

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER COUNCIL PLANS TO CUT MEMBERS BUDGET AND NEW HOMES BONUS

20th December 2015

Dear Resident

The new Labour Administration is running a "Let's Talk" consultation on the 2016/17 budget:

[http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your\\_council/consultations\\_and\\_petitions/council\\_consultations/lets\\_talk.aspx](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/consultations_and_petitions/council_consultations/lets_talk.aspx)



This consultation ends on 6 January 2016. Amongst the many proposals for consultation within the Full 32 page document include an increase in Cremation Fees (D6), a reduction in the Community Safety Team which deals with Anti-Social Behaviour (D8), a reduction in the number of Borough Councillors (G8) and cutting the Member Budgets which Local Councillors have for use on community projects and initiatives (G11).

As you know we have supported many great initiatives and projects in Handbridge, Curzon Park and Westminster Park with the help of funds from our members budget. This may not be possible in future as the Labour Administration is consulting to stop it.

Another item which we wish to point out is the New Homes Bonus Fund. Recently we arranged a meeting with various stakeholders in the community to inform them about The New Homes Bonus Fund. We informed them that we had £38,648.00 available to spend in our ward and invited suggestions of how to spend the money.

The previous Conservative Council allocated 20% of the New Homes Bonus money collected to go to Community Groups in order to meet local aspirations and invest in the facilities and services needed where new homes were built.

The new Labour Administration is proposing to stop giving money to individual wards like ours and instead spend the money elsewhere. This proposal will result in potentially denying the opportunities to provide facilities for our ward such as Community Centres, Medical Centres and improvements to local services and infrastructure.

We would like to urge you to look at the consultation and a petition at [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk).

Please have your say on how your money is spent by the Council.

Finally, We would like to take this opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Razia Daniels  
Councillor Neil Sullivan  
Handbridge Park Ward