

Neighbour Leigh

Leigh Neighbours Project NEWS

Autumn 2013

The Clean-Up Crew!

Volunteers from the Leigh Neighbours Project and ASDA recently took part in a litter pick, collecting altogether more than 20 bags of rubbish from the area around Glebe Street, Chadwick Street and the top of Kirkhall Lane. "Cigarette butts, drink cans and fast food packaging make our streets and green patches unsightly," says local resident, Christine Farnworth. "Let's work together and make our neighbourhood a place we can be really proud of. Come on, do your bit and dispose of your rubbish with care."



ASDA Community Life Champion Gwen Appleton with Christine Farnworth and Stephen Ruffley from the Leigh Neighbours Project.

INSIDE

Find out how we are investing the £1 million Big Local funding in your local neighbourhood, based on your ideas and priorities. And read about the people who are part of the Leigh Neighbours Project and why they're involved.

So, what's Leigh Neighbours all about?

"Leigh Neighbours is a community project which is all about raising aspirations and giving a voice to local people so they can be proud of where they live. It's about improving and enriching lives whilst creating new and exciting opportunities for people of all ages. We met and spoke with more than 800 people to find out what they thought. This is YOUR project, based on more than 2,200 of YOUR ideas and suggestions. Together, working in partnership, we can make things happen!"

Co-Chairs Susan Gredecki and Lisa Brew

Community Spirit

"Adults judge young people on the street, but they have nothing to do."

You said you wanted to feel a greater sense of community spirit, particularly between people from different generations and ethnic backgrounds because "we *don't* always mix". You've also got lots of ideas for events and activities that will bring people together, some of which we've already organised, including the **Big Jubilee Lunch events (pictured), local history events with Leigh Library, and the Big Lunch 2013.**



Why not submit your own idea for a community event?

Community Facilities

"Free activities for us so we don't get bored and do anything bad."

You identified a range of resources and facilities, from outdoor play areas to a multi-use community centre. So far we've funded a variety of local projects to the tune of £5,000, including alley greening, improvements to a community garden, hanging baskets, an education programme and a crafts group.

What would you like us to do? Let us know your suggestions!

Education, Training & Employment

"A place where I can volunteer my skills or learn new ones."

You want to see more opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. You want young people to have the best possible start in life and older people to have the chance to retrain. You want more and better paid employment opportunities as well as access to local and affordable training.

Crime & Community Safety

"I want to feel that crime is under control and there's a more visible police presence."

You told us your concerns relating to community safety, especially around anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. You want to see **more police foot patrols, protective fencing and security lights.** These are all part of our future strategy.

Smart thinking! Thwarting thieves using SmartWater chemical DNA to security mark valuable goods.



Environment

"We want local residents to respect the area."

The impact of environmental crime, ie. dog-fouling, fly-tipping, vandalism and graffiti, is felt keenly by local people, as is the lack of green space and areas for children to play safely. You said you want to live in an area which is cleaned regularly as well as respected by residents. You want enforcement action taken against people who don't respect the area and you want to make a difference by getting involved in clean-up campaigns, greening activities and planting schemes. You also want to see aesthetic improvements to derelict retail units and houses.



Housing

"Better control of housing conditions and enforced upkeep of housing."

You have expressed many concerns related to housing. There is widespread agreement that issues around private let properties – both relating to physical condition and types of tenants – need to be addressed if the area is to improve and if the value of property is to match that in surrounding areas of the borough. The vision local people have is of an area where all property is in a good state of repair; where the local authority adopts a timely and proactive role in addressing community concerns; and where people aspire to live.

Health

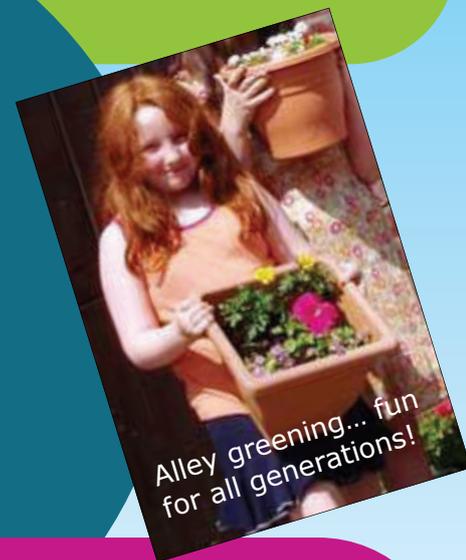
"Leigh has no sexual health service that's easily accessible."

You told us of your concerns about healthy eating and getting your '5-a-day' so the availability of locally-grown, affordable fresh produce is a priority for you. You said you want to see more counselling and parenting resources. And because of the significant impact of alcohol addiction, smoking, obesity and drug abuse on the health of local residents, you want to see more done to address these issues.

Traffic & Transport

"Reduce speed and create more 20 mph zones."

Your vision is to create an area that is a safer place for people who aren't in a car – for pedestrians, cyclists, children and the elderly. Your suggestions relate to reducing traffic speed, parking, the condition of road surfaces, cycle-friendly schemes such as cycle lanes, and the need for more Pelican or Zebra crossings, especially close to schools.



Leisure

"Somewhere for 14 – 18 year olds to go and socialise."

You gave us a long list of things you'd like to see provided in the area: play areas, places for teens to socialise, sports pitches, skate parks, Summer Clubs, sports activities, an art club, basketball facilities and more. There is a significant overlap here with many suggestions made under the 'Crime & Community Safety' theme – especially around 'young people hanging about' which could be addressed by improved leisure resources. Your vision isn't about reproducing the facilities available at Leigh Sports Village, but about having a range of resources within easy reach of the area, which help people stay physically and emotionally healthy.

The faces behind...Leigh Neighbours Project Board

Over the next few issues of Neighbour Leigh News, we're inviting members of the Leigh Neighbours Project Board to tell us why they're involved. First up, the Co-Chairs...



Susan Gredecki

When I first came to live here 40 years ago, the area was a popular place to live. Sadly, that's no longer the case. Many houses are now owned by private landlords who rent out these sub-standard properties. I joined the project to work with people who are trying to regenerate the area by finding a way to renovate the houses and bring them back into occupied ownership.



Lisa Brew

I'm involved because I think it's important for young people to have a voice and to challenge the negative perception that some adults have of young people in the area. I want to help to build bridges between young people and adults, so we can work together to make a positive change in the area by bringing everybody in the community closer together.

Do you have
any idea
what a difference
you can make?

Because that's all it takes to start with... an idea.

Ok, so you've had a stroke of inspiration, something you think will help make your community stronger, more inclusive, safer or simply prouder.

But hang on, having a good idea is only the start of it. What about funding? How do you go about getting people on board? Then there's the PR, the marketing, all the logistics... where do you start?!

Don't panic! We might be able to help. We've got the resources and skills to support people who are passionate about making a difference.

The Leigh Neighbours Project Board wants to hear your ideas. And if we think your idea has got great potential, then maybe together we can make it happen!

Tell us about your idea by emailing S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk



The Big Lunch 2013

The Big Lunch 2013

No such thing as a free lunch...?

Think again!

The Big Lunch saw community groups across the area invite guests to drop in for a free nibble and a natter. Designed to draw communities closer together, the month-long campaign had plenty on the menu, including global food, music, family fun days and 'bingo and hotpot'. Thanks to LASARS, Leigh Central Residents Association, Leigh Library, Kamosi Youth Project and Wigan Council for supporting the project.



The Big Lunch 2013

Don't be shy! If you fancy getting involved in a community event like this, please contact: S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk