



# NEIGHBOURHOOD TALK

ISSUE FOUR - SEPTEMBER 2008

## Local Subway Gets a Makeover

**Young people in Runcorn had something to spray as they took up graffiti lessons on the Palace Fields estate.**

Budding Banksys interested in honing their street art skills enjoyed the two-week graffiti art workshop backed by Riverside Housing, Four Estates, Area Forum and Neighbourhood Management.

Liverpool based 'Zap Graffiti' taught the skills of street art to around 13 youngsters ranging from ages seven to 13 during the summer holidays. They also learned about the history of graffiti and the positive and negative aspects of street art.

Children from Palace Fields, Murdishaw, Hallwood Park and Halton Brook initiated the project when they put forward suggestions about how to tackle illegal graffiti in the area in the form of a DVD film shown to bosses from Runcorn's neighbourhood services.

Instead of the suggested graffiti boards, the course was set up to give children the chance to make their mark in an allocated area under supervision from local street artists.

Mark Browne, community initiatives officer for Riverside Housing said: "There has been a really positive response from the local community to the completed artwork. It really does brighten up the area and because local kids have produced the art themselves we're hoping that other youngsters will take pride in it to make sure that it's not defaced."

As a reward for taking part, children received free cinema tickets and t-shirts complete with the designs of their own graffiti artwork.

Kieran Gorman from Zap graffiti added: "We work with schools, youth groups and the wider community to promote graffiti as a positive art form both in the UK and abroad. People get involved in legal graffiti arts projects and learn about the global culture of graffiti as an arts movement. We also discuss the implications of vandalism and how this impacts on individuals as well as the environment."

Young Melissa Rowlands, aged 10 from Palace Fields gave her stamp of approval on the workshops: "I enjoyed putting art on the walls so everyone can see it. It was grotty before, but now it's bright and colourful. It's beautiful."



Some of the finished graffiti artwork.



The Go Men's Health campaign is proving a real hit.



Go Men's Health competition winner Franklin Williams collects his prize.

## INTERVENTION FUND UPDATE

### Men's Health

Our Men's health campaign, GO, is well and truly up and running now in all three Neighbourhood Management areas. Any man over the age of 40 can ring up to book a free, confidential health 'MOT'. Venues used to date include St Paul's Church Hall in Widnes and Castlefields Community Centre in Runcorn, and all sessions are supervised by a qualified nurse.

The sessions give men a chance to discuss their health in general and to raise any specific concerns they may have. Advice and information can also be given on improving health and well-being and everyone leaves with their own lifestyle information pack. The recording of body mass index, blood pressure and cholesterol are all available at the session.

Ryan Swiers is the co-ordinator for the service and follows up any queries or concerns that are raised and will support men in their next steps to improved health.

To find out more about this project visit [www.go-campaign.com](http://www.go-campaign.com) or to book a session please call **0151 495 5450**.

## Partnership Intervention Budget Devolved to the Neighbourhood Boards

After consulting with the three neighbourhood boards, the Halton Neighbourhood Management Board has decided to allocate the bulk of its remaining unallocated Intervention Budget equally between the three neighbourhood boards.

Each of the three neighbourhood boards has been allocated a budget of £50,000 to help fund interventions and projects in support of their respective Neighbourhood Action Plans.

Within this, an amount is 'ring-fenced' to fund the partnership's very successful Quick Response Fund small grants programme for local neighbourhood community activities and events.

Applications for over £3,000 will continue to be subject to the partnership's robust appraisal process.

For more information contact the relevant neighbourhood co-ordinator or the Neighbourhood Management Office on **0151 470 7470**.



The partnership board hard at work.

## The Partnership Awayday

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board had a well-attended and productive board awayday at Norton Priory on 8th July. The event was externally facilitated by Dr Helen Kara.

The main focus of the awayday was to scrutinise in detail the recommendations contained in the Winchurch report relating to the future development of the partnership.

The strong view of participants was that

whilst much has been achieved, there remains much work still to do to secure the future of neighbourhood working in Halton. The partnership needs to 'kick-on' over the remaining period of external funding up to 2010 to embed neighbourhood working and resident engagement within the broader evolving empowerment, inclusion and cohesion agenda currently being set at national level for local authorities and wider public services.

## 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation

Just before Christmas last year the Government issued an update of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own versions.

This is the fifth version since 1991 of an index that measures the level of deprivation for small areas. The 2007 version is a simple update of the 2004 one. Therefore, a direct comparison is possible.

### KEY FINDINGS

#### To summarise the key messages:

- Halton's overall deprivation score and rank have improved since the 2004 index was published. The score has decreased from 34.29 to 32.61, meaning its rank has improved from 21st in 2004 to 30th in 2007. It is important to clarify that due to the time lag in the production of statistics, the 2004 index was based on data collected in 2001 and the 2007 index based on data collected in 2004/05. This basically means that the changes between the 2004 and 2007 indices reflect changes that actually took place in Halton between 2001-2005.
- The extent and concentration of deprivation is spread more widely than is the position elsewhere, where it tends to be found in smaller more concentrated pockets.
- The proportion of Halton's population that live in an SOA in the top 20% most deprived nationally fell to 48.5% in 2007 from 50% in 2004.
- The most deprived SOA in Halton has changed, our highest ranked is now 306th rather than 193 (out of 32,482 nationally). It is in Windmill Hill now rather than Kingsway.
- Windmill Hill also remains Halton's most deprived electoral ward. Birchfield is still the least deprived.

- Although the gap between the least and most deprived places in Halton has increased from a factor of 7.7 in 2004 to 9.9 in 2007, this is actually due to the most affluent parts of the borough increasing in prosperity more rapidly than in other areas. Almost all neighbourhoods have become less deprived than they were, even though the overall gap has widened.
- Halton's ten most deprived SOAs in 2007 are the same ones as in 2004. Nine out of the ten are within one of the three neighbourhood management areas (NMAs).
- With regard to health and disability; all SOAs except one in the NMAs are in the worst 4% nationally, with Castlefields and Windmill Hill being in the top 1%.
- Income and employment deprivation are also major issues in the NMAs. Whilst the least deprivation for the NMAs are the Living Environment and Housing domains, which have largely remained static since 2004.

For a more detailed picture at the Borough it is recommended that readers consult the excellent analysis produced by the Council's Research & Intelligence Team. This can be downloaded by [clicking here](#)



Kooldown Plus is going from strength to strength in Widnes and Runcorn.

## Kooldown Plus

Kooldown Plus is going from strength to strength in both Widnes and Runcorn as its reputation spreads. Partner agencies are clamouring to be involved with future courses as they realise how successful the programme is.

The aim of Kooldown Plus is to develop young people's confidence and motivation in order to help them succeed at school and avoid getting involved in anti-social behaviour. It involves a team of twelve young people aged 13-16 taking part in a range of practical and mentally challenging activities over a twelve week period, one day per week.

Kooldown Plus is now jointly delivered by the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service. This allows for a team ethos to be developed between the young people with the uniformed aspects of both services. Key concepts such as discipline, respect and responsibility are passed onto the course members.

Kooldown Plus now has double accreditation in terms of sectional awards towards the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and the Nokia Life Routes ASDAN Award. In addition, upon graduating each team member receives a Portfolio of Achievement that includes a CD ROM demonstrating their achievements, a reference, photographs, and certificates for all of the sessions they have completed. This gives the young person a tangible record of their achievements to take into a future job or further education interview.

Over half of course participants have come from one of the three Halton Neighbourhood Management areas. Referrals come from schools, PCSOs, registered social landlords and the fire service.

If you would like to attend one of the inspirational Kooldown Plus graduation ceremonies, please contact the NM office on **0151 471 7470**.



Madam Mayor Kath Loftus enjoying the activities at Party in the Park.

## Party In The Park 2008

Friday 8th August 2008 saw the return of Party in the Park, a massive community fun day held at Phoenix Park. The now annual event is going from strength to strength and this year's event was bigger and better than ever.

The event, organised by CDS Housing, Halton Borough Council, Liverpool Housing Trust and local residents, was part funded by Neighbourhood Management and was attended by over 3000 people.

For the 3000 or so people that attended, there was a vast array of activities to take part in, and all activities were free of charge. Activities included face painting, arts and crafts, skateboarding displays, a paint ball firing range and a rodeo bull to name but a few.

Alongside all the "fun of the fair", there were also opportunities for people to talk to local service providers and community groups in the information marquee with Halton People into Jobs and the Primary Care Trusts Men's Health Team both doing a roaring trade on the day.

Clare Dinsdale, Halton Borough Council Community Development Officer said, "A lot of hard work has been put into this event by various staff and residents and everyone involved can be proud of the results. These events aren't a success by accident; it's been a great team effort".



Go karting was amongst a whole host of activities at Party in the Park.

## Stop the Press

You may have heard that Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT) has recently announced some proposed significant improvements to primary medical care. These improvements include plans for a new GP Practice within Windmill Hill. The Castlefields & Windmill Hill Partnership has already been contacted by the PCT to assist with the development of this new service and consultation is already underway in Windmill Hill as part of this process.



Castlefields and Windmill Hill residents took part in the Busway Audit.

## Busway Audit

Residents from Castlefields and Windmill Hill joined staff from Halton's Neighbourhood Transport Team, the Police and the Neighbourhood Management Team to complete a Community Safety Audit along the stretch of Busway that runs through Castlefields and Windmill Hill.

The trip, round the Busway, which was organised by Martin Cooil the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for Castlefields and Windmill Hill, was an opportunity for residents to identify a range of issues that could then be fed into a Busway Improvements Plan. The sorts of issues identified included graffiti in subways, overgrown bushes, a lack of signage and litter, to name just a few.

Many of the 15 local residents told us how they rely on local bus services, but also told us that they often felt vulnerable and unsafe whilst waiting on the Busway. Upon touring the Busway it was clear that there were a number of improvements that could be made to make people feel safer when accessing this invaluable service.

There were some simple suggestions that residents came up like additional tree pruning, extra litter bins and new improved bus shelters, that will now be factored into the Busway Improvements Plan. Further consultation has taken place with the residents involved and its now hoped that almost £40,000 of funding will be pulled into improving the section of the Busway that runs through Windmill Hill up towards Phoenix Park.

Cllr Mike Shepherd said "Local bus services are a really important life line for many residents so it's important that people feel safe when using the Busway."



## Good Neighbours Day

Residents of Castlefields and Windmill Hill and a range of local service providers celebrated Good Neighbours Day on Tuesday 27 May with a range of activities focussing upon bringing together the two communities and making them better places to live and work.

The event was supported by several service providers, including Halton Borough Council, Liverpool Housing Trust and CDS Housing who are working together with local residents as members of the Castlefields and Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Management Partnership.

There were lots of activities for young people to get involved with on the day, such as carrying out home safety assessments with members of Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and also helping to brighten-up local subways. For younger children there was organised street play as well as a balloon release from Phoenix Park.

The Chair of the Castlefields & Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Partnership, Cllr Ellen Cargill, said; "The success of the day was down to the hard work from everyone who has taken part and worked together for all in our neighbourhood."



Residents of Castlefields & Windmill Hill during Good Neighbours Day.

## Dates of Neighbourhood Board Meetings 2008

### CASTLEFIELDS & WINDMILL HILL

Date	Time	Venue
<b>Wednesday 22 October</b>	6pm - 8pm	Phoenix Park, Castlefields
<b>Wednesday 17 December</b>	12pm - 2pm	Phoenix Park, Castlefields

### HALLWOOD PARK & PALACE FIELDS

Date	Time	Venue
<b>Thursday 2 October</b>	5pm - 7pm	Palacefields Community Centre, The Uplands, Palacefields
<b>Thursday 4 December</b>	5pm - 7pm	Palacefields Community Centre, The Uplands, Palacefields

### CENTRAL WIDNES

Date	Time	Venue
<b>Tuesday 7 October</b>	6.30 - 8.30pm	St. Pauls Church, Widnes
<b>Tuesday 16 December</b>	6.30 - 8.30pm	St. Pauls Church, Widnes

### HALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date	Time	Venue
<b>Tuesday 23 September</b>	10am - 12pm	Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes
<b>Tuesday 25 November</b>	10am - 12pm	Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes

## Upcoming Events...

Date	Event and Venue
<b>Monday 29 September</b>	Young People's Celebration Event, Castlefields Community Centre
<b>Friday 10 October</b>	Women's Well Being Event, Widnes
<b>October Half Term</b>	Hallwood Park Clean Up

# Meet a Board Member



Ana Laycock from Central Widnes Neighbourhood Board.

**Name: Ana Laycock**  
**Board: Central Widnes Neighbourhood Board**

## What made you get involved in Neighbourhood Management?

I was already an active member of the 'Halton 2000' citizens and Cheshire Fire & Rescue's Response Consultation Panel when I became aware of 'Neighbourhood Management' for Central Widnes through local press late 2006. I remember completing a questionnaire and receiving a flyer through the door with the words 'Your neighbourhood needs you!' It was then I decided to take the time to attend an open evening and presentation at Halton Stadium late Feb 07 to listen to what 'Neighbourhood Management' was all about.

The discussion was about deprivation within Central Widnes, how local

residents could feedback their views & opinions, get involved and how important it was to develop relationships and working partnerships with our local communities, key service providers, councillors and voluntary organisations to focus on key priorities.

'Community differences' or 'gaps' in my local area soon became apparent to me and I felt that this was a chance to meet other local residents who have pride in their community too.

It was a great opportunity for all of us to get involved and contribute to making a real difference in Central Widnes!

## How do you think the Neighbourhood Management is going so far?

It was a slow start, we now have the framework in place, agreed shared objectives, and are now picking up momentum. It's been a great 12 months working with the Neighbourhood Management Team and relationships are getting stronger.

We have appraised and approved quite a few applications through the 'Quick Response' and 'Community Action' funds, which has brought benefit to the local neighbourhood, and have listened and listed the main challenges and concerns of our communities.

Various members have been out and about in the community, attended training courses, seminars, and visits to other similar groups to learn, generate ideas, adopt best practice,

develop and support the Neighbourhood Management journey ahead.

We are working on our action plans and need the support and contribution from our local councillors, key service providers and voluntary organisations to help deliver these plans, it is crucial that we focus on delivering an effective, beneficial plan on time.

## What are your hopes for the future?

I would like to see more residents actively involved and empowered to assist in the future decision making, results and justifications that this partnership is proving a success in 'narrowing the gap' between communities within Halton and that this type of approach is continued past 2010. It is important that this is embedded as business as usual where possible and sustained.

**Help build partnerships**  
**Of value and sustainable**  
**Positive community improvement**  
**Empowerment and encouragement to contribute**  
**Sustainable neighbourhood networks**

## 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.

**Contact Details.** Neighbourhood Management Team, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, WA7 5TD **Tel.** 0151 471 7470