



EE-Newsletter #1

The Electronic Environmental Newsletter from the Environment Partnership
September 2004

Parklife Festival Success

Some 10,000 people from all over the Borough and beyond converged on Alexandra Park in Oldham over May 30th and 31st to celebrate its formal reopening after its £3.6M lottery-funded refurbishment. The two-day people free music festival featured a mix of international, national and local acts from past and present including reggae ledged Desmond Decker, Nitin Sawhney seen as one of most important British-Asian artists working in the UK, the highly respected Jazz Musician Courtney Pine and the Wonderstuff's Miles Hunt.

As David Jennings, the reviewer on the 'E-festivals' website, suggests: *"Perhaps Oldham Council would consider holding Parklife annually - the 10,000 or so people who enjoyed a free (yes, FREE) festival would certainly be up for it. There was even a paddling pool for the kids !!!"*

<http://www.efestivals.co.uk/festivals/others2004/oldham/review2.shtml>

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP'S CAMPAIGN CORNER

Help get Our Metrolink Back on Track

We want our Metrolink back on track! That's the message Oldham Partnership is sending out following the decision by Transport Secretary Alastair Darling not to approve Phase 3 of Metrolink because of concerns about spiralling costs.

Local people are being encouraged to write to local MPs in support of the scheme, explaining how failing to get the Metrolink extension will affect your life, your business, the economy **and the environment**. You can also pledge your support by filling in an online form on the website of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE) at www.gmppte.com

The Environment Partnership is contacting all of it's members to be active in this campaign.

For a free "Get our Metrolink back on track" badge, call in at the One Stop Shop at Oldham Civic Centre.

**A rally is being held in Oldham Town Centre on 10th September to support this campaign!!!
Check press for details.**



New Funding comes on stream

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) is now flowing to a wide range of environmental initiatives in all corners of the borough. Project supported include:

- Street Scene Teams to tackle litter, fly-tipping and graffiti
- Eco-Schools conferences
- Paper Recycling Project involving adults with learning disabilities
- Environmental Grant Schemes in Chadderton, Saddleworth and Lees and Royton and Shaw
- Biodiversity Co-ordination across the borough

It is anticipated that additional NRF funding will be available next year to support our programme of environmental improvement.

Oldham Beyond Event

On July 12th the Environment Partnership brought key organisations together to consider the environmental opportunities presented by the Oldham Beyond vision. The event help identify key projects the partnership wishes to champion such as the development of Greenways for walkers and cyclists. The event helped feed the development of the new environment and transportation for the community strategy.

Oldham Council & Energy

Oldham MBC is only one of 16 Authorities to demonstrate the corporate commitment necessary to be accepted onto the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. This programme involves free consultancy support to enable Council departments to make all the changes necessary to manage Carbon Dioxide emissions from energy use in offices, schools, fleet vehicles and through street lighting. With predicted fuel price rises set to increase the Council fuel bill, the Carbon Management Programme is an great opportunity to save money and protect the environment.

£180,000 available to Support Community Groups in Oldham Borough

Grant of £5,000 available to run activities or access training to support your local community

Contact Voluntary Action Oldham on 0161 633 3584 or email: ceto.admin@vaoldham.org.uk

Peak Park Sustainable Development Fund

Have you a project that could encourage and provide social, environmental and economic benefits? The Peak Park's Sustainable Development Fund may be able to help.

<http://www.peakdistrict.org>

Click on Working Together and then Sustainable Development Fund

Biodiversity Benchmarking for Organisations

Biodiversity Benchmarking has been developed by the Wildlife Trusts to assist companies protect and enhance habitats for both human and wildlife benefit.

The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark provides many benefits to your organisation, in a wide range of areas:

- Establishes a way to integrate biodiversity into your business
- Provides a mechanism for improving your biodiversity performance
- Adds value to your organisation's existing environmental management systems
- integrates within ISO 14000 and EMAS or works as a stand-alone
- Ensures that you address legal and risk issues
- Shows your organisation's commitment to biodiversity
- Demonstrates your Corporate Social Responsibility
- Provides significant additional promotional benefits

<http://www.biodiversity-benchmark.org/>

The new Country Code

England has a new Country Code to guide all those who live, work and play in rural areas.

See the Countryside Agency website for further details.

<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/WhoWeAreAndWhatWeDo/newcode.asp>

Respiratory illnesses may increase with global warming

Research news on the unexpected effects of increased levels Carbon Dioxide on human health.

http://www.pulmonaryreviews.com/jun04/pr_jun04_breathing.html

Want to Join?

Any organisation (public, private or voluntary) can join Oldham Environment Partnership, as well as individuals. All members receive invites to partnership events, meetings and other activities Contact Virbai Kara for a joining pack on 0161 911 3274 or email:

virbai.kara@oldham.gov.uk

Submitting articles to the EE-Newsletter

The EE-Newsletter is produced by the Environment Partnership Secretariat.

There are no strict publishing deadlines.

Short articles, news and campaign ideas are greatly appreciated.

To submit articles (by email if possible) please contact Virbai Kara on 0161 911 3274 or email: virbai.kara@oldham.gov.uk or by fax on 0161 911 4162

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