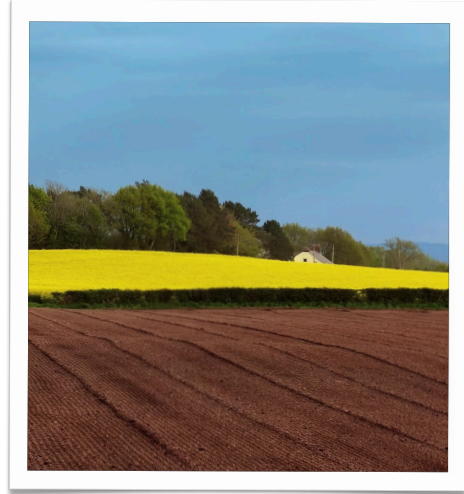


## Marbury Ward - Parish Update April - May 2026

### Dear Parish Councils

As we move into May and June, we want to begin by thanking all Parish Councils across Marbury Ward. The persistent work you do is not always recognised, but it is central to the strength of our villages. From local facilities and community spaces to planning responses, road safety concerns and village events, your knowledge and commitment help ensure residents' voices are heard.



As ward councillors, we continue to work closely with residents, Parish Councils, community groups, council officers and partner organisations across the ward. The range of issues we are addressing remains broad: planning applications and enforcement concerns, transport and bus connectivity, highways maintenance, drainage, speeding, road safety and the everyday matters that affect quality of life in our rural communities. We know many of these issues require determination and follow-through and we will keep pressing for practical responses.

We are also keen to support positive local projects in the new financial year. New Member Budgets are now available and we would welcome conversations about schemes that improve village life, support volunteers, enhance local facilities, or bring residents together. There are also opportunities through Cheshire West Crowd on Spacehive, the Council's crowdfunding platform, which can help local ideas attract wider support.

At the same time, we continue to act on behalf of residents to protect our Green Belt and the individual identity of our villages. This includes further submissions on the National Planning Policy Framework, close attention to consultations on HyNet and Peak Cluster proposals across the borough and scrutiny of large-scale developments including the Winnington Lime Beds Solar Project.

As summer arrives in Marbury, we look forward to seeing our villages at their best, with fêtes, open days, community gatherings and local celebrations bringing people together. Thank you for all you do and here's to a bright, busy and enjoyable summer across Marbury Ward.

### **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](#)

## 1. Report It - changes to online/mobile reporting

Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers have advised that the **Report It** mobile app was formally retired on 1 May 2026. The app was introduced when mobile websites were less effective, but the Council's web pages now provide a more reliable and flexible way to report local issues. Recent problems with the app, combined with limited support for its ageing technology, mean it no longer provides the standard of service residents expect. Parish Councils are asked to begin signposting residents to the Council's Report It web pages instead. These can be used on phones, tablets and computers and provide the same functions as the app, including reporting highways, waste, street scene, environmental and other local concerns. The website route is actively maintained and subject to ongoing improvement. For quick access, residents can save the Report It page to their phone home screen, giving an app-like shortcut without needing the old app.

### Useful links

- [Report It - Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)
- [How to add the Council site to your phone's home screen](#)

## 2. Community Support

### Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-29

Cheshire West and Chester Council is launching a new Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 April 2026, replacing the Household Support Fund and integrating Discretionary Housing Payments. The fund is intended to support low-income households facing a sudden financial shock, while also building longer-term individual and community financial resilience.

A key change is the move away from routine payments, such as regular holiday or pensioner payments, towards application-based, person-centred support. Online applications will include a benefits calculator, helping residents check entitlement and access income maximisation, debt advice and wider support. Repeat requests will trigger closer engagement, so underlying issues can be addressed.

Support will include crisis payments, white goods and fuel help through an expanded HELP scheme, council tax shortfall support, welfare and debt advice and community-based projects through a new Community Investment Fund from summer 2026.

**Useful links:**

[Money and debt advice:](#)

## **New Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026–2031**

Cheshire West and Chester’s new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, **Our Place Plan for the Borough 2026–2031**, launched on 1 April 2026. It sets out how the Council, NHS, emergency services, voluntary sector and communities will work together to improve health, reduce inequalities and help residents live well, stay well and age well.

The strategy was shaped through consultation with residents, partners and people with lived experience, including Healthwatch Cheshire West, the Poverty Truth Advisory Board and Disability Live! Chester. Its priorities include giving every child the best start in life, supporting good work and fair living standards, creating healthy and sustainable places, strengthening prevention, tackling discrimination and linking environmental sustainability with health equity.

Parish Councils can help by sharing the strategy locally and encouraging community groups to engage with prevention, wellbeing and neighbourhood support activity. The consultation report and full strategy are available through the Council website links below.

**Useful links:**

[Consultation report](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026–2031](#)

## **Scams Awareness**

Doorstep fraud is rising across Cheshire this spring, with Trading Standards warning that older and vulnerable residents are being targeted by criminals posing as traders, utility workers, council staff, charity collectors, police or bank representatives.

**Parish Councils are asked to share the key safety message:** Stop, Lock, Chain, Check. Residents should never feel pressured to open the door, agree to work, sign paperwork, hand over money, bank cards or valuables, or accept deliveries. Rogue traders may claim urgent repairs are needed to roofs, gutters, driveways or gardens, offering a “special price” and requesting quick payment. Genuine callers will not mind waiting while ID is checked and tradespeople will provide written quotes and references.

Residents should report concerns to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133, call 101 for suspicious activity, or 999 if threatened.

See: [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk), [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk), [stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk](http://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk), [nationaltradingstandards.uk](http://nationaltradingstandards.uk).

See separate **Scam Awareness Document**:

## Early Help Navigator Service

The Early Help Navigator Service offers friendly, practical support for families who may need advice, help completing forms, signposting to local services, or support with issues affecting family life. Residents can find local drop-in sessions or request an appointment via Live Well Cheshire West or by calling 0151 556 8378.



## Early Help Navigator Service

We know life isn't always easy. Sometimes you don't know where to go for help. You may need a bit of advice or support, or simply a friendly face to chat to about something that's bothering you.

**Early Help Navigators are here to help**



Scan this QR code for details of drop-in sessions in your area, or to request an appointment.

**We can:**

**Provide help, support and advice with family life**

**Be a listening ear**

**Signpost you to local and national support**

**Help you fill out forms**

**Attend GP appointments with your family**

**Provide food and baby bank referrals**

Visit: [www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/services/5751](http://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/services/5751) or phone 0151 556 8378



## All-age Carer Strategy Survey

Cheshire West and Chester Council has launched an All-Age Carer Strategy Survey to hear directly from unpaid carers about their experiences and the support they need. Residents are encouraged to have their say and help shape future services by completing the survey at [Participate Now](#)



**Enabling Great Lives**

**We've launched an All-Age Carer Strategy Survey— and we need YOUR voice.**

**Have your say today!**

Share your experiences in our new survey and help shape future support for unpaid carers across Cheshire West and Chester.

Scan me to complete survey



Or visit [participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



## 3. Policing

**Marbury Policing - please see the [link](#)**

**Key [Contacts](#):**

**New** PCSO Simon Donnelly  
Constable Dan Vinton

## 4. Change of Management at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Cheshire West Recycling (CWR) took over management of the borough's Household Waste Recycling Centres on 1 April 2026. Following 18 months of preparation, all sites opened as scheduled and the transfer is progressing well, with only minimal, short-term disruption expected while new systems bed in.

In the first week, more than 20,000 customers used the sites, 41 staff were onboarded, over 120 containers of material were moved for reprocessing and new ICT systems, staff training, PPE, vehicles and site improvements were introduced. Visitor capacity has also been doubled at key locations, including Chester and Northwich.

All sites have now moved to summer opening times and food waste pods are being introduced to provide an additional recycling stream. Parish Councils may wish to signpost residents to the Council's HWRC information pages and encourage subscription to the waste and recycling newsletter for future updates.

### Useful links

- [Find a recycling centre and opening times](#)
- [Waste and recycling updates and newsletter](#)
- [Council news: Cheshire West Recycling take over HWRCs](#)

## 5. Transport

### Your Bus

**Your Bus** is the new community transport service for west Cheshire, helping residents stay connected, independent and able to reach medical appointments, shops, social activities and loved ones. Operated by Changing Lives Together, it replaces the former PlusBus service from 1 April 2026 and runs Monday to Friday, with bookings available on 01606 784100 or via the Council's community transport webpage.



Cheshire West & Chester Council

Welcome to **Your Bus**

The new Your Bus service is operated by Changing Lives Together, covering all of the west Cheshire borough.

Helping people stay connected, independent, and able to reach the places that matter most, for example medical appointments, shopping trips, social activities, or visiting loved ones.

When does the service operate?  
Monday to Friday  
from 1 April 2026

How do I book a journey?  
Further details on how to register and book are available by contacting:  
Tel: 01606 784100

Your Bus replaces the service previously provided by PlusBus from 1 April 2026

Website: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitytransport](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitytransport)

The poster features a map of the west Cheshire borough with locations marked: Neston, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham, Helsby, Northwich, Chester, Tarporley, Winsford, and Malpas. A cartoon bus character is also present.

Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



### Adult and Family Cycle Training

Free adult and family cycle training is available for Cheshire West and Chester residents, helping people build confidence, improve road awareness and enjoy cycling safely. Places are limited, so residents are encouraged to find out more and book through [BikeRight](http://BikeRight):



## Free Adult & Family Cycle Training

for Cheshire West and Chester residents

Places are limited. Find out more and book now!

[www.bikeright.co.uk/cheshirewest-chester/](http://www.bikeright.co.uk/cheshirewest-chester/)



Scan for  
adult courses



Scan for  
family courses

## 6. Highways

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

### Highways Depot Visit: Improving Gully Mapping and Flooding Response

Cllr Phil Marshall and Cllr Lynn Gibbon recently visited the Colas/Highways Depot at Guilden Sutton to better understand how Cheshire West and Chester's highway network is managed and to raise ongoing concerns around gully clearance, flooding hotspots and the accuracy of the Council's online interactive mapping system.

During the visit, it became clear that, despite previous assurances from the Administration, there were inaccuracies in some of the data driving the mapping tool. This matters because we rely on accurate information when reporting issues, checking maintenance schedules and supporting residents on the ground.

Constructive discussions took place with officers and the Colas team, who were helpful, open and keen to understand how the system could better support local communities. Actions were agreed and updates are now in progress to improve functionality and confidence in the mapping.

We will continue pressing for practical improvements that help Parishes report, track progress and proactively flag persistent flooding issues.

## 7. Planning

### Training

With ongoing changes to the Planning Framework and review of the Local Plan, Ward Councillors are on a continual cycle of learning and development to keep abreast of current Policy. April included a further opportunity for Ward councillors to speak to the planning team and seek further clarity on the impact of these changes.

The recent Member Planning Training session provided a useful refresher on how planning applications are considered and the changes now affecting decision-making locally. Planning decisions must be made in line with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. These include design, residential amenity, highway safety, ecology, flood risk, heritage, climate change, noise and air quality. Matters such as loss of property value, private views, land ownership or whether an application is retrospective are not normally material planning considerations.

The session also highlighted developer contributions. Section 106 agreements can secure affordable housing, open space, highways, education, GP surgery, public

transport and biodiversity improvements. Community Infrastructure Levy funding is also collected from some developments, with parishes receiving 15% or 25% where a made Neighbourhood Plan is in place.

Members were also briefed that Cheshire West and Chester currently has a 1.89-year housing land supply, meaning the “tilted balance” in favour of sustainable development applies. [Future national changes may also restrict which applications can go to planning committee, with mandatory training and certification for committee members.](#)

#### **Useful links:**

**National Planning Policy Framework:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

**Planning applications:** <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/see-or-comment-on-planning-applications>

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/community-infrastructure-levy>

We are happy to share any new training/briefing documents with Parish Councils, as they are issued.

## **Planning Enforcement**

We continue to monitor planning enforcement backlogs and the impact of major developments on the ward. Planning Enforcement remains under pressure, as such we regularly raise concerns directly with Officers / Head of Planning to discuss and agree actions and priorities.

Often resident concerns stray outside the remit of the Council/Planning with the necessity to consider involving wider services, the Police or our MP, Esther McVey.

[Planning Enforcement](#)

**Additional planning note:** Planning Policy consultations are signposted from the Council’s current consultations page. The New Local Plan page indicates the next Regulation 19 Publication / Pre-Submission Plan stage is expected in Autumn 2026.

Planning Policy portal: <https://planningpolicy.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>

## 8. Devolution 2026 - Cheshire & Warrington

The Joint Cheshire and Warrington Devolution Task Group met on 14 April 2026 to review progress towards the formal establishment of the new Combined Authority. The inaugural Board meeting, 22 April, approved the constitution, governance framework, initial budget and transition from the 18-month devolution programme into operational delivery. Scrutiny and Audit Committees are due to be established at the June AGM, alongside a fuller business plan and forward programme.

The group also noted preparations for the 2027 Mayoral election, the transfer to a dedicated Combined Authority website and branding and future changes expected through the English Devolution Bill, including stronger scrutiny arrangements and possible new responsibilities for culture, tourism and creative industries.

Parish Councils should note that further local priorities will be shaped after the Mayor is elected. Updates are available at [www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com](http://www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com).



The Mayoral elections will be run in May 2027 - the Candidate for the **Conservative Party is Ben Fletcher**  
See Video on the [Link](#)

## 9. Members Budgets 2026-2027

[Applications are now open again](#) - Funds must be spent by **31 March 2027**.

Please act swiftly if you are considering a submission as we are keen to allocate all Member Budgets too ensure benefit if felt in 2026.

[Application Link](#)

## 10. Other Useful links

- [HyNet – Have Your Say](#)
- [Peak Cluster consultation](#)
- [Cheshire West Crowd on Spacehive](#)

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