



South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre

“For Excellence in Neighbourhoods”

August 2009
Edition 30
FOI No. 237

Hello and welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. Our big news for this edition is our forthcoming conference on 30 September. We hope we will see you there. Meanwhile, the summer holidays mean that many of our schemes are out and about running diversionary activities with local youngsters. Read all about it in the warden updates.

Adapting to Changing Times



Our 2005 conference in Torquay

The South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre, in conjunction with the South West Wardens Network will be holding its regional conference on 30 September 2009 at the Grand Hotel, Torquay.

We have now been working closely with wardens in this region for nearly 5 years and during this time we have been seriously impressed by their dedication to improving their neighbourhoods and to their willingness and ability to adapt to a changing environment.

Initially many of our schemes were funded through Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for a limited period and since this funding stream ended they have had to be innovative in the way they work to ensure they can sustain the warden service.

The challenges they have faced, and are still facing are familiar to many of us in the current economic climate, so we wanted to take this opportunity to showcase the way they have evolved to meet the individual needs of the community they serve.

Throughout this conference we will be highlighting areas of best practice across the region which we hope you will be able to relate to your own work.

Working in partnership is also key to our success, especially where resources are limited. Therefore, we are pleased to have our colleagues from the Police and Fire Authority join us and talk about how working in partnership has helped them to achieve their goals.

The conference, which is free to attend, is aimed at anyone who is keen to understand how to maximise the benefits of diversification and to look for new ways to add value and make a difference to their community.

For further details go to www.swresourcecentre.org.uk/eventsandconferences

Resource Centre News

By Lynn Jarvie, Resource Centre Training Officer

Organising our conference is taking up a lot of our time at present. We are really pleased to be going back to Torquay where we held our very first regional conference in 2005. We'd like to say a big thank you to Tara Fowler and her team for their help with this event, and to everyone who has agreed to do a slot on the programme with a minimum of arm twisting.

As you will see from the programme we have roped quite a few of our colleagues into helping out with presentations and workshops. No doubt we will also be roping in a few others to help us out on the day with setting up, manning the registration desk etc. Feel free to volunteer now guys to avoid being trampled in the rush!

It looks like being a very interesting programme. We will be running a session on using restorative approaches in neighbourhood working which will keep me out of mischief. However, I am hoping to get the chance to pop into a couple of the workshops.

Last month we ran our first accredited Restorative Approaches course with delegates from Police, Fire Authority, Warden Schemes and Anti-Social Behaviour teams across the region. Everyone completed the programme successfully and has now received their NCFE certificates. The feedback we had was excellent and we will soon be running a specially tailored course for Fire Authority Staff involved in Project Salamander.

Our network meetings continue to be well attended and give all our schemes a chance not just to share ideas about the work they are doing, but also to debate the ever changing role of wardens. Some of our schemes have successfully taken on enforcement duties, whilst others have chosen to focus exclusively on community development activities, depending on local needs. There is no right and wrong, and as a Resource Centre we are happy to support our schemes in the work that they do. However, it does lead to some interesting round the table debates.

We have just completed training for the Supporting People team at Swindon Borough Council. Part of the remit of Supporting People is to ensure that service providers meet the needs of their customers. The Swindon team took the decision that some service users may feel intimidated about talking to council officers, so we have trained a team of service users in interview skills so that they can talk directly to other users and hopefully get a more honest appraisal of any issues with the services provided.

Our next warden core training will be held in Plymouth from 15 – 18 September. This just gives me time to get back from holiday, unpack my holiday clothes, repack my work clothes and head off to Plymouth. Well, at least I'll be at the seaside so maybe it'll feel like I'm still on my holidays! If you would like more information about this training or any of our training packages, please let us know.

The Swindon Salamander Project

By Mark Evans, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

The Salamander Project is designed and run by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. It is a concept that can be run and managed in a variety of ways from a 'reward and incentive' programme to combating 'anti social behaviour' and can be tailor made to achive many outcomes with a variety of young people.

It is an intensive one week youth empowerment, education and enrichment programme that provides an alternative education experience for vulnerable secondary school children aged between 12 and 19. The project promotes 'action learning via teamwork' to young people who possess a complex combination of social, emotional and behavioral issues, many of whom struggle to cope with mainstream school.



Young people invited onto the Salamander project are sometimes vulnerable with low self esteem and low self image and some have a deteriorated home life. In combination, these indicators may identify them as at risk of truancy, criminal behaviour and anti social behaviour. This will in turn have an impact on the fire and rescue service because of possible hoax calls, fires, arson and children involved in road traffic collisions both as drivers and passengers.

This scheme (and other similar schemes across the country) has resulted in a 90% reduction in re-offending, 46% reduction in fire related crime and 86% reductions in attacks on fire fighters.

The programme throughout the week is designed to foster team work within a context of real life rescue situations simulating emergency services response scenarios such as firefighting skills with hose, pumping appliances and hydrants NARC (abseiling), ladder climbing, search and rescue techniques, casualty care, road traffic collision rescue skills and water rescue techniques.



The week is concluded with a Pass out Parade and Certificate Presentation, Parents, Teachers and Senior Fire Service Managers are invited to the station and watch the children demonstrate all the skills and techniques that they have acquired in two 'Rescue Scenarios'. Road Traffic Collision and a House Fire with a mum and her 18 month old baby trapped.



The skills learned seek to inform, educate, challenge and motivate the young people. The programme also encourages them to start thinking about the implications of their actions and about how they can make themselves and others safer.

Mark will be running a workshop at our conference on 30 September, giving more details about the Salamander project and how other agencies can work with the fire service to help deliver this project.

Wardens Road Up

Plymouth Neighbourhood Wardens

Young people in North Prospect, Plymouth are going green this summer.

Children between the ages of 8 and 11 years old have joined up to the Green Gang and got stuck into a huge range of fun activities which all have a serious message behind them.

The Green Gang is being run by Plymouth City Council's North Prospect Neighbourhood Management team, who are drafting in colleagues from across the council and the police to help them implement a timetable where the young people have tons to do. Sessions combine fun, fitness, learning and awareness of the environment they live in.

The Green Gang have tackled litter in the neighbourhood, made things out of rubbish, attended healthy lifestyle sessions doing fruit tasting and taken part in a session on road safety where they made posters and banners in preparation for playing traffic cops for the day, carrying out roadside speed checks and surveys using speed guns.



In the next few weeks the Green Gang will go on patrol with the Neighbourhood Wardens, carrying out a street inspection and reporting graffiti and fly tipping to the relevant council departments.

Cabinet Minister for Safer Stronger Communities, Councillor Peter Brookshaw said

“Our neighbourhood wardens have been a regular and popular fixture on the streets. We thought it would be interesting for children to go out on patrol for a day, see what sort of problems they encounter and learn more about what is going on in their neighbourhood. We want these youngsters to have fun, but if they also pick up some good habits that will make North Prospect a cleaner and nicer place to live, all the better.”



The Green Gang started on 29 July and runs each Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks. We have employed Groundwork's Education Officer to give advice on supervision and running the sessions.

Neighbourhood Warden Donna Milne, who put the programme together and organised everything said “Its been a challenge to keep them all busy and involved throughout the sessions, but we've had some great fun and we're learning a lot from each other.

If you would like to know more about the Green Gang or the work of Plymouth's Neighbourhood Wardens, contact Donna Milne on 01752 306388

Swindon Neighbourhood Wardens

By Nick Brock, Lead Neighbourhood Warden

The Big Tidy Up

Martyn, Chris and John from the West Swindon team, recently spent a day with Toothill primary school working together on a big tidy up in and around the school and the local area. Over 30 bags of rubbish were collected on the day and the children really enjoyed what they were doing.

Martyn said, It was a very worth while exercise, and the kids learned how throwing litter to the ground can have such a big impact on the local environment.



Partnership Working in Action

The NSPCC in Swindon run events for local children, many of whom have disabilities, learning difficulties or come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through their work in the community, the Neighbourhood Wardens have formed links with the group and recently Rob Stygall and Trevor Cole were asked to help with an event the NSPCC were running in Penhill.

Rob and Trevor did the BBQ, and entertained the youngsters with one of the warden games, Beat the Bear. Both wardens said that to be invited to take part in this event was a privilege.

Everyone had a lot of fun, and a fair bit of food too. The kids then sang a thank you song to their Mums and Dads.

Both Rob and Trev were given a special certificate from the NSPCC to thank them for their hard work.



Drugs Awareness for Schools



Lead Neighbourhood Warden Nick Brock has been visiting local schools talking to year 5 pupils about the dangers of drug litter which is often found on their estates.

Nick has made up a drug board showing the debris often left behind by drug users so that the children will recognise when they come across a problem. He then discusses why they shouldn't touch the items and who to tell so that it can be dealt with safely.

Swindon Neighbourhood Wardens

W a r d e n s R e c o r d e d U p

Torbay Wardens Are Blooming Great

By Pam Woods, Lead Neighbourhood Warden



The Torbay Council Wardens have been helping to promote and judge the councils 'Bay in Bloom'.

The Bay Blooms competition is an annual horticultural event that encourages all residents and businesses to improve the look of their local area, gardens or even containers - which in turn contributes to the Bay's towns during the summer months.



There are 27 categories – which are free to enter – and include baskets and containers, community environment projects, allotments and vegetable patches, public houses and restaurants.



This year the street wardens have been given their own category on the patches they cover and Pam Wood the Senior Warden and a group of the Junior Street Wardens have been asked to judge.

There were some tremendous gardens out there and the winners are to be announced shortly. Next year the wardens are hoping to encourage the local residents to judge too.

Exeter Patollers

By Bob Denford, Senior Patroller

Summer holidays are here again and the team have been busy dealing with complaints about late night noise and people having BBQ's in their gardens, plus the usual reports and complaints about youths playing football in the street.

We now have noise recording equipment which is proving to be a valuable piece of equipment as it takes away the pressure from us on deciding the level of noise when we have to investigate a complaint. It also means the evidence can be used in court in the event of a prosecution.

We recently had a complaint about a different sort of abandoned vehicle – a golf buggy abandoned in one of our playing fields. We managed to drive it back to our depot and after a few phone calls it was tracked down to being stolen from a golf course several miles away. Unfortunately it had been used by youths on the skateboarding site and had sustained quite a bit of damage.

Stroud Neighbourhood Wardens

Dursley



Neighbourhood Wardens Pete Gleed and Dan Barker supported an event run by Dursley Safer Communities team to get young people involved in their community. The 'Junior Community Officers' did a litter pick of their school grounds and had a demonstration of equipment used by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

The event coincided with the 'Pride in your Neighbourhood' event run by Stroud District Council's Community Safety Unit which saw the Neighbourhood Warden team working with other departments and council contractors to tidy up the Highfields and Rangers Avenue areas of Dursley including removing litter, cutting back overgrown trees and hedges and providing information on council services to the local community.

Cainscross



Wardens Peter Wilson, Andy Murray and Kaz Elliott, attended a Stroud Valleys Project "Clear Up Cainscross" to give a boost to the hidden wildlife haven in Cainscross.

In recent years the area had become overgrown and fallen into disrepair, possibly losing its potential as a green lung for local people and wildlife.

The wardens mucked in, clearing a lot of debris from the site and Peter and Andy were interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire as part of the Springwatch "Dirty Weekend"

Cam



Pete Gleed and Dan Barker recently took part in a Police Safer Community Team Awareness Day at Meadow Vale in Cam. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the work that the Police and their partners do in the area and to help start up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

As a gesture of goodwill Dan and Pete agreed to clear up an area that had been a grot spot for some time. The event was well received by the local residents. Food was provided by Sanctuary Housing Association and cooked by the GL11 Project who also provided a stand on the work they do in the community.

Crime Reduction

All the Stroud Neighbourhood Warden team have now completed a home security assessment. This is based on the 10 principles of crime reduction and involves visiting a property and advising the occupier on realistic and cost effective methods they can employ to make their property more resistant to crime.

For more information on the work of the Stroud Wardens, please contact Chris Acock (chris.acock@stroud.gov.uk) or Ashley Nicholson (ashley.nicholson@stroud.gov.uk).

W
a
r
d
e
n
s
C
l
e
a
r
u
p

W a r d e n s R o u n d e r u p

Weston Super Mare Community Wardens

By Shane Edwards, Community Warden

New Junior Warden Scheme Up and Running

On the last Thursday in July we held our first session with our junior wardens. We were please to have nine kids show up out of the ten that had signed up at the Strawberry fair some weeks earlier.

We talked to them about the Wardens and what our role is in the community and discussed with them what we all want the junior wardens to be about. We did some games to help us find out about their like and dislikes, so we now know their favourites are pizza, theme parks and a close vote for rounders over football. They then got to make their own name badges.

On week two we agreed their code of conduct, uniform style and colour and then did a walk about to see what what they knew about litter and recycling and I must say it was pretty good.

For the uniform, everyone agreed on a black hoodie but we had a boy/girl divide over the colour - the girls wanted the writing in pink and the boys wanted green. We did find it strange that nobody wanted our lovely orange to match our uniforms! All the young people were involved in setting out their code of conduct. This included things such as not swearing and being friendly although they also managed to sneak in they must always have biscuits!

On week three we did a hour long environmental walk in which we took them to six areas (park, rail crossing, local shops, cycle path, foot bridge, youth centre). We gave them a map and a sheet with three questions about the local area.

They had to decide how tidy is the area, how colourful and is it good for wildlife. They then used a sliding scale from bad to good to score these areas and wrote down anything they could this of to improve the area. Their ideas ranged from a better football pitch for the park, weeds being cut back and make the area more colourful. However the one thing that came up most often was the need for more loos.



This week is a game of rounders and a kick around so James and I have been in training and are looking forward to that.

In summary we've got a great core group of kids and we are expecting some more to join this week. Its been great so far - its hard work, but it's worth it!

Other things coming for us in the near future are the return of our "You've been Tangpooed" campaign against dog fouling and working on an awareness campaign to prevent the expected increase in flytipping of TV's due to the digital switch over next year.

News Round Up

Next Regional Wardens Network Meeting:



Tuesday 29 September 3pm – 6pm
at the Grand Hotel Torquay.

We had excellent attendance at our last meeting in Weston Super Mare and it was great to be able to share so many fantastic ideas. We look forward to seeing you all in Torquay

During the last meeting NCFE Core Training and City & Guilds NVQ certificates were presented to some of our recent successful Swindon warden Trevor Cole is pictured here having his Community Warden Level 2 NVQ certificate presented by Resource Centre Training Officer Lynn Jarvie. Another Swindon warden Rob Stygall was also presented with his NVQ certificate.



James Clayton from Weston Super Mare and Shaun Roseveare from Plymouth were presented with their Warden Core Training certificates.

Next Warden Core Training

15 – 18 September in Plymouth

Coming Soon:

- Restorative Approaches Accredited Training
- Warden Refresher Training – for experienced wardens who have not completed core training, or who would like to cover some of the topics in more depth.

Contact the Resource Centre for Details.

Contact details

Recourse Centre website

www.swresourcecentre.org.uk

Resource Centre email

Swresourcecentre@swindon.gov.uk

Training officer: Lynn Jarvie

Ljarvie@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464003

Development officer: Sue Stevens

Sstevens@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464001

Administrator: Mathew Randall

mrandall2@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464001