

Marbury Ward - Parish Update – September / October 2025

Dear Parish Councillors,

We hope you and your communities have had a good summer break. As your ward councillors, we want to open by thanking you sincerely for the work you continue to do for our villages and residents. Parish councils are the first tier of democracy and, often, the first port of call for people when they have concerns or ideas. The countless hours you give in meetings, planning responses, and community projects underpin so much of the wellbeing and vitality of our area. We are deeply grateful.



September has been a month of important decisions. Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, and Warrington Councils have each agreed to proceed with devolution, paving the way for a Cheshire & Warrington Combined Authority to be formed in 2026, and for the region to elect its first Mayor in 2027. **Devolution** has real potential - to unlock investment, bring decision-making closer to local people, and strengthen our voice nationally. But its success will depend on the quality of leadership chosen and the scale of devolved powers and funding secured. That is why, as Marbury councillors, we are giving our full support to Ben Fletcher as the Conservative candidate to be the first Mayor of Cheshire & Warrington in 2027.

Alongside these regional developments, we continue to focus on the needs of Marbury Ward. We are working closely with CWAC officers to press for **rural infrastructure improvements** - roads, broadband, drainage, and essential services - which remain behind in many of our villages. We are also raising the concerns of farmers and rural businesses about the impacts of current government policy on employment, taxation and the environment. The hospitality sector is under particular pressure. Our pubs, cafés, restaurants, and venues are community hubs and major employers of young people. We continue to urge everyone to give them their support.

Planning remains a top priority. The first round of the **Local Plan** consultation has now closed. We challenged any **unnecessary Green Belt encroachment, highlighted the importance of protecting ecology, and called for an infrastructure-first approach with phased development**. At the same time, we recognise the need to support

sustainable growth around Northwich to strengthen the town centre and support its businesses. We and all the Parish Councils across Marbury are also coming together to press for better enforcement and quicker action on planning breaches. A joint Ward-wide letter is being co-ordinated to give weight to this call.

Finally, Lynn has launched a petition calling for urgent resurfacing of the pedestrian area of Witton Street and High St in Northwich. Residents and businesses alike have reported multiple trips and falls due to the unsafe surface. This petition will be presented to CWAC Full Council on the 16th October for debate or scrutiny for action.

Thank you once again for your dedication to our communities. We look forward to working together over the autumn.

With our best wishes,

Cllrs Lynn Gibbon, Phil Marshall & Norman Wright

[Report it | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

[Ward profiles | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

[Out of hours contact information | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Residents Survey 2025

We will be conducting a resident's survey across Marbury before the end of the year to understand both Local and National concerns and help set our priorities within the Ward. This will be available to complete both online and via a delivered survey, so we are hoping to receive a high level of engagement. Once launched, any help from the Parishes to publicise would be much appreciated. Detail to follow.

Key Updates

Local Plan & Planning

- Strong representations made opposing Green Belt encroachment and supporting biodiversity.
- Clear call for infrastructure-first and phased development.
- Backing sustainable growth in Northwich to boost the town centre.
- Wider planning: A number of Parish specific cases remain live and we are in conversation with Officers to resolve.

Highways (see links)

Statutory undertaker works (i.e. gas, electric, B.T. and water) on the highway network are all on [Causeway one.network](#)

For all local information please use this link

- [Live roadworks | Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)
- <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/highways/live-roadworks>

Reminder: Swing Bridge Sutton Weaver

The Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge, which carries the busy A56 over the River Weaver Navigation near Junction 12 of the M56, opened in 1926 and will celebrate its centenary next year.

To ensure the structure remains safe and fit for purpose, essential works are needed to repair and replace mechanical and electrical components of the 100-year-old bridge.

Following concerns raised by the local community last year about the potential impact of a full closure, the original programme was paused for review. Since then, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) has been working closely with the Canal & River Trust to explore ways to reduce disruption. As a result, a revised programme of works has now been agreed.

When is this happening?

16 June 2025 until October 2025 - Bridge Works will take place away from the highway, with no disruption to traffic or pedestrians.

27 October 2025 for 2 weeks (Mon-Thurs 7pm – 6.30am)

Bridge barrier works will require a lane closure and temporary traffic lights to

undertake them safely. To help reduce disruption, works have been programmed overnight between the hours of 7pm and 6.30am.

15 to 22 February 2026 - Bridge work completion and testing will require a full road closure so works have been programmed during schools holidays in February 2026, to reduce disruption.

The Canal & River Trust will provide updated information through the different stages of this project. on their website: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Consultations

- All live CWAC consultations available [online](#).

Devolution – Cheshire & Warrington

- [Combined Authority](#) approved; will form in 2026. More detail on the link.

Parish & Ward Campaigns

- Green Belt protection campaign and local survey now [live](#)
- Awaiting roll-out of Community-Led Highways project. All requests collated, we are currently awaiting action dates for Marbury.
- Petition launched: Witton Street resurfacing - participate on the [link](#)

Policing

Updated Reporting Guide: [Reporting crime and ASB | Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership](#)

Events

Free Scam Awareness Event – from Age UK Cheshire

Date & Time: Monday, 20th October 2025, 13:00–15:00

Location: Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0AZ

Hosted by: Age UK Cheshire Scams Awareness and Aftercare Team

Details:

The event will feature multiple partners sharing expertise on scam and fraud prevention, including:

- Trading Standards
- Stop Loan Sharks
- Cyber Crime experts
- Banking protocol specialists
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Police
- Safeguarding teams
- And more!!

Booking Info:

- Contact Age UK Cheshire:

☎ 01625 612 958 (Option 5)

✉ scams@ageukcheshire.org.uk

Northwich

Library News – Northwich Library

- A planning application decision is expected imminently
- The soft strip work undertaken over the summer to understand any further limitations of the building, and to further de-risk the refurbishment phases has now been completed
- Using the information gained from this work RIBA design stage 4 has now begun
- Information panels have been erected at the front and rear of the building to provide more information about the project and links to the website
- Updates and images continue to be shared on the project webpage: [Northwich Library renovation | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#).
- The library team are working hard to continue to build the audience at Weaver Hall Museum and have many events and activities bringing people into the library and museum [What's on in our Libraries | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Northwich Regeneration Update

Updates on Northwich regeneration projects can be found at the link below: [Northwich regeneration | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Weaver Square

- Site investigations are now on site. The works commenced on 1 September 2025.
- These Phase 2 Site Investigations are supplementary to those completed in 2023.
- Northwich is a town with a proud salt mining heritage, which means that these site investigations are vital to learn more about the current ground conditions before any potential future building works can begin
- Buildings at Weaver Square are currently lightweight and low-rise. There is a need to understand more about how much weight the ground will be able to sustain to inform what type of development can take place at the site.
- These ground conditions will influence the design of any future development, for example in the height and density of buildings
- The site has been divided into three zones (A, B and C) and the investigations will move across the site in this order. It is expected that the intrusive works will take approximately seven weeks to complete, but as a guide:
 - Phase A will commence on 1 September 2025 and is anticipated to take around 2 weeks to complete. This phase is focused around the Apple Market Place open space and the market car park. There may also be some minor works in Phase C (including set up of compound, vegetation clearance and trial pits) at this time.
 - Phase B will commence around 8 September 2025 and is anticipated to take 3-4 weeks to complete. This phase is focused around the Victoria Club car park. Again there may be some minor works in Phase C (window sample borehole and trial pits) at this time.
 - Phase C will commence around 29 September 2025 and is anticipated to 1-2 weeks to complete. This phase is focused around the indoor market and the Weaver Square shopping precinct.
- Drilling within each zone will be staggered. The town centre including the two car parks will remain operational.
- The working hours for drilling will be restricted to 8am-5pm on weekdays with no weekend working.
- The area surrounding each rig position will be fenced off to ensure safety, but the town centre and the car parks will remain operational. There is only one of each piece of equipment, so the drilling will be naturally staggered.

For more information about the project, please go to: [Weaver Square | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#).

Northwich Market

Applications are now being taken from businesses looking to trade at the new Northwich indoor market, due to open in summer 2026.

The new market will provide a significantly improved experience for customers and traders alike with a wider choice of stalls and facilities.

The proposed unit is currently vacant and occupies a key corner position within Barons Quay which will provide an ideal location for the new market. This will be the biggest investment in Northwich Market since 1960s. The new market will benefit from an investment of around £1.8 million to create an inclusive community space for businesses to grow, where current and new traders can thrive.

All the current Northwich Market traders are being actively encouraged to apply and make the transition to the new market. Details of how to apply and receive the application pack are available at: www.northwich.market.

Since the campaign launched on 1st September, so far over 80 requests for an application pack have been received so far which demonstrates strong interest in the new market.

The closing date for applications is 26 October 2025.

Free support is available to assist existing and prospective traders with their applications and a selection panel made up of the Council's Market Management team, letting experts and a representative of the local business community will review each application using an equitable scoring process and may invite shortlisted applicants for interview before making their final selection.

[New Northwich Market Launches Trader Recruitment Drive | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

For more information about the project, please go to: www.northwich.market and [Northwich Market | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Moss Farm

See website: [Moss Farm | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

- The draft Heads of Terms (HoT) for all the club demises and responsibility have now been sent out to the 7 sports clubs in preparation for new leases and management model that empowers clubs to look after their own facilities and bid for external grants for future improvements. Dialogue will continue over the coming weeks.
- The newly refurbished Sand Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) has had a huge take up of use, it is fantastic to see the numbers of people using the facilities of all ages.
- The refurbishment of the 2 red brick barns will be complete by the end of September, with the Sub Aqua club relocating into one and the Rugby club using the other to store their summer camp activity equipment in the other.
- Construction of the additional new car park will commence once the Sub Aqua have relocated from their current prefab buildings which will then be scheduled for demolition.
- The Architects will be sharing the design proposals for the refurbishment of the red brick Rugby changing facilities next week. The building was built in the 1890's as an agricultural building and although some conversions were made to form changing facilities in the 1970's it does not meet current requirement for safeguarding or growth in women's and girls and youth teams.
- Continued schedule of works for the regeneration project improved access from the adjacent housing developments, pathways, entrance gates and road resurfacing.
- Northwich Town Council and Brio have provided quotes for interim arrangements for site management & maintenance from April 2026 prior to the withdrawal of Brio from the site completely, working closely with Brio in the coming months to manage this process.

Knights Grange Sports Complex - Winsford

- 3rd Stakeholder Workshop took place at the end of August, further quarterly meetings to take place, actions included mapping lease exercise. Continues to be a really positive meeting with actions agreed between the various service representatives and the clubs and community group.
- Grade II listed barn which houses the current changing facilities will have refurbishment works (utilising s106) commencing with feasibility/design phase in the next few weeks following appointment of the Design team. Works should be complete by the new football season in 2026 (September).
- Dialogue ongoing to look into options for clubs to have more involvement with management and maintenance of sports facilities.

Members Budgets 2025-2026 / Space Hive

Community Funding

The [Member Budget Award Scheme](#) for 2025/26 allocates £5k to all Councillors to support local projects and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and wellbeing of their communities. Funding is provided to recipients as a discretionary award and is aimed at addressing local priorities for action. (With 3 Ward Councillors in Marbury we have a combined budget of £15k)

Member Budgets Applications are now open – budget allocations are generally agreed on a 'first come first served basis'...

[*To Note: support for local events can be requested through Member Budgets.](#)

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councillors-allowances/member-budgets>

Cheshire West Crowd - Spacehive

Find out More [Cheshire West Crowd - Home](#)

Reminder from the July Round:

Project	Cheshire West Crowd Contribution	Current status (including CWC contribution)
Weaverham - Inclusive Eco-Friendly Play	Unsuccessful not deferred	£491 (2% funded)
Save 1st Norley Scout Group.	£10,000	£52,812 (59% funded)
The Nest Northwest @The Hive	£6,500	£7,086 (61% funded)
Age-friendly Cheshire West Coordinator (borough wide project)	Unsuccessful not deferred	£7784 (28% funded)

With regards to the Cheshire West contribution some projects have been approved, declined or deferred to the next panel meeting in October.

Projects being considered for the October Round (to date) please note that groups can still apply up until 25th September but there are limited funds for the October round due to commitments/pledges in the July round :

Organisation	Project	Project Total	Funding secured to date
Winsford TC	Solar Panels (Wharton & Over)	£9628	£6403
Comberbach Parish Council	Infant Play Equipment	£22,280	£1040

There is £80k available this year for Climate Change projects and £150k from the community innovation fund – this is to cover both the July and October round.

Project creators will have signed up to 'Keep What You Raise' or 'All or Nothing' - the Council contribution may not be deposited if the funding target isn't reached.

Other Funding Opportunities:

Funding Opportunities: [Funding opportunities | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment

This fund is available to community-led projects that improve the environment and help people connect with and enjoy nature where they live.

Funding from £300 up to £20,000 is available and the deadline for applications is 17 December 2025.

[National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Branching Out – The Tree Council

The Branching Out small grants fund aims to support a new season of community tree planting.

[Branching Out Fund - The Tree Council](#)

NEW Community Garden Grants - [Community Garden Grants - National Garden Scheme](#)

NEW Green Heat Network Fund – Department for Energy Security & Net Zero The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) is a capital grant fund that supports: the commercialisation and construction of new low and zero carbon (LZC) heat networks (including the supply of cooling) the retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks [Green Heat Network Fund \(GHNF\): guidance on how to apply - GOV.UK](#)

Million Hours Fund - This funding is for organisations to give extra support to young people in areas with higher rates of anti-social behaviour. They'll fund extra hours of youth work to give these young people more places to go and positive things to do. [Million Hours Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Access without limits grants – DofE

This fund is open for applications until January 2026. Grant funding of up to £10,250 is available for eligible community and voluntary organisations to set up and deliver the DofE, as well as the enrolment costs for young people taking part.

DofE not only offer grant funding but support organisations every step of the way. This includes training for your staff and volunteers.

[Access Without Limits - Community - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Energy Efficiency Funding [Energy Efficiency Sharematch | Crowdfunder.co.uk](#)

[The Stobart Sustainability Fund | Stobart \(eddiestobart.com\)](#)

Grants for Charities or CIO's - [What We Fund - Bernard Sunley Foundation](#)

[Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures | The Church of England](#)

[Small Grants | Trusthouse Charitable Foundation](#)

[Cheshire West and Chester Community Chest 2025 is open! – Cheshire Community Action](#)

Following Cheshire West and Chester Council's announcement on the commencement of the 2025 Community Chest small grants scheme (up to £500), Cheshire Community Action is now inviting applications from local community groups and organisations.

Climate Action Fund: Our Shared Future (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Aviva Community Fund [Aviva Community Fund](#)

Veolia Funding (veoliatrust.org)

Biffa Funding [Home Page - Biffa Award](#)

Blue Spark Foundation – grants for projects supporting children and young people [Home - Blue Spark Foundation](#)

Energy Resilience Fund – Power to Change

The Energy Resilience Fund is an initiative assisting community businesses in retrofitting their buildings with energy-saving measures. [Energy Resilience Fund - Power to Change](#)

Electricals Recycling Fund – Material Focus

The Electricals Recycling Fund aims to grow existing methods or test new creative and practical ones for recycling small household electricals. If you have a project that would make it easier for the public to repair, reuse or recycle their electricals, you can apply for funding. [Electricals Recycling Fund - Material Focus](#)

London Hearts – defibrillator funding <https://londonhearts.org/defib-scheme/>

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