

Guiden Sutton Parish Council Newsletter October 2011, no 143

A Quality Council promoting democracy and community engagement

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Quality Council accreditation for Guiden Sutton.

Your Parish Council has been awarded coveted Quality Council status. Of the 97 parishes in Cheshire West and Chester, only 10 others have reached this standard.

The nationally recognised accolade reflects the Council's proven commitment to consistently delivering high levels of service within the community. Four councils, including Guiden Sutton, submitted bids this summer.

"The performance of these parish councils, ranging from their business efficiency to their ongoing community involvement and transparency of operation, was rigorously examined against a set of searching tests and all four passed with flying colours," said Randal Hibbert, the independent chairman of the Cheshire Quality Accreditation Panel.

"Achieving accreditation at Quality level is no mean feat," said Cllr Stuart Hulse, chairman of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. "Standards are high and councils must maintain them because they have to re-qualify for Quality Status every four years.

"Any community can be rightly proud when its local council gains Quality Status and our principal authorities (Cheshire West & Chester, Halton, Warrington and Cheshire East) have renewed confidence they are working with competent, well-run organisations, ready to take on the challenges and opportunities in the government's Localism Bill".

The Council's accreditation certificate is to be formally presented and displayed in the Village Hall where meetings are held.

Parliamentary Boundary Review.

Guiden Sutton could move into a new Winsford parliamentary constituency. See pp 2&3.

People in Cheshire West and Chester are being given the opportunity to have their say on a proposed shake-up of parliamentary constituencies.

The Boundary Commission has begun a 12-week public consultation on proposals for redrawing every constituency in England. Residents of Cheshire West will be able to comment on suggested changes to the North West region.

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

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

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

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

“I intend to speak at the public consultation next month and put the case that areas like Vicars Cross, Huntington, Dogleston and Boughton Heath should stay in the Chester constituency.

“Meanwhile I am supportive of areas like Mickle Trafford joining Chester, many people there couldn’t understand why they weren’t in the Chester constituency already”.

Maps and accompanying information are on public display throughout the consultation period in The Forum in Chester. As part of the consultation, a public hearing will take place on Thursday and Friday October 13 and 14 October at the Mollington Banastre Hotel in Chester where residents can make verbal representations to the commission.

Steve Robinson, Returning Officer and Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council, said: "I would encourage residents to pop along to view the information from the Boundary Commission. They can take away a summary of the proposals to study at home. It is important that people have their say about any proposed changes. The consultation closes on 5 December so there is plenty of time to comment."

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

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

As a holding measure, the Council has asked the MP to include Guilden Sutton in the areas he believes should remain in the Chester constituency.

What are your views? Please contact any of the parish councillors or the Clerk listed in p4.

Cllr Michelle Kerfoot.

With great regret, Michelle has stepped down from the Council due to work commitments. The Council is extremely sad to lose Michelle who was instrumental, with others, in creating the extremely successful Village Garden Days in addition to her valuable contributions to the Council's own business and has wished her well for the future.

The vacancy has been advertised and will be filled by co-option if no poll is claimed.

External Audit 2010/11

The Council has again received a clean audit from the Audit Commission. If any elector would like to see the books, please contact the Clerk and an appointment will be made.

Pruning time?

Hedges and shrubs have, as usual, enjoyed vigorous growth this year including protruding brambles.

If you have any which adjoin a public footway (which may be at the rear of your property), please pop out and check if they need pruning to ensure the path is free from obstruction.

This would be particularly appreciated by those with prams and pushchairs or residents using wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

The Council does, from time to time, receive complaints and intends, in future, to drop a friendly request through occupiers' letter boxes if the footpath is obstructed.

The last resort is an approach to the highway authority which can carry out any necessary work and bill the householder. It is hoped this can be avoided.

Information. The Council's e mail address is info@guildensutton.org.uk and its web site is at www.guildensutton.org.uk

The web site includes a blog of current issues.

Future meetings:

Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 7 November and 5 December, 2011.

All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council.

A monthly surgery is also held, normally on the first Saturday, at the Summerfield Road shops at 10am.

Contacts

Councillors Jane Hughes (Chairman) 300863, Imogen Brown 300812, Alan Davis 303022, Danny Fisher 301398, Derek Hughes 300185, Trisha Paterson 300307 and Mike Roberts 300684.

The clerk is David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Mr Brian Lewin 301501 is the Rights of Way Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young, 301558. Cllr Jane Hughes deals with recycling issues. Mr Bill Moulton 348473 is the Local Bus User Contact. p4