



## South West Warden Resource Centre

“For Excellence in Neighbourhoods”

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Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2007! *New Year – new name.* You may have noticed that we have changed our name. This is to reflect our aim to provide the skills to enable more organisations to meet the needs of people working and living in our communities.

As always, we would like to hear from you and what’s been happening in your area.

### NEWS

What’s happening around our region

This year brings with it a renewed focus for us at the Resource Centre. Not only will we continue to support new and existing wardens schemes, we will be developing new initiatives to support other partnerships across the region, such as Street Reps, Community Development Workers, Youth Workers etc, and many other front line practitioners to successfully engage with residents. The types of training packages we are working on are specifically for practitioners working, managing and living in neighbourhoods.

- **Partnership Working**
- **Introduction to Working in Neighbourhoods**
- **Introduction to Sustainable Communities**
- **Introduction to Community Development**
- **Evaluation the Impact in your Community**
- **Equality & Diversity**
- **Community Cohesion**

What’s inside this edition....

- SWRC
- Study Visit
- Children help out
- New Staff Member
- Presentation
- New Wardens
- Newsflash
- Contact details

The Resource Centre also aims to support residents in becoming involved in helping shape services and service delivery in their community. This support will be through training, guidance and sharing best practice.

This is a very exciting year for us at the Resource Centre and I am looking forward to engaging more closely with practitioners across the region. Through our regular Newsletters and Network Meetings, I will keep you up-to-date with all that’s happening across our region.

*Sue Stevens, Development Officer*

**Taking the Power Back – Study Visit to Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership in Bristol**

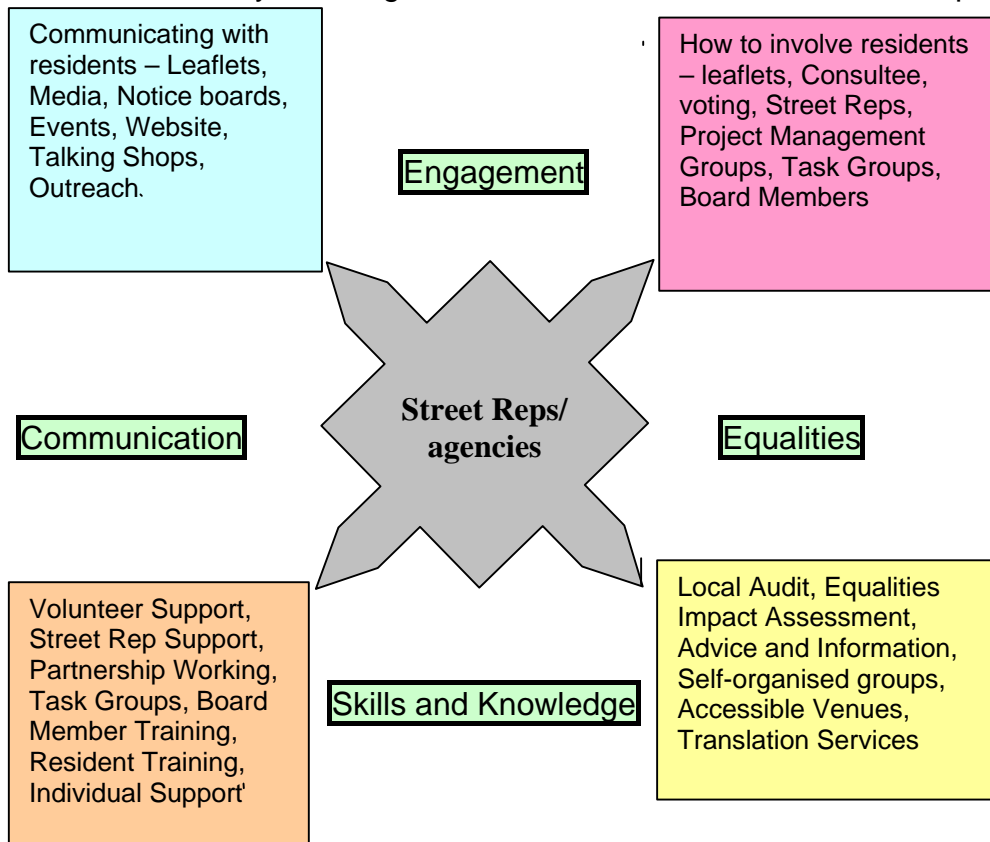
*Does your area have, or are they thinking of setting up a volunteer Street Rep scheme to encourage resident engagement? If so, could you please let the South West Neighbourhood Training & Resource Centre know*

I recently attended the above study visit to gain an understanding of how Neighbourhood Management has successfully empowered residents to participate in local decision-making and to influence service delivery. Volunteer Street Reps are recruited to help engage residents who feel able to take part in the Partnership’s activity and Neighbourhood Management at the level they feel comfortable with.

Both the Local Government White Paper : Strong and Prosperous Communities and the Lyon’s Report : National Prosperity Local Choice and Civic Engagement highlights the importance of engaging the community in decisions about their locality.

The reason for Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership’s success stem from the techniques, methods and an understanding of how to engage effectively and efficiently with residents.

This is achieved by covering four areas of work – all of which overlap:



We have the skills to help develop a successful community engagement programme :

- Residents Empowerment
- Partnership Working
- Equality & Diversity Training
- Community Evaluation
- Working and Managing in the Community... and many more

The Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership have proved their success by active involvement of local residents, together with strong partnership working with other initiatives, local community and voluntary organisations, local businesses and mainstream agencies to achieve their aim of increasing the capacity of local people and organisations to have genuine involvement, ownership and control of regeneration and renewal in the area they live and also tackling social exclusion, isolation and segregation.

Sue Stevens – Development Officer

### OLIVER THOMKINS SCHOOL IN WEST SWINDON

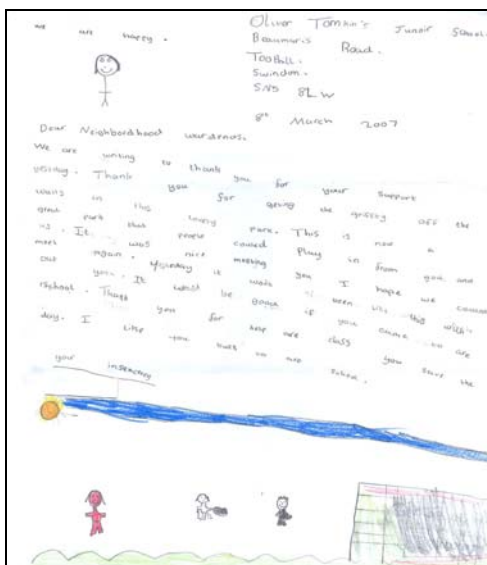
Wednesday 7 March 2007 – Seven and eight year old pupils from Oliver Thomkins School identified a public park near their school that had a lot of dog mess, litter, graffiti and fly tipping.



They contacted the council and lots of different agencies got involved on the day. These included the graffiti team, neighbourhood wardens, dog warden, police, PCSO's, anti social behaviour team, fly tipping team.

A new dog bin was put into the park. Over 50 boxes of rubbish collected, over 100 graffiti tags, etc were taken off. Lots of bulky waste removed, including cones and a metal railing.

There were 51 children who were included along with teachers. They helped out holding bags and taking it in turns to litter pick with the pickers. After the clean up – Neighbourhood wardens, police and the dog warden gave a talk to the children about each of their roles and how the youngsters can help to continue look after their environment. The children designed a leaflet to be distributed to the local community about the hard work they had done.



We have received several thank you letters from the children. They have also asked us to help out again with other projects, which we hope to do in the near future.

Thanks to *Becky Dudley*  
Warden Supervisor from Swindon for this article.

( A letter from one of the school children from Oliver Thomkins school)

***NEW STAFF MEMBER***

My name is Barbara Panczak and I recently joined the team in Swindon as the Administrative Assistant at the South West Resource Centre based in the Drove Training Centre, Swindon. My role involves providing a quality administrative service, including maintaining NVQ and City & Guilds records, organising meetings, conferences and public open days. I also organise equipment for courses being held, stationery and dealing with general enquires.

I am now involved in restarting the newsletter, by collating all the news that is happening in your area and how your schemes are getting involved in your communities. Please contact me with your news, events and features so that I can include them in our newsletter.

If you have any questions, or queries you can contact me on:

**Tel: 01793 464006**

**or email: [bpanczak@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:bpanczak@swindon.gov.uk)**

## Wardens Presentation Afternoon - by *Barbara Panczak*

It was my first official opportunity to meet some of the South West street wardens – at their certificate presentation held at The Resource Centre in Swindon.

It was the afternoon of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, when 28 wardens arrived from as far as Torbay, to be warmly greeted by the Swindon hosts who served them with a welcoming cup of tea and biscuits.

Candidates were called up one by one to receive their hard earned Core Warden's certificates, which were presented by Mark Walker. Last, but by no means least, Ashley Nicholson from Stroud, proudly received his NVQ2 Certificate. Photographs of all the certificate holders were taken to mark this special occasion.



Following the presentation, teams of four were formed and a light-hearted general knowledge quiz compiled by Lyn Jarvie the Resource Centre Training Officer, was held. The winning team "The Norfolk and Chance" consisted of Ryan Barkle, Louise Bertram, John Carr and John Bearcroft each received a bottle of bubbly.

The afternoon soon drew to an end, with many new acquaintances made. What a memorable afternoon! Looking forward to the next.



## Welcome

To our new warden scheme in Plymouth

**Sam Pook, Paul Elliott, Alex Thomas and Peter Temlett**

They have recently completed their warden core training and now are on patrol in the Stonehouse and North Prospect areas of the city.  
Hopefully you will get the chance to meet some of them at the conference.

## CONTACT US

Resource Centre Website

[www.swresourcecentre.org.uk](http://www.swresourcecentre.org.uk)

Resource Centre Email

[swresourcecentre@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swresourcecentre@swindon.gov.uk)

Training Officer Lynn Jarvie:

[ljarvie@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ljarvie@swindon.gov.uk)

Tel: 01793 464003

Development Officer Sue Stevens:

[sstevens@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sstevens@swindon.gov.uk)

Tel: 01793 464001

Administrator Barbara Panczak:

[bpanczak@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:bpanczak@swindon.gov.uk)

Tel; 01793 464006

**\*\*\*\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\*\*\*\***

**SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE THEME: CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT  
TO BE HELD IN CHELTENHAM ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

We are delighted to announce that our Regional Conference will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the Cheltenham Race Course. For further details about this event including a full programme/agenda will be made available soon, so watch this space..