

Press Release

The 'Peace & Quiet' Agreement is Launched to Tackle Crime

The second of the pioneering Neighbourhood Agreements will go live at an official launch on Saturday 5th July at The Honeywell Centre.

This second agreement is unique because no other Local Authority has tackled a resident led agreement, which deals with crime, community safety and anti social behaviour.

The event will start at 11.00 am when residents from the NDC area as well as Coppice and Bardsley can drop in find out they can get involved in a more hands on way to tackle the issue of crime and sign up to the Agreements

The official launch will start at 1.00 pm when His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Shoab Akthar will announce the second Agreement live. Phil Woolas MP will attend the event and say a few words on how the Agreements fit into the wider Government agenda.

This second 'Peace & Quiet' Agreement will form an important written contract between agencies such as Greater Manchester Police, Trading Standards, the Community Safety Unit and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services and residents. They will work together but have their own roles and responsibilities so that each knows what is expected of the other to keep the area as crime free as possible.

Alan Humphreys Inspector for Area West in Oldham said

"The neighbourhood agreement helps us to deliver Neighbourhood Policing. It provides a clear understanding of what the community can expect from the police and other agencies but also clearly states what the responsibilities of the community are. Its biggest strength is that it is an agreement that has been reached involving the local community. It is not something that has been imposed on them, they have played a very active part in creating and have ownership of."

The launch of this second agreement is an important step forward for the Council in delivering its localism policies. Through the Agreements residents will be much more involved and aware of the services available and will take responsibility for ensuring that a sense of pride is developed in the area.

Local resident, David Patterson Vice Chair of The Neighbourhood Team and community lead on the crime agreement said.

"The agreements have been a fantastic way of bringing the community together to produce benefits for everyone. I am really proud to have been part of this first initiative from the start and look forward to seeing the benefits long term."

There will be a further 3 agreements, which will be rolled out across Hathershaw & Fitton Hill over the next 12 months. The next agreement will be

about Housing and this will be launched around September this year. There will be another one in December dealing with community issues and a further one in January 2009 tackling issues around health.

Councillor Rod Blyth said

“The community have a big part to play in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. Only through working together with the police and other services, will the community develop trust and work together to rid the streets of the kind of behaviour that both destroys people's quality of life and stops residents enjoying the places they live. The aim of this agreement is to start the process of building confidence and community spirit. It is so important that we all start to tackle crime and show it is unacceptable on our streets, but we need to do this together”.

ENDS (Issued 3rd July 2008)

For further information contact Cath Carter on 785 3771 or email catherine.carter@oldham.gov.uk

You are invited to attend on the Saturday and take photos. There will be a photo opportunity at 1.00 pm when His Worshipful the Mayor of Oldham will announce the Agreement Live.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Neighbourhood Agreements have been 12 months in the making. The process has been as follows:

January 2007 Start with service providers, partners and residents finding out what was involved

February – Asking young people in the area what they thought should be improved about the area

April – Relevant Partners and Providers got together to talk about what was involved

July - A day of learning problem solving skills for The Neighbourhood Team plus a walkabout in the area.

September – Partners, service providers and residents looked at how the agreements should be worded and how they should look

October – Residents learned practical participative appraisal skills

January 2008 – The draft of the first Green and Clean Agreement took to the road on the NDC Youth bus for residents to have their say.

First Neighbourhood Agreement on the Environment Green and Clean Streets was launched in **February 2008**.