

## Medlock Vale Community Council so far

**Medlock Vale Community Council was launched in June last year. So far three meetings have taken place all of which have been well attended.**

There are 14 co-opted members on the Council who represent ward residents, tenants, community groups and agencies working in the area.

Six local groups have received funding support from the Council to carry out various activities which benefit local communities. The Community Council has also created opportunities for Council staff and other agencies to present their work in order to inform residents of what is being planned and what the effect will be.

It has also provided a platform for local residents and community groups to raise their concerns and issues in public. At the January meeting positive feedback was received on the Neighbourhood Agreement initiative specifically outlining the role of Community Council and co-opted members.

Local resident and co-opted member of the Community Council Janine Conway said: "The Community Council is definitely starting to work and is growing in strength whilst addressing local issues and concerns."

## Coming up at the next meeting...

The next Medlock Vale Community Council meeting will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 19 March at the Honeywell Centre on Hadfield Street off Ashton Road. On the agenda will be:

- **Waste Collection** - The new system of managed weekly collections aims to improve the current levels of recycling by collecting all recyclable materials one week, non-recyclable waste the next, with food waste collected separately every week. Following agreement from Oldham Council's Cabinet in 2006, a pilot scheme was introduced in the Shaw and Chadderton South wards last year, where the

results have surpassed even the most optimistic of estimates. Officers are now working on planning the first phase of the rollout across the Borough, which is set to take place in the summer.

- A presentation from Council's Streetlighting team on their plans to upgrade majority of the streetlighting networks within the borough.
- There is a public question time as well so you can ask your questions, raise concerns at the meeting. The Police, Youth Services and several other agencies working in the area will be present at the meeting.

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# Medlock Vale Local Matters

The Medlock Vale Community Council newsletter for local residents is published by Oldham Council and partners

## Funds for projects and activities

**Up to £1,000 is available for projects and activities from the Community Council.**

In the first round of applications for funding, the successful applicants to receive Medlock Vale Community Council funds to carry out projects and activities which benefit local communities were:

- **Bardsley Community and Playing Fields Association** - to purchase two computers with wireless connection and video facilities for older residents of the sheltered housing accommodation in Bardsley
- **Oldham Youth Services** – to take local young people to Berwick Hall on a residential weekend.
- **Villages Housing Association** – to improve the visual impact of the Firtree Avenue roundabout
- **Fitton Hill Junior Youth Club** – to work with club volunteers in the area
- **New Deal for Communities** – contribution towards holding a **Good Neighbourhood Day in April under the Neighbourhood Together initiative**
- **Indian Association Oldham** – contribution

**towards hosting a series of events during the year. First event was a Christmas party and gathering for children and parents.**

If you have any projects or ideas, please contact your co-opted member, ward councillor or the Area Manager.



Local groups get the good news

## New Co-opted members

Bardsley Community and Playing Fields Association representative Garth Sharp, Fitton Hill resident David Cartwright and Hathershaw resident Stephen Rogerson have all joined the Medlock Vale Community Council as co-opted members. All 14 places are now filled.

# Car crime prevention advice

**At this time of the year, theft of and theft from motor vehicles is at its peak. Please follow the ten top tips below to help in reducing vehicle crime where you live.**

1. Don't leave items on display. Never leave anything on display when you leave your vehicle. Even an old coat or a plastic bag can tempt a thief.
2. Use immobilisers. Electronic engine immobilisers prevent your vehicle from starting and are the best way to stop thieves. You should only buy security devices or services that are approved by either (the Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre 0870 550 2006, Thatcham) or by Sold Secure (01327 264 687). They should be professionally fitted - either by your car dealer or by an installer approved by the Vehicle Systems Installation Board.
3. Park safely. When parking at home, always use your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage only 1% of vehicles are stolen from garages. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place.
4. Use Park Mark® car parks. When parking outside, always try and park your car in an attended car park. Try to look for a public car park which is part of the police approved Safer Parking scheme and displays the Park Mark® brand.
5. Buy a steering wheel lock. Use a steering wheel lock every time you leave your vehicle.
6. Get an alarm fitted. Alarms can deter thieves

not only from stealing your vehicle, but also from taking items from it. You can get more information about alarms, immobilisers and other security devices by phoning the Vehicle Security National Helpline on 0870 5502006 or the Sold Secure Helpline on 01327 264687.

7. Secure your wheels. Locking wheel nuts are cheap, easy to fit and stop thieves from taking your wheels.
8. Etch your vehicle identification number onto surfaces. Have your vehicle registration number or the last seven digits of your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched onto all windows, both windscreens and your headlamps.
9. Mark all your equipment, like your car stereo, with your vehicle registration number.
10. Before buying a used vehicle check whether it has been reported stolen, seriously damaged or is still subject to finance. More information can be found on the Directgov website.

It is up to you to make sure the vehicle you want is not stolen, if you do end up buying a stolen vehicle you could:

- **lose all your money**
- **lose the vehicle**
- **inherit whatever problems the vehicle had (unpaid tickets, penalties etc).**
- **risk police interest in your actions**

So don't take the chance, check it out first! If you have any suspicions, notify the police immediately.

## Keep it clean!

It is a crime to litter, throw unwanted furniture and appliances in back alleys and open spaces or throw food waste which can cause health concerns. In Medlock Vale during the last 12 months Oldham Council's environmental enforcement officers have issued:

- A seven day warning letter to 11 households. If you don't clear your rubbish, in seven days, the Council will do it and charge.
- 15 households have been asked to remove noxious waste from their property.
- Four people are currently being prosecuted and one has been convicted for environmental offences. If convicted, there are heavy fines to pay.
- Two people were formally cautioned and 21 people have received fixed penalty notices for littering. Remember, the spot fine for littering is £80 for each offence.
- One person has been issued with 'Acceptable Behaviour Contract' and can be charged if the contract is broken.

## Local concern

A Co-opted member along with local residents of Fitton Hill complained at the last Community Council meeting about the cars parked on Rosary Road and Springwood Hall Road which obstructed buses causing delays and disruption.

At times buses have been forced to go up the kerbs causing damage to the grass verges. The complaint was taken up by the Council's traffic section and it was agreed to introduce a prohibition of waiting on parts of Rosary Road and Springwood Hall from Monday 25 February.

Work to paint lines and install new signs is currently being planned. If the problem continues after the lines are painted, please contact the Area Manager on 770 5160.

## NDC Neighbourhoods Together paves the way for Localism

**The NDC (New Deal for Communities) Neighbourhood Together initiative has paved the way for localism across the Borough.**

This pioneering initiative in Hathershaw and Fitton Hill is an attempt to give residents a voice on how key services such as bin emptying, street lighting and community safety should work.

The project aims to explore the possibility of providing tailored services to suit local people's needs and give them a voice about how and when they should receive these services. This work culminated in the production of the first draft Neighbourhood Agreement that came into effect from Friday 29 February.

This first important agreement will be about greener, cleaner streets and will clearly outline residents and the council's roles and responsibilities on issues such as keeping streets litter free, better street lighting, graffiti, fly-tipping, and dog fouling.

## Contact Details

Area Manager Shashi Mohandas. He can be contacted on 0161 770 5160 or email [shashi.mohandas@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:shashi.mohandas@oldham.gov.uk)

**Don't lose your right to vote in the May Elections. You have until 16 April to register to vote. Call the Elections Office on: 0161 770 4712/4718.**