

Building Stronger Communities

Be part of it



Summer 2011

A bit of local "know howe"!

Look After Yourself... Look After Your Area...

That was the topic for the day recently when Howe Bridge hosted a major community open day that urged everyone to do their bit to improve life.

The event - Look After Yourself, Look After Your Area - is part of an ongoing community improvement project currently taking place in Howe Bridge which has been instigated by a host of local groups and organisation and supported by local councillor Sue Loudon.

In March, Cllr Loudon, who sits on the council's cabinet, successfully applied to the North West Employers Innovation Fund for a £3,000 grant to pump-prime the project.

Her efforts have been backed by local organisations such as The Bridgers, Atherton Environmental Projects, local schools, the business community and churches who have banded together to form the Howe Bridge Partnership.



Look After Yourself, Look After Your Area was the first partnership event and

took place at Howe Bridge Scout Hut on Leigh Road on Wednesday May 18. There were a large number of stalls where people learnt about public services, local groups, healthy eating and living, arts, crafts and much more.

Cllr Loudon says: "We are already active in our community. We've organised a series of litter-picks and clean-up events, we look after areas of land in the community and play a major part with In Bloom. But we now want to take it all to the next level. We want to create an environment where local people take responsibility and pride not just in their surroundings but in themselves and others. We believe that change comes from within and we are already

What is the Building Stronger Communities Partnership?

Agencies across the borough, including the council, police, housing, fire, probation, leisure trust, NHS and voluntary sector, who are working together, tackling crime, providing positive activities and making our borough a cleaner, greener, safer place to live.

beginning to see evidence of this happening. We think we have captured the imagination of local people and we will be continuing to encourage them to get involved with more events throughout the summer and beyond."

To find out more contact Cllr Susan Loudon on 01942 897240 or s.loudon@wigan.gov.uk

Atherton Neighbourhood Policing Team Update



Insp Liz Sanderson says:

Partners and local councillors recently

joined us on board our Have Your Say Van in order to give local residents a chance to talk to us about the issues

which affect them.

We chatted to 90 members of the public and learnt about nearly 300 issues, ranging from litter to fly tipping, from dog fouling to drug dealing and from ASB to criminal damage.

I'd like to thank all those who took part in the event and to assure the community of

Atherton that we take these issues seriously and we're looking into how we can tackle them with our local partner agencies.

You can report information to either Crimestoppers or to Atherton NPT on **0161 856 7319 / Atherton.appt@gmp.police.uk**

CRIME SNAPSHOT

In Atherton ward, there was a reduction in criminal damage incidents from 25 to 15 during the 4 week period 6/6/11 - 3/7/11, and a drop of 23 to 8 in Atherleigh ward. ASB meanwhile rose in Atherleigh ward from 68 to 100 incidents in the same period.



Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Firestoppers 0800 923 9999

Keeping off-roaders on the right track

They cause nuisance in our neighbourhoods, present risks to the safety of other road users and wreak damage to our verges, paths and grasslands.

So, in a bid to banish illegal off-roaders from our communities, police and council officers have stepped up activities as part of a seasonal enforcement campaign to remind perpetrators of the potential consequences they face if caught breaking the law.

The action coincides with Operation Camenca, a regional campaign led on by GMP's Specialist Operations Branch, who are deploying their off road trained officers to work with Neighbourhood Policing Teams across Greater Manchester targetting hot spot areas.

"Over the past couple of years, we've had far fewer complaints relating

to illegal off-road nuisance which is very encouraging, but we aren't complacent and we're definitely keeping our foot on the pedal when it comes to tackling this menace," says Inspector Phil Bromley of the Roads Policing Unit.

"I'm confident that these significant reductions are down to partners adopting a "zero tolerance" stance to illegal off-roaders, a policy which has on more than one occasion led to vehicles heading straight for the crusher."

A television production crew recently joined the off-road team for BBC Crimewatch Roadshow when Operation Camenca focused on the Atherton and Leigh area.

In one day alone, whilst dealing with incidents on Engine Lane, Atherton, Hulton Park (bordering the Hag Fold estate), Bickershaw Colliery and Bolton



House Road, the off-road staff seized three vehicles (either for causing a nuisance or failing to have required documents), issued 7 Fixed Penalty Notices, gave 20 warnings and made one arrest.

DID YOU KNOW...? COMPARING THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 14TH JULY THIS YEAR TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WIGAN BOROUGH SAW A 20% REDUCTION IN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE NUISANCE, EQUATING TO 74 FEWER REPORTED INCIDENTS.

Hope you're not here!

Atherton kids have found an artful way to urge vandals to stay away from their schools over the summer break.

More than 100 primary pupils recently entered a postcard competition, with the winning design due to feature on 20,000 postcards delivered across the Atherton area.

The competition was organised by councillors and council community officers in conjunction with Atherton 'super council' - young people from the nine primary schools who regularly get together to talk about issues that are important to them.

Meadowbank Primary pupil Louise Hilton, 11, and Erin Shute, 11, from St Philip's Primary had their designs chosen as runners-up, whilst Joe Lucas, 11, from Parklee was crowned the overall winner.

Read more at <http://www.wigan.gov.uk/News/PostcardComp.htm>



Picture Perfect: Winner Joe Lucas and runners-up Louise Hilton and Erin Shute receive their prizes from Mayor of Wigan Cllr Joy Birch with Cllr Susan Loudon, Cllr Pam Stewart and Community Engagement Officer Steven Williams.

Staying safe4summer

There are more than 28,000 young people in the borough and each year they get to enjoy thousands of hours of positive activities laid on by agencies such as the council, police, leisure trust and fire service.

And now Safe4Summer is back! The campaign involving all local partners aims to divert young people away from potentially dangerous, risky or anti-social behaviour and into more positive activities, from healthy eating workshops and self defence lessons to sports and crafts.

To find out more, go to www.wigan.gov.uk/safe4summer



safe **4** summer.com

Contact us

Environmental Services Helpline 01942 404364

Wigan Council 01942 244991

Police 0161 827 5050 (to report a crime)

Wigan and Leigh Housing 01942 705040

NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan 01942 482711