

WIGAN & LEIGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Issue **31**

Summer 2008

Help tackle drugs: Rat on a Rat



That's the message for this year's Tackling Drugs Changing Lives campaign to target the drug dealers that ruin lives and communities.

The 'rat on a rat' message was featured in local media and on posters and flyers in residential areas across the borough throughout May to encourage local residents to shop drug dealing neighbours.

Residents can help put drug dealers behind bars by ringing Crimestoppers' free, anonymous hotline on **0800 555 111**.

Councillor Kevin Anderson, Portfolio holder for Community Safety says "Thousands of people all over the country have phoned Crimestoppers to 'rat on a rat' since the national campaign was launched five years ago - now we're launching the campaign locally to get people here to do the same."

The campaign was launched during the Tackling Drugs Changing Lives week, 19-22 May with a giant billboard touring the

borough with PCSO's providing information and support to the community.

Divisional Police Chief Superintendent, Lee Bruckshaw adds: "We want to crack down on drug dealers and ensure that they are arrested and convicted, and ultimately ensure the drugs market is disrupted. Drug dealing brings misery not only to the user, but also family, friends and the wider community. There is a strong link between the misuse of drugs and crime."

For more information about the campaign, including where to get help with a drug or alcohol problem and copies of the rat on a rat leaflet, visit the Safer Wigan website at

www.saferwigan.org.uk



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Getting communities active

Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust's (WLCT) Sports Development Team has launched its largest ever summer events programme to help get young people off the streets and into sports during the summer holidays.



Get active in your community

The summer sports camps were a great success last year and they return this year with multi sports sessions run by fully qualified sports coaches for all boys and girls over the age of 8. There are camps planned for every area of the Borough and special sessions for young people with a disability.

For more information and the summer camp brochure call the Active Coaching Team on 01942 404984 or 404982. The brochure will also be available on the Safer Wigan website and the WLCT website at <http://www.wlct.org/Sport/sportsdev/sportsdev.htm>

Parks activities

The Parks activity officer has also got sports activities planned for the summer holidays in the Wigan South township. Fully qualified coaches will take sessions between 1-3pm in multi games, football, dance, boxercise, cricket, rugby, cheerleading, netball, football, and basket ball. The activities will take place in Alexandra Park, Kipling Park, and at St Judes MUGA. For more information contact the Parks

Activity Officer on 01942 488436.

A full timetable can be viewed on the Safer Wigan website.

Hindley YOI

The Sports Development team have been working with the Young Offenders Institute (YOI) to help get the young offenders back on track.

Between January and March 2008, Community Sports Coaches Carl Pollock and Dave Smith, supported Hindley Young Offender's Institute PE instructors in delivering sporting activities to some of the offenders at the institute. Carl and Dave helped to deliver extra sports sessions focussing on specific skills within each sport.

They are running competitions each tuesday evening throughout summer as part of the prison's enrichment programme. Their 'Super Cup' football competition has been running for a few weeks now and the winners of the league will take on a team from the Sports Development Team in a grand final.

Fundraising parents are Manchester Heroes

Sheila and Trevor Fairhurst have been given a Manchester Heroes award after raising more than £10,000 for Wigan Victim Support & Witness Service, who helped them cope with the loss of their daughter.

Their daughter Carly died after being attacked by her boyfriend, who is now serving an indefinite sentence for manslaughter.

The couple have played a vital role in raising much needed funds for the charity through the Carly Fairhurst Memorial Fund. They were awarded a Manchester Evening News Heroes Award in recognition of their fundraising efforts.

They were put forward for the awards by Andrew Rowcroft from VS Wigan. He said in his nomination: "I have never met such a warm and dedicated couple. What makes them so special is that they know there are other families out there who urgently need the professional support that they received".

Gaining momentum

The campaign to raise funds has received a big boost after the haulage company Eddie Stobart named one of it's latest vehicles after Carly. The "Carly Louise" has become one of the most sought after by members of lorryspotting.com, Britain's biggest site for truck spotters, and as members of the site have learned more about Carly's story, they have been sending donations to the Carly Fairhurst memorial fund.



Mum can you lend me £20 quid?

Around 150 people packed into the Bellingham Hotel in March to listen to a talk by Elizabeth Burton-Phillips, author of "Mum can you lend me £20 quid"?

Her book is a mother's searing account of the terrible toll the twins drug addiction took on not just the twins but the whole family.

The event was organised by Wigan & Leigh Family Support Group (FSG) to raise awareness of the pain and suffering caused to families by drug addiction. The event was attended by the former Mayor, Councillor John O'Brien. Special thanks go to the Bellingham Hotel for the free room hire.

The FSG run a weekly drop-in centre and helpline: **0800 458 1092**. For more information about FSG call **Mary Atkins** on **07902 053969**.

"BE SAFE" scheme

In response to the alarming growth in sexually transmitted infections, especially Chlamydia, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust has teamed up with Bluestar Taxis to raise awareness of the risks.

As part of the "be safe" scheme, couples using Bluestar taxis at night can request condoms from the driver. The condoms are in a special pack, which contain details of how to use them and also details of the local Chlamydia Screening Programme.

This programme is a free screening programme aimed at 15-24 year olds. It is available from Brook, Family Planning Clinics, Leigh NHS Walk-in Centre, ASDA Pharmacy in Newtown, Boots in Wigan, the Pharmacy at Sainsburys, Leigh and PACT Healthcare Ltd, Bradshawgate, Leigh. Postal kits are also available by texting 'TEST' to 84010.

Stay safe this summer... stay out of the water

As part of the water safety action plan the Community Safety Partnership is urging all front line officers, councillors and community leaders to pass on the water safety message to young people in your area.

Another tragic death in Anglezarke reservoir in May reminds us of the dangers open water can pose - even to strong swimmers. It's never safe to swim in open water and the only safe action is to stay out.

Wigan Borough Fire Commander John Harding says "Do you really want to swim in stagnant ponds and canals where the water contains harmful bacteria such as weils disease, or hazards such as shopping trolleys? And do you really want to swim in water cold enough to cause cold water shock which can turn a strong swimmer into a non swimmer within minutes?"

"We urge parents to make themselves and their children aware of the hazards associated with swimming in open water and ensure their children choose the many alternatives available across the Borough this summer."

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust is laying on a whole host of water activities for young people over the summer to encourage them to get active in a safe environment.

The Outdoor Education Team will be running a number of regular activities at Scotman's Flash throughout the summer. The Saturday Sailing Club and the Wind and Wave Project, held on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings respectively, give 13 to 21 year-olds the chance to learn and develop sailing and windsurfing skills.

Wigan Canoe Group and Saturday Canoeing, held on Thursday evenings

and Saturday afternoons respectively, give young people the chance to go kayaking and canoeing on the Flash, while the Aiming High Project helps young people over 14 to develop rock climbing skills on Saturdays at various crags and indoor climbing walls.

To find out more about any of the Outdoor Education Team's regular activities telephone **Wayne Platt** on **01942 769813** or email **plattwayne@wigan.gov.uk**

Children and young people under the age of 16 can swim for free at any of the local authority swimming pools by joining the Lifestyle scheme. The annual joining fee costs just £1.50. For more information, or to join the scheme pick up a leaflet from any leisure centre or library or visit the Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust website at **<http://www.wlct.org/lifestyle/lifestyle.htm>**

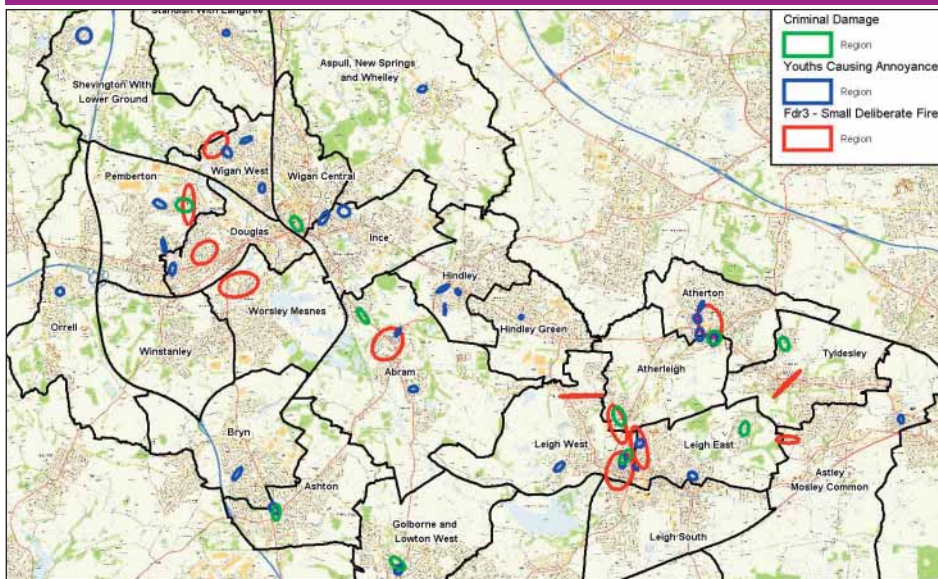
For more information on the water safety action plan visit the current projects section of the Safer Wigan website at **www.saferwigan.org.uk**



Working together to drive down crime

Since the Community Safety Partnership was created in 1998 crime has fallen every year proving that working together is the best way of fighting crime. We've seen a dramatic reduction in criminal damage and anti social behaviour thanks to Operation Treacle which started in October 2006, a reduction in costs as a result of sharing resources, and an increase in intelligence thanks to sharing information; which goes to show the more we work together, the better the results!

Operation Challenge



Operation Challenge is the Community Safety Partnership operation to deal with anti social behaviour, mindless criminal damage, and small deliberate fires (FDR3's) over the summer months of July and August. Historically, these months usually see an increase in certain types of anti social behaviour (ASB) and criminal damage.

The Operation will focus on 8 hotspots across the Wigan Borough where the worst problems occur.

The map above highlights these areas. The four crime types that this years operation is focussing on are:

- youths causing annoyance
- young people causing problems due to alcohol consumption
- mindless criminal damage

- small deliberate fires.

A group of practitioners from Wigan Council, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue (GMFRS), Wigan & Leigh Housing, and Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust has been drawn together to create an action plan to tackle these problems over the summer months.

Here are some of the actions we're planning:

- GMP and the Council's Neighbourhood teams will be providing extra support to residents who have experienced a lot of ASB and criminal damage in the past to reassure them and advise them what to do if any problems occur.

- School based Police Officers will be giving talks in schools at the end of term to warn young people of the penalties if they are caught committing ASB and criminal damage and educating them on the affect they have on the victim.
- GMP and Trading Standards will be teaming up to catch traders selling alcohol to young people.
- Wigan Councils Youth Offending Team (YOT) will be teaming up with GMP, the Neighbourhood teams, Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services (YPDAT), and Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) to provide support to young people who are likely to get involved in ASB and criminal damage to encourage them to stay out of trouble and get involved in alternative activities.
- GMP will be patrolling the hotspot areas and times of the day when problems are most likely to occur.
- The Councils Environmental Crime team will work with GMFRS to remove flammable materials dumped at hotspot locations to prevent fires from being started.
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) has a full summer programme of activities to suit all young people. In addition to these activities events will be planned to bring together the whole community in hotspot areas.

Details of the operation and its progress will be posted on the Safer Wigan website at

www.saferwigan.org.uk

Name and Shame update

Since the name and shame initiative started in August last year (as featured in issue 28), 3 premises were named and shamed and a further 4 have engaged with the Partnership to improve their track records. As a result Police and partners in Wigan have achieved a 60 per cent reduction in vehicle crime on these car parks.

Between 25 June 2007 and 11 May 2008 there was a massive reduction of 95 vehicle crime incidents across all seven locations. Three of the car parks saw reductions of more than 60 per cent, with incidents dropping from 17 to three at Haigh Hall (an 82 per cent drop) and from 25 to eight at Total Fitness (a 65 per cent drop).

The crime reductions on the borough's worst car parks have contributed to an overall reduction of 759 fewer theft from vehicle offences across Wigan between April 2007 and March 2008 compared with the previous year, a reduction of 22 per cent.

Following the naming and shaming action plans were drawn up with the management of each of the premises, resulting in various improvements to site security such as extra CCTV, electronic barriers, warning posters and the removal of shrubbery.

Kilhey Court

Kilhey Court has seen a reduction in theft from 41 to 16 - a 61 per cent drop. And between 29 February, when the enhanced security was completed, and the end of March there were no vehicle crime incidents. Luke Kendall, Operations Manager of Macdonald Kilhey Court

(pictured with Wendy O'Neil and inspector Glenn Jones) said: "This has been a great opportunity to work with local police as their guidance and timely advice have helped us to reduce car crime. Based upon the advice given by Wendy O'Neil and local officers, the investment of £60,000 by Macdonald Hotels has enabled us to increase CCTV coverage and car park lighting and to install electronically controlled gates."

Inspector Glenn Jones of the Wigan Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "The efforts made by Kilhey Court to reduce vehicle crime on their property are to be commended, and the security measures now in place have had a significant impact on this type of crime. This strategy will not only make the venue more secure for people using the facilities but will enhance the perception of crime in the local community. We will continue to build on this success with the hotel management to ensure the reduction is maintained."

The seven commercial premises are:

- Kilhey Court, Standish
- Greyhound Motel, Leigh
- Bay Horse Hotel, Ashton
- Toby Carvery, Lowton
- Haigh Hall,
- Stone Cross Travel Inn, Golborne
- Total Fitness, Marus Bridge



Pass it on: lock up and stay safe this summer

A spate of recent burglaries to properties with open doors and windows has prompted further appeals from the Police for residents to be aware of how easy it is to become a target for a burglar and how easy it is to prevent you from becoming a victim.

Inspector Gail Spruce of Wigan Division said:

"With the warm weather it's very tempting for residents to



leave doors and windows open to cool down.

As more people spend time outside in their gardens too there is the temptation to leave the front door and windows open and unlocked. Remember, 1 in 3 burglaries happen when doors and windows are left unsecured, even when you're at home. To reduce the chances of being burgled keep your front door locked, even when you're in, and don't leave accessible windows open if you're going out or you're in a different part of the house."

The risk is real and easy to prevent, so please pass on the message to all your friends, family, colleagues, customers, and residents: lock up and stay safe this summer!

For more advice on preventing burglary visit the Safer Wigan website at

www.saferwigan.org.uk

Platt Bridge Community Pride

Jean Gidman from Groundwork Trust has been supporting the Community Improvement Project (CIP) in Platt Bridge as part of Groundwork's Community Pride project. Her support was instrumental in the success of the project.

"The CIP programme could not have come at a better time for us as it fits in with our Community Pride Project perfectly. We got involved in every stage of the CIP; to have 23 agencies working together to achieve the same outcome has been phenomenal and I feel honoured to have been part of it.

The heroes of the project were the volunteers who gave their time and energy to their community. You all worked so hard all week, and to the all new VOW group - keep up the good work, don't get discouraged, keep going."



Higher and Higher

Residents, council officers and a whole host of organisations and volunteers are celebrating a hugely successful series of events around Higher Folds. The community improvement process started with an intensive series of consultations with the community and visits to the two local schools; St Gabriel's and Higher Folds Primary.

Jackie Farrington, chair of Higher Folds Residents Association was delighted at the way things came together. "It was good to see all the agencies working very hard getting things done. It would be nice if the residents respected all the hard work that went into it and kept the area tidy."

Here are just some of the successes from the CIP:

- 12 young people caught truenting: education welfare officers are working with these people and their families
- 4 warrants issued by the police for controlled drugs and stolen property
- 10 further arrest warrants from police and enforcement officers
- 2 off-road bikes and riders were stopped and cautioned
- 6 premises received safety warnings from the Fire and Rescue Service
- 11 visits to properties with rubbish in their gardens to inform tenants they were breaching their tenancy agreements

Shirley Johnson, the council's community improvement co-ordinator, adds: "The result is even better, a community more united and clearer than ever before. There were so many really positive outcomes from the events. Activities led by residents, such as the craft activities, bouncy castle, face painting, quizzes and buffets were all really well attended. Thank you everyone for helping to brighten Higher Folds and bring the community together."



Eco school getting back to nature

Children at Worsley Mesnes Community Primary School have been reconnecting with nature with Wigan Council's eco team.

The team joined expert horticulturalist Sarah Park on a visit to the Poolstock school, where pupils are now growing their own fruit and veg as part of a Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) backed scheme to teach children where their food comes from and bring children back to nature.

The visiting horticultural expert gave lessons on what types of plants can be planted, when they can be planted, how the beds can be maintained for the future and the nutritional value of the food that they grow. And of course, the children got to eat the lovely veg afterwards.

Schoolteacher David Worthington says: "Neighbourhood Renewal Funding has allowed this project to take place and helped us to

enrich our curriculum. It will also help our school to work towards the second green flag for us as an Eco School as well as supporting our Healthy Schools Initiative, which aims to improve the health of our children.

Wigan Council hopes to carry out similar schemes in the future across all schools in the borough to develop young people's links with the countryside and help improve the environment.

As part of this the council's Environmental Education team is currently developing an educational resource pack for all schools to use. It will allow teachers to carry out environmental education in a fun and exciting way with their own students.



A chance to make a difference to young offenders

Wigan Youth Offending Team (YOT) is looking for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to become Community Panel Members and Appropriate Adults.

Community Panel Member

A community panel consists of two volunteers from the local community and representatives from the Youth Offending Team. The community panel works with young people given a Referral Order by the courts, which may last from 3 to 12 months. The Referral Order is a community sentence designed to address the offender's behaviour and any underlying issues the young person may be experiencing. A community panel member leads the panel and engages the young person, the parents, or carers, and possibly the victim, allowing all sides to have a say. Panel meetings are held mostly in the early evening and volunteers are expected to be able to give 2-4 hours a month.

Appropriate Adult

An appropriate adult attends the police station when the police wish to interview a young person, but their parents or carer either will not or cannot attend. The appropriate adult is there to ensure that the interests of the young person are represented and their rights protected. Volunteers are placed on a rota at times to suit them.

Full training will be given and all out of pocket expenses paid. If you are interested please contact **Lorraine Bowie** or **Sarah Owen** on **01942 487100**.

The Big Drink Debate

Have your say and join the Big Drink Debate.



Recent statistics indicate that the North West has the highest level of people with hazardous/harmful drinking - 29% - and the second worst in the country for binge drinking adults.

You can tell the Wigan and Leigh Community Safety Partnership's drug and alcohol action team what you think are the highs and lows of drinking

and what you think about related issues such as advertising and drink-fuelled crime by visiting the Safer Wigan website and filling out an anonymous questionnaire.

The Big Drink Debate will help us to understand people's drinking habits and attitudes towards alcohol, and inform the Partnership on the action to be

taken on alcohol issues. It will also help us to plan the most appropriate work with Wigan communities to make sure that we in Wigan live longer, healthier lives.

To have your say and join the debate access the questionnaire at www.saferwigan.org.uk

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Summer 2008 edition of the CSP newsletter.

The Community Safety Team said a tearful cheery-bye to John Hutchison, the Community Safety Team Manager in April. Paul Whitemoss, formerly the Research & information co-ordinator, has been appointed as his successor; in Paul's own words he's got "some big brown loafers to fill" but he has hit the ground

running and plans to stamp his mark on the team are already in motion.

Have you had your say yet?

The newsletter and website questionnaire featured in the last edition of the newsletter is available on the Safer Wigan website. Visit www.saferwigan.org.uk and complete the online questionnaire. The deadline for getting your completed questionnaires has been extended to the **29th August 2008**. Your views are

important and will help to shape the future of the newsletter and the Safer Wigan website.

Farewell to the Wiend

The Community Safety Team is saying goodbye to 17-19 The Wiend this month. The building is due to be demolished later in the year to make way for the new £67 million Joint Service centre. We will be moving into Unity House to join the rest of the Neighbourhood Services division.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like the newsletter in an alternative version, or help in understanding it in your language, please contact Mike Jones, Neighbourhood Services Equality & Diversity Champion at Neighbourhood Services Division, Environmental Services, Wigan Council, Unity House, Westwood Park, Wigan WN3 4HE.

Phone: **01942 828037**

Email: Mike.Jones@wigan.gov.uk

If you would like to include an article in a future issue, or have any general questions about the newsletter, please contact:

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