

# What does Birchwood Forum achieve?

Birchwood Forum was established in 1996. To date, it has made a number of achievements and continues to offer a focal point for information and meeting members' specific needs as well as participating in consultation and opinion forming.

More recent achievements include:

- The most visible achievement of the Forum has been the gateway sculpture at Junction 11 of the M62, on the westbound junction. Representing the coming together of community and business, Encounter has received national acclaim through national media helping to put Birchwood on the map. The image is used by local organisations in recognition of its quality association with Warrington.
- Annual Business to Business Exhibitions have allowed local businesses to raise their profile in Birchwood and have attracted many visitors wishing to network and build business skills.
- Representing members' on the Warrington Partnership, particularly business members through membership of the Thematic Group for Environment, Regeneration and Housing and sub groups looking more in-depth at targets for Regeneration and Waste management.
- Participated in consultations on Regeneration Strategy, Waste Strategy, Economic Development and Competitiveness Strategy, Changes in Cheshire Fire Service operations, the Second Mersey Gateway, M62 Croft Interchange improvements, the Local Transport Plan for Warrington and the Cheshire & Warrington and North West regional economic strategies.
- Informing members on new policies and national / European targets especially related to energy efficiency and waste minimisation and recycling policies.
- Establishment of The Birchwood Partnership which now brings together private, public, community and voluntary sectors and residents to support improvements across the Birchwood community. A Steering Group has been meeting since January 2004 and in 2005 projects are helping to identify how the Partnership can work with young people in improving local facilities that give them more to do. Further details can be found on the Birchwood Forum website.
- A Security in Birchwood survey conducted in Summer 2005 has identified an interest in businesses working together to share information about potential crime threats.
- Transport Survey & Commuter Plan conducted to identify how people commute to and from work. Working with the local bus and train companies to open dialogue to improve public transport. Created an awareness campaign to highlight potential problems and environmental damage caused by pollution from vehicles.
- Useful contacts for private and public sector organisations.
- Regular Newsletters, now available electronically.
- Website [www.birchwoodforum.com](http://www.birchwoodforum.com) – see the latest news and list of members. Dates of member meetings, minutes, surveys and newsletters are posted regularly.
- Member meetings: in the morning on the second Wednesday of each month (except August).

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