

Building Stronger Communities

Be part of it



Summer 2011

Shaping the future

Residents in Leigh West are being given the chance to have their say in how they would tackle some of the issues in their local area.

A series of community consultations are being held throughout the summer so local people can influence how their neighbourhood is shaped over the next ten years.

Planning for Real is a fun process in which local participants use an eye-catching 3-dimensional model of their local area as a visual prompt. This portable 'hands on' tool encourages local people of all backgrounds to express their ideas in a non-

confrontational way and allows them to prioritise these based on local needs.

The process also gives them the chance to meet with service providers and stakeholders and to pitch their suggestions directly to local planners and decision-makers.

The Planning for Real sessions are being laid on as part of the Leigh Neighbours community development project, an ongoing campaign which aims to improve access to local opportunities and resources, to nurture the community leaders of tomorrow and to help create a more cohesive community.

The area is one of fifty neighbourhoods in England set to benefit from at least

£1 million National Lottery as part of the Big Local programme. The results of the Planning for Real consultation exercise will inform how this funding is invested in the area over the next ten years.

To find out more, contact S.ruffley@wigan.gov.uk



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.

Planning for Real®

Leigh Neighbourhood Policing Team Update



Insp Ian Kennedy says: Opportunist thieves are constantly on the

look out for easy pickings, so if they see a vulnerable target - a sat-nav on full view in your car, the keys left

in the ignition, or windows left wide open - they won't hesitate to take full advantage of what's on offer.

The vast majority of theft from motor vehicles occur when people leave valuables on show. When our officers are out on patrol they see many examples of this. So working in partnership with Wigan Council, we send a letter to the registered owner

advising them of the risks they are taking or get one of our PCSOs to do a home visit.

Working together, we can make it harder for the criminal, and continue to drive down vehicle crime.

To contact the Leigh Neighbourhood Policing Team call **0161 856 7225** or email leigh.apr@gmp.police.uk

CRIME SNAPSHOT

In Atherleigh ward, ASB increased from 68 to 100 incidents in the 4 weeks from 6/6/11 - 3/7/11 -

but criminal damage fell from 23 to 18 incidents in the same period. There were also good reductions in ASB in Leigh East ward from 92 reports to 71.



Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Firestoppers 0800 923 9999

Campaign keeps kids Safe4Summer

A campaign aimed at keeping young people safe, engaged in positive activities and out of trouble was launched recently at Leigh Fire Station

Safe4summer encourages young people to think about the impact anti-social behaviour can potentially have on the community – from the dangers of riding off-road motor vehicles to the potentially life threatening knock-on effects of making hoax calls to the emergency services.

But the annual campaign is about more than simply diverting young people away from dangerous or anti-social behaviour. It's also about getting them to consider some of the issues

that are important to them - and of course, it's about having fun!

Insp Ian Kennedy of Leigh Neighbourhood Policing Team, says:

“Over Easter, partners laid on a range of activities for young people and families, which proved really popular and had a positive effect in reducing anti-social behaviour. So much so, we decided to work with the community on laying on an even more ambitious programme over the summer.

“Young people can take part in camping, golf, mountain biking and kayaking - whilst additional police patrols in Leigh town centre and other hot spots will give residents the reassurance they need that ASB won't be tolerated.”

Led by Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, the campaign is supported by Wigan Council, Greater Manchester Police and various community groups.

For more information go to the **Safe4Summer website**



Lowton Community Cadets Ian, Alex and Stephanie with Chief Inspector Clara Williams; Brian Highlands, GM Fire and Rescue Service; Cllr Kevin Anderson, cabinet champion for community and environment; and Pam Gilligan from Compassion in Action.

All GOOD and SATISFACTORY!

Wigan and Leigh Homes recently carried out their twice-yearly estate inspections across the Leigh and Atherleigh wards.

Tenants, councillors, partner agencies, groups and local residents joined members of the Area Housing Office on the inspections, which aim to give everybody a say in the way estates are managed, as well as to highlight issues such as litter, dog fouling, and graffiti.

Other issues which are brought to light by these inspections include untidy gardens; problematic open spaces which attract fly-tipping or

anti-social behaviour; defective footpaths; and damage to property.

The results are fed back to tenant and resident groups, the Area Housing Forum and Wigan and Leigh Housing Board - and the results for Leigh are now in!

Leigh East	Satisfactory
Leigh West	Satisfactory
Leigh South	Good
Atherleigh	Satisfactory

To find out more call 01942 705040.



Showing community spirit

“Fire stations are iconic landmarks in the heart of the community - and should be there for the benefit of local people.”

That's the message that Wigan Borough Commander at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Steve Sheridan, wants to get across to community groups across Leigh who may be looking for free rooms to hold their meetings, workshops or activities.

Rooms are free to community groups, with just a nominal charge for the private/profit-making sector. And what's more, all rooms have IT facilities.

Altogether there are 4 stations across the borough with rooms available for you to use: Atherton, Hindley, Leigh and Wigan.

So far, Wigan Connexions, Hindley Roses Morris Dancers and Orrell Amateur Dramatics have all taken advantage of this opportunity. To find out more contact Steve on SheridaS@manchesterfire.gov.uk



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**