

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Local Residents Shine at National Conference**

Four local residents from Hathershaw & Fiton Hill shone at a national conference recently when they were invited to speak about their experiences in developing resident led agreements.

The conference was held for the twelve organisations who have been selected as examples of good practice nationally for resident's charters and was hosted by the Department of Community and Local Government

Oldham NDC has been selected as one of these pilots and is the first to achieve its goals and produce the first working neighbourhood agreement

The four residents, Melanie Coffey, David and Sylvia Patterson and Abid Jaweed are members of The Neighbourhood Team who have driven the development of the Neighbourhoods Together Agreements over the past 12 months.

The Conference invited them to share how they had highlighted residents concerns and explain the steps they had taken to improve services in the NDC area.

Our residents impressed the conference so much that they have been asked to travel across the other eleven pilots to share their experiences and insights and support the development of their resident's charters

The Agreements support the localism agenda and the 'Green and Clean' document will be included as an example of excellence in the Government's forthcoming White Paper on the issue.

Abid Jaweed Member of the TNT Group said

"It has been really exciting to be involved in such positive work in Oldham and then be able to show rest of the country we are ahead of the game"

Mel Coffey Member of the TNT Group said

"I am really proud to be involved in this project, knowing that we are making a difference and we can see the changes that are taking place. It is great knowing that we are being watched by the rest of the country"

**ENDS (Issued 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008)**

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