

# PACT

Partners and Communities Together

# Newsletter

Worsley Mesnes Ward : Issue 1 October 2007

Welcome to the first ever Worsley Mesnes Ward PACT newsletter. This is the first newsletter produced for the whole of Hawkley Hall, Poolstock, Goose Green and Worsley Mesnes.

## What is PACT?

- PACT stands for Partners and Communities Together.
  - PACT is a course of action that partners and communities will take to identify and respond to the issues that matter most to local people.
  - PACT will use statistics and consultation to tell us what needs to be done to improve your area.
  - PACT will have a dedicated co-ordinator who will bring partners together to tackle the issues that are important to you.
- Your PACT Co-ordinator is Nicola Lowe (pictured).



## Your top 3 priorities

The results are in! Thank you to those of you who got involved with our first listening event in June.

The turnout was fantastic; Nicola Lowe, PACT Co-ordinator, said: "It was inspiring to see so many people getting involved and I was impressed with how positive they all are about their community".

The issues you said affected your community the most are:

1. Tackling drug misuse
2. Providing activities and places for young people
3. Reducing vandalism

## Greater Manchester Police

Community Beat officers for your area recently carried out a successful raid on properties in the Worsley Mesnes and Hawkley Hall areas. They recovered large amounts of amphetamines, heroin, amphetamine paste and ecstasy.



Community Beat Sergeant Peter Clarke said: "The information that enabled us to make these raids was received from the community via the PACT process. As a result we are proud to have made such significant recoveries that have removed large quantities of illegal substances from the hands of the dealers. We will continue to work in partnership with other agencies to make sure these people not only face justice but are also offered drug treatment and rehabilitation".

If you are suffering the effects of someone else's drug abuse and anti-social behaviour caused by drug abuse or drug dealing contact your local Community Beat Officers, PC Oakes and PC Atherton on 0161 856 7188. You can also report any problems to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is free to call and completely anonymous - you will not be asked to give your personal details.



## Tackling drugs misuse

Drugs misuse can affect many lives and tackling drugs is difficult to combat as it is a complex and controversial subject. From drug paraphernalia dropped in alleyways, to dealers outside schools, to drug related crime, to the health and wellbeing of drug users and their families, everyone has an opinion and there are no quick fixes.

We are working to help drug users to get off drugs and stay off drugs and arming young people in the area with the knowledge and the strength to say no to drugs. There are many services already available to do this.

### Drug & Alcohol Services

Our Drug and Alcohol Service has recently been re-launched with a new extended range of services providing healthcare, counselling, advice and support. The new service also works to help recovering addicts to gain skills and qualifications to help them to build a drug free future. Help and support is also available for friends and families of anyone worried about their loved ones drug use.

If you or anyone you know of needs help with a drug or alcohol problem you can talk to someone in complete confidence on 0800 389 4463. The helpline is free and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Drug proof your kids

Visit [www.dpyk.org.uk](http://www.dpyk.org.uk) for information of courses in how to drug proof your kids. DPYK educates parents, and other carers, about drugs and gives them the information and skills they need to help their children make informed choices about drug use.

### Needle Sweeps

If you see any drugs paraphernalia, especially needles, please do not try to remove them yourself. If you are able to, cover the needle with a bucket/cover and report it as soon as possible. Our Drug and Alcohol service operate a needle sweep and collection service, they can be contacted on their 24 hour free phone number 0800 389 4463. They will collect the drugs litter as soon as possible. You can also contact the Environmental Services Helpline on 01942 404364 between 8:45am and 5pm.

## Providing activities and places for young people

There is a wealth of activity around the Borough for young people to enjoy. We are preparing a leaflet to be handed out to all young people in the area to let them know what's available on their doorstep, including activities at the Hubsite, the flashes, and the many clubs and organisations in the area. Look out for the leaflet in the coming weeks.

### Linc online

Visit Linc online for information for young people, including sports activities, music and film reviews, and much more.

[www.wlct.org/Culture/linconline/linconline.htm](http://www.wlct.org/Culture/linconline/linconline.htm)

### Daisy Chain Stitchers

The Daisy Chain Stitchers first got together in 2006 in partnership with Age Concern and textile artist Elizabeth Smith. Since then they've gone from strength to strength.



They developed a project to share their skills with the next generation of stitchers working with children from St James C of E Primary School to teach them the basic skills of knitting and stitching. They helped the children to produce a piece of textile art which is now proudly displayed at the school.

The group was set up to combat loneliness and isolation in the community. If you want to learn new skills, or pick up old ones whilst making new friends, the group can be found stitching every Tuesday between 1pm and 3pm at the Clifton Street Community Centre, Clifton Street, off Poolstock Lane, Worsley Mesnes. Refreshments are provided and everyone is welcome.

For more information on the Daisy Chain Stitchers contact Marjorie Latham, secretary, on 01942 234880.

## You said... we did!



You told us about a 'grot spot' alley adjacent to 83 Carr Lane. It was almost impassable in places thanks to masses of overgrown shrubbery which had become a litter trap. Your new Neighbourhood Team cleared the alley of the overgrown shrubbery and litter and it is now much more accessible and clean.



## Tackling Vandalism

We are looking at the vandalism hotspots highlighted both by the community and on our Environmental audit of the area. We have already taken steps to improve some areas, such as moving the bin away from the bus stop on Worsley Mesnes Drive to prevent kids from climbing on the shelter. We are working together with the Police to catch those responsible; if you see any vandalism taking place contact your local PC's or PCSO's. If you see any damage, such as smashed bus shelters, damage to street signs, or damaged bins, contact the Environmental Services Helpline on 01942 404364.

### Restorative Justice makes a difference

In February of this year St James C of E Primary School was vandalised leaving the school with a hefty repair bill, two injured children, and windows boarded up for months.

The two boys responsible were caught and each handed a fine and a 6 month Referral Order to Wigan's Youth Offending Team (YOT). Following their referral to Wigan's YOT the young people have worked hard to make up for their criminal damage and in the process helped to transform the schools garden and to teach the pupils a valuable lesson about crime. Both young boys have since made a sincere face to face and written apology for their behaviour.

Inspired by the excellent work the young people did the school has set up a gardening club and have purchased gardening tools with SRB 6 funding to help continue their good work. Mrs Rowley said: "Restorative justice is a win-win situation. I found the experience quite powerful and I am a strong believer in the process. The impact of engaging in restorative justice has benefitted the whole community as well as the pupils and staff at the school."



### Anti-litter workshops

We are working with schools in the area to educate young people about vandalism, littering and having respect for their communities. Workshops earlier this year encouraged children to think about how they feel about litter, the problems it can cause and the role they can play in making Worsley Mesnes a better place to live, work, and play.

The workshops were very well received; a teacher at one of the schools said that the workshops were "very informative, the children loved sharing their ideas and the litter research around the school."

## In June 2007 Wigan Council surveyed residents in your area; here are the results.

**Residents said that - "Litter is a big problem in our area"**

**We can tell you that -** Litter has reduced by 9% since 2006. 1 in 150 residents have reported a litter problem to the Council in the last 12 months.

### How can we all do better?

- Report litter problems to the Environmental Services Helpline on 01942 404364
- Organise a community litter picking event. If interested please contact Nicola Lowe your PACT Co-ordinator

**Residents said that - "Anti social behaviour is a big problem our area"**

**We can tell you that -** Anti social behaviour has reduced by 9%. This means 66 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour in your area.

### How can we all do better?

If you are experiencing anti social behaviour call the Streetcare Helpline on 01942 404364 or email [reportasb@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:reportasb@wigan.gov.uk) for advice. For Wigan & Leigh Housing tenants contact the Neighbourhood Anti-social Behaviour Unit on 01942 705040 or [asb@walk.co.uk](mailto:asb@walk.co.uk).

**Residents said that - "We are worried about having our home broken into and something stolen"**

**We can tell you that -** Burglary has reduced by 29%. This means 29 fewer households have been burgled in your area.

### How can we all do better?

1 in 3 burglaries are the result of doors and windows left open or unlocked.

- Invest in an alarm and remember to switch it on
- Most importantly - don't leave windows open, especially in the ground floor and remember to lock up. Don't make it easy for them.

Contact your local police officer to arrange a free assessment of you home to help make your home burglar proof.

**Residents said that - They are worried about being mugged or robbed**

**We can tell you that -** Robbery and theft from person has reduced by 20% in your area.

### How can we all do better?

- Be aware of your surroundings - if you're worried stick together in a group
- Don't leave valuables, including mobile phones, and MP3 players on show.
- Use a handbag with a shoulder strap and wear it across your body not just over one shoulder.
- Keep your credit cards separate from your cash and cheque book
- Register your valuables with [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com)  
Visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) and follow the simple steps.

Get involved! Get involved! Get involved! Get involved! Get involved!  
 Get involved! **Get involved!** Get involved!

There are many ways you can get involved in helping to make your local area a better place to live and work. 21 local residents have already volunteered to get involved in the Worsley Mesnes PACT but we need more volunteers.

To get involved in any of these groups contact your PACT Co-ordinator. Any one getting involved will be given support and training and you can tailor your involvement to your own needs.

**Nicola Lowe, PACT Co-ordinator,**  
 01942 828396, mobile 07824 609 546, email n.lowe@wigan.gov.uk

**Contact Details**

*Your Community Beat Officers*



**PC Kevin Oakes**

KevinOakes@GMP.police.uk



**PC Phillip Atherton**

PhillipAtherton@GMP.police.uk

*Your Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's)*

- Rick Nixon - RickNixon@GMP.police.uk
- Katie Litherland - KatieLitherland@GMP.police.uk
- Kathleen Terry - KathleenTerry@GMP.police.uk

They can all be contacted via email or via answer phone on **0161 856 7188**.



**Competition winners**

Everyone who took part in the consultation event was entered into our free draw for 3 prizes kindly donated by Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust. Our lucky winners are:

Richard Parker (Aged 16), of Grange Avenue, who won an annual Profiles gym pass; Abigail Jones (Aged 14), of Prestt Grove, who won a carvery for 2 at Haigh Hall; and Nicholas Edwards (Aged 17), of Ruskin Avenue, who won a round of golf for 2 at Haigh Hall.

**Environmental Services Helpline**

To report problems or get advice with street lighting, fly tipping, litter, missed bins, damaged bin, anti-social behaviour, recycling, potholes, damaged pavement slabs, and street signs and many other environmental issues contact the **Environmental Services Helpline on 01942 404364**.

**Coming soon**

Wigan Council Neighbourhood Services are developing multi-agency neighbourhood teams dedicated to your community and responsible for identifying and responding to the issues that matter most to local people.

