

Your councillors for the next two years

At the recent local elections, Mohammed Masud was elected by the St Mary's ward. Councillor Masud joins Councillors Shadab Qumer and Aqeel Ali Salamat in representing St Mary's over the next two years before the next Borough elections in 2010.

Councillor Qumer is also St Mary's 'Community Champion'. That means he will work alongside fellow ward councillors and the Community Council chair to look after St Mary's best interests. Please see his contact details below.

You can contact your councillors as follows:

Mohammed Masud on 0161 785 8114

or email mohammed.masud@oldham.gov.uk



Shadab Qumer on 0161 770 4013

or shadab.qumer@oldham.gov.uk



Aqeel Ali Salamat on 07812 096583

or email aqeel.salamat@oldham.gov.uk



Look out for details too about ward surgeries with all three councillors in the Oldham Evening Chronicle from late May.

Upcoming events in St Mary's

Oldham Children and Youth Alliance family fun day

This free family event is being held on Sunday, 21 June 2008 in Alexandra Park between 11am and 4pm. Attractions include inflatable fun, dragon boat racing and pedal cars, a Latics penalty shoot-out and live music on the 'Rocks-Cool' stage. For more information, email info@positivestepsoldham.org.uk.

Beever School Summer Fete

Due to building works, the fete will take place after school and in the hall on Wednesday, 25 June from 3.15pm onwards. Further details will be posted on the school notice board and around the school premises.

Higginshaw Street Party

Groundwork are planning to hold another Street Party this year and would like it to be the biggest and the best so far. To make this happen, Groundwork are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with organising the event. If you would like to get involved, please contact James Ferguson at Groundwork on 0161 624 1444.

For further information about the Community Council please contact Neighbourhood Manager Mark Simmons on 0161 770 5193, email mark.simmons@oldham.gov.uk or log onto www.oldham.gov.uk/community-councils and click on the St Mary's pages.

St Mary's Local Matters

The St Mary's Community Council newsletter for local residents is published by Oldham Council and partners

New bins mean cleaner streets

Higginshaw Youth Forum has been working with the Council's Street Scene department and identified areas that would benefit from bins to help keep the estate tidy.

The good news is that these bins have now been installed.

If you have a litter problem in your area, please do not walk past it. You can now use your mobile phone to take a picture and send it to Street Scene via their website: www.tidyoldham.co.uk.



Marian Allman using bin on Edge Lane junction with Wimpole St.

Off-Road Bikes - be aware of dangers

Over the last few months, there has been an upsurge in the use of off-road bikes in the east of Oldham. Off-road bikes are quad bikes, electric scooters, go-peds and trials bikes.

Riding an off-road bike in a park, public place or common land is illegal and dangerous.

Like all vehicles, an off-road bike can only be used in the street with the following documents:

- **Driving licence / test certificate**
- **Tax disc**
- **Insurance**
- **MOT certificate**

The rider must also wear a suitable helmet.

You can only ride on private land if you have written permission from the landowner. The vehicle must be transported to the location

safely and legally – on a trailer.

Under the Road Traffic Act, anyone caught riding an off-road bike can be prosecuted. If you rent your home you may be putting your tenancy at risk. You will probably lose your vehicle as well.

Remember - buying any second-hand bike may seem like a bargain, but you could end up being prosecuted for handling stolen goods.

Parents should think carefully before buying your child an off-road bike – off-road bikes are not toys, they can cause serious injury or worse.

If you are aware of anyone who rides an off-road bike illegally or where one is stored that is being used illegally, please contact Anti-social Behaviour Officer John Norris on 0161 770 1583. Your call will be dealt with in strictest confidence. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Giving children in St Mary's the best start in life

Beever Children's Centre is integrated with Beaver Primary School on Moorby Street. The centre has a full day care provision on site, with other services including support, advice and information for families with children up to the age of five, giving them the best start in life.

Children's Centres are being set up across Oldham to bring about better outcomes for children and their families. Each centre provides a range of services in partnership with Health, Education and Social Care, such as:

- early education and childcare with qualified teachers
- advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families
- child and family health services ranging from health screening, health visitor services to breast-feeding support
- helping parents into work with links to Job



centre Plus and training opportunities

If you think the Children's Centre can help you or would like more information, please contact: **Beever Children's Centre, 3-11 Moorby St, Oldham OL1 3QU, telephone 0161 770 8366**

Make sure alley gates are locked

At the previous Community Council meeting, residents expressed concerns about young people gathering at the rear of Huxley Street. The Community Council approved a grant for the installation of alley gates to help resolve the issue.

There are many alley gates being installed throughout the St Mary's neighbourhood. However, the gates are not always locked, which will stop them being effective in reducing burglaries and anti-social behaviour. If you have alley gates fitted, please make sure they are closed and locked at all times.



Your views please on new local structure

A number of options for changing the current Community Council structure have been agreed by Oldham Council and now you as a resident are being asked to consider the planned changes.

One of the key proposals is for there to be more local control over budgets and decisions that affect the area. Some local planning decisions could be devolved from Oldham Council to the planned new body involving St Mary's merging with the wards of St James' and Waterhead. It would be named East

Oldham Area Committee - as it was called before - with the intended new structure being part of the Council's decision making administration and set-up.

Your views on the proposed changes are welcome. Please write to Mark Simmons at the Neighbourhood Managers Office, Strategy and Resources Directorate, Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham or email mark.simmons@oldham.gov.uk by 9 July.

Police update

The St Mary's area of Oldham has recently suffered from an increase in criminal damage, in particular, graffiti. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team are looking for information from the community about this problem, please contact 0161 856 9028.

An Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) has been issued to Ryan Hughes who is aged 17 and lives in the area.

Leaflets about the conditions of this ASBO are being distributed to houses in St Mary's and Coldhurst Hollow. Anyone who sees Ryan Hughes breaking those conditions should contact Greater Manchester Police on 0161 872 5050 or in an emergency dial 999.

The issue of off-road bikes has cropped up again in the area and the Neighbourhood Policing Team are working hard to trace offenders and get information from the public. Anyone with information about young people using off-road bikes illegally should contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Come along to next meeting on 18 June

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place on Wednesday, 18 June 2008 at Groundwork Environment Centre on Shaw Road in Higginshaw starting at 7pm. Discussions will include the future of Community Councils, including the merger of St Mary's Community Council with that of St James' and Waterhead. Oldham Council also plans to revert to using the name Area Committee instead of Community Council.

Other items on the agenda include Oldham Race Equality Partnership's Community Dialogue Project and an update from the Police.

The meeting is your chance, as a local resident, to bring to the attention of Oldham Council and partner organisations like the Police the things that concern you most in your street or neighbourhood. This could be about litter, anti-social behaviour, activities for young people or any number of other local issues.

Public questions are welcome and should be sent to Mark Simmons, your Neighbourhood Manager, at Strategy and Resources Directorate, Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham or mark.simmons@oldham.gov.uk by Mon 16 June.