

Your councillors for next two years

Following the re-election of Councillor Fida Hussain in the local elections the Werneth line-up of councillors for the next two years (the next local elections are in 2010) is unchanged.

The ward representatives are Councillor Shoab Akhtar, Councillor Hussain and Councillor Javid Iqbal.

They can be contacted respectively on 0161 287 2005 (Councillor Akhtar), 0161 626 5263 (Councillor Hussain) and 0161 345 7637 (Councillor Iqbal) or e-mail:

shoab.akhtar@oldham.gov.uk

fida.hussain@oldham.gov.uk

javid.iqbal@oldham.gov.uk



Shoab Akhtar



Fida Hussain



Javid Iqbal

Police update for Werneth

Operation Alligator ran from 19 to 24 May and saw a clampdown on the supply of drugs in the area. A number of warrants were carried out, people arrested, and drugs seized.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team will continue to fight drugs in the area and is asking the local community to help.

Inspector Alan Humphries said: "We have launched a 'Rat on a Rat' campaign where we are asking residents to let us know where drug dealers are operating in your area."

To report a dealer call Greater Manchester Police on 0161 872 5050 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Vehicle crime is a concern in the Werneth area at the moment and Operation Tortoise is being launched to target car crime, and the Neighbourhood

Policing Team is asking for your help. Keep valuables out of sight that may be tempting to opportunist thieves and remove CD players and satellite navigation systems when you leave your car.



Inspector Humphries

The Werneth area KINship meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 July at 6.30pm at Christchurch, Block Lane. All residents are welcome to attend and raise any issues.

This newsletter can be made available in other formats, for example Braille, audio, large print or in alternative languages. To access these please call 0161 770 4707.

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Werneth Local Matters

Werneth Community Council newsletter for local residents is published by Oldham Council and partners

Werneth youngsters visit 'Mother of Parliaments'

Werneth Youth Voice members are our future leaders so what better place for them to visit than the Houses of Parliament and meet Michael Meacher MP.

To get the visit organised the group met weekly to look at the planning for the trip. Each member of the group was responsible for a specific area such as dates for the trip, transport, accommodation, arranging the meeting with the Mr Meacher, managing funding and also planning to see the sites.

Werneth Youth Voice, which was set up through the Werneth and Freehold Development Project, approached Werneth Community Council for part of the funding and was successful in obtaining a grant of £750. The group also ran a series of fund raising events including fun days, car washes and raised cash from local shops and community members.

The visit to London took place in March with a group of 11 travelling to the capital. Most of the young people had never travelled by train or visited London before so the trip was an experience that they will never forget.

The group visited the Houses of Parliament and learned about the history and traditions.

The visit broadened their knowledge and



The youngsters pictured at the Houses of Parliament with their youth workers.

helped them understand the structure of Government. Young people who are currently studying construction were inspired by the architecture of the Houses of Parliament.

The group also visited Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, the London Eye and Madame Tussaud's.

Street Wise Project success

Another successful scheme part funded by Werneth Community Council is the Street Wise project. This initiative enabled 20 local young people to take part in a 12 week course looking at issues such as fitness, personal safety and social issues such as bullying and how to deal with it.

The project was a unique experience for some of the young people who participated. Sessions included ways of keeping fit and active. The young people learnt that violence is no solution to any conflict situation and how to calmly handle such situations. The sessions also focused around ways of managing bullies inside and outside school. Overall the project was a great success that will have a lasting impact on the young people taking part.

Fun day for all in park



There's free fun for all the family at Oldham Children and Youth Alliance's annual Fun Day being held at Alexandra Park on Saturday 21 June. Everyone is welcome to attend between 11am and 4pm.

There will be dragon boat racing, a penalty shoot out with Oldham Athletic players, fun and games roadshow and much more. For more details please email info@positivestepsoldham.org.uk

Make sure to lock up!

Nearly 30 per cent of all burglaries in Werneth are due to doors and windows left open or not secured. At this time of the year when days are long and warm and windows and doors are left open, burglaries are on the increase so make sure your property, including garden shed, is secured.

There are regular Home Watch meetings in Freehold, Coppice and Primrose Bank to discuss local crime related issues. All meetings start at 6pm and last for about an hour.

The next meeting for Freehold is Tuesday 15 July at Christ Church Hall on Block Lane. Primrose Bank Home Watch group will meet on Wednesday 18 June at the Primrose Bank Tenants Hall and the Coppice group meets on Thursday 26 June at the Coppice Community Centre.

To find out more about these meetings contact Peter Lee on 0161 856 9054 or talk to your ward's Police Community Safety officers Tazeer Ahmed, Paula Robinson and Michael Quornby.

Make sure to lock up your windows and doors.



Your views please on new local structure

A number of options for changing the current Community Council structure have been put before Oldham Council and now Werneth residents are being asked to consider the planned changes.

One of the key proposals is whether Werneth Community Council should remain a separate entity or merge either with Coldhurst or all the West Oldham wards – Medlock Vale, Coldhurst and Alexandra. Another is for there to be more local control over budgets and decisions which affect the area, so local

planning decisions could be devolved from Oldham Council.

Under the proposed changed structure the new entity would be called an Area Committee like before, not a Community Council. You can write in with your views to area.managers@oldham.gov.uk or write to Shashi Mohandas at Oldham Council, Strategy and Resources Directorate, Area Managers Office, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham by Monday 21 July.

Come to next meeting on 19 June

The next meeting of Werneth Community Council is at 6pm on Thursday 19 June at the Freehold Community School, Sidmouth Street off Block Lane.

Items on the agenda include Construction Jobs – Junction 21, a construction jobs and training agency working with Oldham Housing Market Renewal is coming back with information on what has been achieved to date, how they recruit and what opportunities for local people exist in the construction industry.

Millions of pounds will be invested in the Borough to replace current out dated lamp-posts and light fittings and the Council's Street Lighting team will give a presentation on how it will be carried out.

Also, there will be an item on the future of Community Councils and changing to Area Committees, Police and other agencies will be present during public question time.

Tenants forum for our area

The first forum for FCHO tenants and residents in the Werneth and Freehold areas took place recently.

The forum is an opportunity to discuss issues about the estate and housing management matters such as the environment and crime. All tenants are welcome to raise any matter affecting the areas. Other agencies will be invited as required such as the Police and Oldham Council.

If you want to attend future meetings or would like further information please contact Hellal Choudhury on 0161 770 2165 or email fcho.hellal.choudhury@oldham.gov.uk

Further information

For further information about the Community Council please contact Neighbourhood Manager Shashi Mohandas on 0161 770 5160 or email shashi.mohandas@oldham.gov.uk.