



NEIGHBOURHOOD TALK

ISSUE TWO - MAY 2007

We're Making Homes Safer!

During February and March a series of Home Safety Plus events were held within the three pilot Neighbourhood Management Areas, aimed at promoting home safety to the over-50's. A number of free safety items were available to those who signed up for a Home Safety Assessment which is carried out by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Residents were able to bring in their old chip pans and exchange them for new safer deep fat fryers. They could also swap their old slippers in return for a new safe and well-fitting pair. In addition to the exchanges, other free items available were anti-scald plugs, room thermometers, carbon monoxide alarms, smartwater, 'message in a bottle' and low-energy lightbulbs.



One of the Home Safety Plus Events at Palace Fields Community Centre.

Over 200 residents attended the events and the feedback has been very positive, with over 90% of attendees saying that the products on offer were excellent. When asked what they thought the most important aspects of home safety for the over-50's were, 45% stated fire and smoke, and just over 30% said security.

The Home Safety Plus events were funded by the Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership and were delivered in partnership with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire Constabulary, Age Concern, Halton Borough Council Environmental Services and Halton Domicillary Pharmacy Service. The events were a huge success and demonstrate what can be achieved when partners join together to tackle issues.



One of the free products available to the over 50's.

The Partnership Gets Down to Work...

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership formally came into existence on 28th March at the inaugural meeting of the Partnership Board at Runcorn Town Hall.

The Board immediately got down to work, agreeing its membership, terms of reference and electing Cllr Rob Polhill as Chair and Mike Shepherd of Halton Voluntary Action Together as Vice Chair. Other key decisions taken at the meeting were to establish small grant funds in each of the three pilot neighbourhoods and agreement of a timetable for developing the Partnership's strategy and delivery plan for Neighbourhood Management in Halton over the coming years.

After the meeting Cllr Rob Polhill said, 'Today's meeting was the outcome of many weeks of hard work by our new Neighbourhood Management Team and the members of the Shadow Board. We must now get on with the job of helping to create sustainable communities in some of our most deprived neighbourhoods by designing and delivering the very best public services in partnership with service providers and local residents.'

Future meetings of the Board will see it setting the Partnership's key objectives and priorities for the next twelve months and beyond.



Do you have an idea for a community project?

Quick Response and Community Action Fund

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership has established Quick Response and Community Action Funds, which will be administered by the three Neighbourhood Boards. Each of the boards has been allocated £15,000 for the year 2007/08, equally divided (£7,500) for each fund.

These small funds have been shown to make a significant positive impact at the neighbourhood level and are potentially a very useful tool in helping to engage local residents and groups in building sustainable communities and neighbourhoods.

The Community Action Fund allows for bids of between £500 and £3000, and the Quick Response Fund will allow for grants of between £100 and £500. Help and assistance will be available to community groups to apply for funding, and the availability of the funds will be promoted within the pilot areas, giving all groups a chance to apply. More information will be available soon!



Young people carrying out drills with the Fire Service.

Getting Involved!

There are many ways to get involved in Neighbourhood Management in Halton.

If you are a resident in one of the pilot areas you have the opportunity to become a Neighbourhood Champion or a Neighbourhood Advisor.

If you are a service provider within one of the Management Areas then the Team would love to meet with you to discuss how we can work together and improve services through collaborative working.

For more information on how to get involved in Neighbourhood Management please contact the office on 0151 471 7470.



Mike Bellairs - instrumental in setting up Neighbourhood Management.

Neighbourhood Boards

Following the successful resident recruitment drive, all three Neighbourhood Boards are now up and running.

An important change to report is that the Halton Lea Board decided to change the name of the Neighbourhood Management Area to 'Hallwood Park and Palace Fields' as most residents and service providers in the area relate more closely to the estates rather than to the ward.

In addition to the work of the Boards there will be wider teams in each of the three pilot areas who will be more involved in the day-to-day delivery of the Neighbourhood Action Plans. Over the next few weeks these wider teams will be developed, with further service provider recruitment taking place.

The Boards will be meeting again over the next few weeks and will be beginning to identify the specific challenges they are facing in their areas. Area Action Plans will then follow shortly afterwards.

The Pilot Areas

Castlefields & Windmill Hill

Martin Cooil: 07917 559549

Hallwood Park & Palace Fields

Ruth Stradling: 07917 559583

Central Widnes

Diane White: 07917 559567

Goodbye Mike

Sadly April saw the end of our time with Mike Bellairs who has been instrumental in setting up the Neighbourhood Management Partnership over the past twelve months. Mike helped the original steering group and Shadow Board to develop Neighbourhood Management in Halton and establish the Neighbourhood Management Team. Mike is now leaving on completion of his contract to catch up with his gardening!

Fire Service Courses For Young People

Three exciting Kooldown Plus courses have begun in each of the Neighbourhood Management Areas to engage young people who are at risk of offending or exclusion, or have already been excluded from school. Young people between the ages of 12 and 16 have been referred to the course by a number of agencies including the Youth Offending Team, local schools and local Police Community Support Officers.

The Kooldown Plus courses are co-ordinated by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and aim to build the young peoples' confidence, increase their motivation and self-esteem, help them take responsibility and develop respect for themselves and the people around them. This is undertaken in a constructive atmosphere where they are encouraged and praised for their efforts.

The courses run for 10 weeks and are carefully structured, including activities such as basic hose and ladder drills, team building, adventure activities, fire science and home safety, first aid and water safety. The participants will end the course with a graduation ceremony where they are presented with a certificate in front of their family and friends.

"Pupil A attended the Fire Station yesterday for the Kooldown Plus Course and was absolutely over the moon with it all. He came back to school full of confidence and couldn't stop talking about it all day." **A Halton Head Teacher.**

Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership Board Membership

Organisational Member	Nominee
Halton Strategic Partnership (6 Places)	
Halton Strategic Partnership Board	Cllr Rob Polhill (Chair)
Health Partnership	Audrey Williamson (Deputy-Howard Cockcroft)
Urban Renewal Partnership	Chris Leyshon
Children & Young People Partnership	Geraldine Derby
Employment, Learning & Skills Partnership	Gary Collins (interim)
Safer Halton Partnership	Supt. David Bertenshaw
Accountable Body - Halton Borough Council (1 Place)	
Halton Borough Council Portfolio Holder	Cllr Stef Nelson
Key Service Providers (9 Places)	
Riverside Housing	Neil Townsend (Deputy-Christine Frazer)
Liverpool Housing Trust	Andy Barratt (Deputy-Richard Cobern)
Halton Borough Council (Environment)	Jimmy Unsworth
Cheshire Fire and Rescue	Alan Briggs
Cheshire Constabulary	Supt. David Bertenshaw
Job Centre Plus	Debbie Baxter
Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust	Eileen O'Meara (Deputy-Anna Nygaard)
Halton Housing Trust	Teresa Tierney
Connexions (Youth Service)	David Williams
Community & Voluntary Sector (3 Places)	
HVA Together	Mike Shepherd (Vice-Chair)
Halton Community Empowerment Network	Bill Edwards
Groundwork Mersey Valley	Derek Robertson
Neighbourhood Boards (6 Places)	
Central Widnes Neighbourhood Board	Cllr Anne Gerrard - Elected Member Norman Lloyd - Resident Representative
Hallwood Park and Palace Fields Neighbourhood Board	Cllr Kath Loftus - Elected Member Fran Smith - Resident Representative
Castlefields and Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Board	TBC - Elected Member Clare Nelson - Resident Representative

Total: 25 places

Note: Supt. Bertenshaw represents both the Safer Halton Partnership & Cheshire Constabulary.

What is Neighbourhood Management?

Neighbourhood Management means residents working in partnership with mainstream service providers, the local authority, businesses and the voluntary and community sectors, to make local services more responsive to the needs of their area. By listening to the community and identifying local issues, Neighbourhood Managers act as advocates, mediators, influencers and negotiators to help to tailor services to local need and making the existing money work harder.

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