badges

Housing Benefit

Council Tax

Housing Rents

Environmental Health and Public Protection

Housing Repairs and Maintenance

A payment kiosk will also be available to enable residents to make cash and card payments for all council bills.

The Deeside Shuttle bus service is changing

The Deeside Shuttle bus, which provides transport on demand for Flintshire workers to and from Deeside Industrial Park (DIP), will no longer offer a pre-bookable door to door service.

As part of a review of subsidised bus services, this change in service was approved by the Council's Cabinet. The levels of subsidy for this service are very high, at a cost of over £6 per passenger, and are no longer affordable.

Currently, passengers are required to phone and book their journeys for the Deeside Shuttle through a call centre type arrangement. This will not be necessary in the future. The new service will run in much the same way as other public transport, supported by a timetable and with fixed stops. With the emphasis remaining on getting people to work and back as efficiently as possible, it will operate as an 'express service' stopping only at specified bus stops along its route.

Journeys up to and including 31 August 2015 remain unchanged and passengers should continue to phone and book their seats as usual. From Tuesday 1 September 2015 passengers will need to go to their nearest specified bus stop and catch one of the timetabled buses that will get them to work on time. Route maps and timetables will be available at local libraries and Flintshire Connect Centres or can be downloaded at www.flintshire.gov.uk/DRT (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/DRT>). Questions about the new service should be directed to: email streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk tel. 01352 701234.

Councillor Bernie Attridge, Cabinet Member for Environment said:

"This review has become necessary due to the unprecedented level of financial savings the Council is having to make. However it is important to us that we support Flintshire's economy and by replacing the existing Deeside Shuttle service with these new timetabled routes Flintshire residents will have continued access to employment on Deeside Industrial Park."

What's on

There's lots to do in Flintshire this summer!



Whatever you fancy, there is plenty to do across Flintshire throughout the year.

The front page of our [website](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/>), has a comprehensive and up-to-date [events section](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Apps/Events.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Apps/Events.aspx>), with activities listed from all over the County.

If you fancy getting outdoors, [Flintshire Countryside Service](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/LeisureAndTourism/Countryside-and-Coast/Home.aspx) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/LeisureAndTourism/Countryside-and-Coast/Home.aspx>) has plenty of recommendations, including beautiful walks along the Wales Coast Park, there is also a Facebook page dedicated to [Wepre Park](https://www.facebook.com/WepreParkParcGwepre) (<https://www.facebook.com/WepreParkParcGwepre>), and [Greenfield Valley Museum and Heritage Park](http://www.greenfieldvalley.com/w/) (<http://www.greenfieldvalley.com/w/>) is always worth a visit.

There are also plenty of leisure opportunities at the Council's leisure centres- take a look [here](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/leisure) (<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/leisure>) for what's on offer, and to find your nearest venue.

And, don't forget, [Clwyd Theatr Cymru](http://www.clwyd-theatr-cymru.co.uk/) (<http://www.clwyd-theatr-cymru.co.uk/>) is also right on our doorstep.

Explore Flintshire website



A launch event has taken place to unveil Flintshire County Council's new tourism website – <http://www.exploreflintshire.co.uk/> (<http://www.exploreflintshire.co.uk/>).

The event took place the same day that Tree Tops Caravan Park in Gwespyr announced its Silver Award at the National Tourism Awards for Wales.

The launch was hosted by Flintshire Tourism Association at the Springfield Hotel in Pentre Halkyn and was also an opportunity for local businesses and organisations involved in the tourism industry – including hotels, bed and breakfasts, guest houses, camp sites and restaurants - to promote their own projects and swap leaflets and promotional material.

The website is also supported by a number of partners of the Council, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Flintshire in Business, Flintshire Tourism Association, North East Wales, and Visit Wales.

Councillor Derek Butler, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said:

“<http://www.exploreflintshire.co.uk/> (<http://www.exploreflintshire.co.uk/>) is a great website, which has been developed with visitors to the county in mind. We have created four key areas - what to do, where to stay, places to eat and let's explore - where you will be able to find all you need to ensure that you enjoy your visit to Flintshire. Of course, it's also a great place for local people to find out more about what's on the doorstep too.”

“The Council also wishes to congratulate Tree Tops Caravan Park in Gwespyr, for flying the flag for tourism in Flintshire, by achieving national recognition at the National Tourism Awards for Wales. Congratulations to all involved!”

Holywell's new skate park officially opens



Opening the new skate park is Cllr Kevin Jones, with, from left to right, Luke Bodman and Michael Nagle from Holywell High School, Cllr Peter Curtis and Cllr Joe Johnson. Looking on are representatives from Flintshire County Council, Holywell Town Council and Holywell High School. Pictured at the back are Alex Davies and Ben Frost.

A new community skate park in Holywell has been officially opened.

The Fron Park Skate Park, which is behind the Holywell Leisure Centre, has been designed and constructed following consultation with enthusiastic youth groups, skate boarders, scooter riders, inline skaters and BMX riders, providing learning sections, and more stimulating challenges for the more experienced and enthusiastic user. The park features bowls, ramps and concrete pipes, and the designs were drawn up by Acrete Skateparks.

The majority of the funding for the scheme - £75,000 - was provided by WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd), who are a not for profit business which awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. Flintshire County Council provided £14,000 towards the scheme, and Holywell Town Council gave £11,000. The scheme also received help from Communities First and Holywell Skate and Bike Club.

The skate park was officially opened by Councillor Kevin Jones, Flintshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure.

Councillor Kevin Jones said:

"I am extremely pleased that we are officially opening this wonderful facility for young people in Holywell. It was important that they had a say in its design, and I am sure that it will be used and enjoyed by them, and future generations of youngsters, for many years to come. Both the County and Town Councils would like to thank WREN for providing such a generous grant to allow this facility to go ahead. This is another great example of working in partnership with our communities to improve local services for the benefit of local people. In the longer term, Flintshire County Council is committed to its Community Asset Transfer scheme to find sustainable solutions for local services and public assets, which include play areas and playing fields."

Councillor Peter Curtis, Vice Chairman of Flintshire County Council, who is the local ward member and a Holywell Town Councillor said:

"I am delighted that Holywell's fantastic new skate park is now officially open. It took time to find a suitable site for this Park and, having found a suitable area, we are grateful for the help of Flintshire County Council in making it all possible. I would like to thank our young people for their involvement in this project; there has been a need for such a facility in this area for some time and I hope they get many hours of fun from our new Skate Park."

Martin Fearnley, Community Engagement Officer for Holywell Town Council added:

"The Skate Park has already proved very popular with young people; it has attracted a lot of interest and is being well used. I would like to see competitions and organised events at the Park in the future, working with the young people and partner agencies in an effort to promote pride in their Park and encourage ownership by them, to keep it a safe and enjoyable facility to be used.

"There is a lot of good work being done, by many, who work with young people and also more importantly, by the young people themselves. This is another great example of that."



Mold Food and Drink Festival 2015

New Street Car Park, Mold - 19 and 20 September

The annual Mold Food and Drink Festival is a firm favourite on the regions' culinary calendar and among Wales's best food events.

This year the Festival turns ten years old and will be celebrating by showcasing the best of the region's produce together with some of the finest quality food and drink from across the UK.

In the mix this year will be demonstrations by celebrity chefs, interactive cookery workshops, over 100 food stalls, children's entertainment, live music and more.

<http://www.moldfoodfestival.co.uk/> (<http://www.moldfoodfestival.co.uk/>)

Flintshire Business Week 2015

Flintshire Business Week (FBW) 2015, now in its ninth year, will take place from 13 to 16 October, with the Flintshire Business Awards 2015 taking place on 23 October.

FBW, in association with AGS Security Systems and Westbridge Furniture, is one of the most important events of its kind in the region, attracting around 2,000 businesses every year. It supports the business community in the county and, increasingly, the wider region, to promote their companies, to develop trading opportunities and to raise the profile of the area as a place to invest.

This year's FBW will begin on 13 October with a launch event at Coleg Cambria. The Flintshire Business Awards will take place in Soughton Hall, Northop, on Friday 23 October.

Councillor Derek Butler, Cabinet Member for Economic Development said:

"The Council works tirelessly to put our businesses of all sizes on the map and Flintshire Business Week has been the highlight of the County's business calendar for the last nine years.

"We are also fortunate to have Flintshire's business ambassador, Lord Barry Jones, as our president.

"I'd like to thank all the businesses that support Flintshire Business Week, and encourage everyone to come along to this year's events in October."

Wales Rally GB

Wales Rally GB will be roaring back into north Wales later this year.

Britain's concluding round of the globetrotting FIA World Rally Championship takes place between 12-15 November and, once again, the award-winning event will be based right here in Flintshire.

As last year, the busy rally Service Park, where all the 160 teams are based, will be located alongside the Toyota Engine plant in Deeside and will be offering totally free public access to anyone wanting to meet the stars and see the cars.

The more adventurous, of course, will want to catch the spectacular turbocharged machines – and their fearless drivers – in high-speed action; the majority of the dramatic competitive stages take place in the region's legendary forests. However, for those not wanting to venture quite so far into Wales' great outdoors, there is also a more family-friendly RallyFest staged at Chirk Castle on the Saturday afternoon.

Just log onto the official www.walesrallygb.com (<http://www.walesrallygb.com/>) website to find out more.

Open Day at Historic Record Office

Flintshire County Council is to open the doors of its Record Office to allow visitors a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Old Rectory Building in Hawarden.

The event will be held on Saturday 5 September between 10am - 2pm as part of a national Open Doors Scheme.

The special event will include the opportunity to view an exhibition about historic buildings in the village, featuring 'then' and 'now' photographs and visitors can also join a History Trail around the village led by a knowledgeable tour guide. Tours start at 10.30am and 12.30pm and last for 1 hour 15 minutes. Bookings are required.

Cllr Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "The Record Office is an important and immensely valued service, which provides a lot of help and enjoyment to people researching their family history or the history of the local area. This is a great opportunity for visitors to have a behind the scenes look at this historic building. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at this free event."

For more information or to book a place on the history tour, telephone 01244 532364 or email archives@flintshire.gov.uk

Flintshire to welcome the Aviva Tour of Britain



The Aviva Tour of Britain is British cycling's premier road cycling event giving fans the opportunity to see the world's best teams and riders competing on their door step.

Flintshire will welcome The Aviva Tour of Britain as the riders pass through Mold and Buckley on Stage 1 of the race on Sunday, 6 September. Thousands lined the route through Flintshire last year and large crowds are sure to be out in force again showing their support for the riders this year.

The race begins in Beaumaris, Anglesey earlier in the day and travels across North Wales to the Stage 1 finish in Wrexham.

Cllr. Kevin Jones Cabinet Member with responsibility for Leisure said:

"The Aviva Tour of Britain is an exciting, high profile event highlights of which will be seen on television across the world. I am delighted that this and the extensive coverage in the local and national press and online will bring Flintshire to the attention of a vast international audience.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for local people to see the cream of international cycling in action and I am sure crowds will be out in force to enjoy the excitement and thrill of the race."

For full details of The Aviva Tour of Britain, including the route schedule go to <http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/> (<http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/>)

News from our partners

A new law for Landlords and Lettings Agents

New legislation for agents and landlords is being introduced this Autumn, aiming to raise letting and management standards in private rented housing in Wales.

It is intended that the legislation will result in:

- improved standards of letting and management practice in the private rented sector
- more information on landlords available for tenant verification and for local authorities to assist with strategic intervention and dissemination of information
- raised awareness by landlords and agents of their respective rights and responsibilities
- in turn, raised awareness by tenants of their respective rights and responsibilities.

Outline of the new legislation

- all private landlords must register themselves and the addresses of their rental properties in Wales with the designated licensing authority
- landlords who undertake defined letting or property management activities at a rental property in Wales must become licensed. If a landlord instructs an agent to do such work on their behalf, it is that agent who must become licensed
- in order to get a licence a person must be adequately trained, and also declare themselves 'fit and proper'
- the licensing authority and individual local authorities where rental properties are located are responsible for any necessary enforcement action against non-compliance.
- the legal regime will replace the existing voluntary "[Landlord Accreditation Wales](https://www.welshlandlords.org.uk/)" (<https://www.welshlandlords.org.uk/>) scheme which is operated by Cardiff Council on behalf of all local authorities in Wales
- the new licensing authority will establish a comprehensive, central database of all private landlords and agents that operate in the sector. Limited information will be publically available on-line
- the licensing authority will operate a training and development provision; however people applying for a licence can choose to attend scheme specific- approved training courses delivered by other bodies.

For more information and FAQs visit: <http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/housing-supply/renting/privately/landlord-and-agent-registration> (<http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/housing-supply/renting/privately/landlord-and-agent-registration>)

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Do you know of a volunteer group that devotes its time to helping others in your local area and deserves a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service?

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups, recognising the outstanding work they perform within their communities.

Go to <http://qavs.direct.gov.uk/> (<http://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>) and submit your nomination by **18 September 2015** to make sure they are considered for an award next year.

You shouldn't be part of the group, entry is free and you can make your nomination at any time. Notes to help you can be found at <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/guidance-notes> (<https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/guidance-notes>).

The winners are announced on **2 June** every year and they will receive a domed glass crystal and a certificate signed by the Queen.

