

# Neighbourhoods *matter*

Updating you about the work taking place in the Priority Neighbourhoods  
July 2008 [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)



## New faces joining the CSSO team

THE newly established Communities and Partnerships team at Charnwood Borough Council now includes both the Community Safety Team and the Community Strategy Support Team.

The aim is to ensure we continue to improve our joint working with particular focus on issues faced within the Priority Neighbourhoods.

New members to the Community Strategy Team will be starting this month and in the next edition of Neighbourhood matters we will be introducing them all so you can put names to faces!

In the meantime, if you have any particular issues please contact us using the following details:

● East Loughborough & Mountsorrel Priority Neighbourhoods – Hiron Miah. Call (01509) 632 517 or [hiron.miah@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:hiron.miah@charnwood.gov.uk);

● West Loughborough & South Charnwood Priority Neighbourhoods – Ashley Russell. Call (01509) 632 518 or email [ashley.russell@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.russell@charnwood.gov.uk);

● Community Strategy and Partnership Information including grants – Verity Graham. Call (01509) 632 516 or email [verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk)

# Residents have a say on key issues



## **R**ESIDENTS in Charnwood Borough Council's Priority Neighbourhoods have given their views on the key issues concerning them.

In April 2008, we carried out a survey with a random selection of residents from within our Priority Neighbourhoods covering issues such as healthy eating, access to services, community involvement and Anti-Social Behaviour.

This survey is actually a precursor to a national Place Survey in the Autumn which will be carried out by every Council in England. This will be carried out through a partnership of all the districts and the County Council.

We decided to do this extra survey to test the questionnaire in advance and also to collect valuable information about our priority neighbourhoods.

The survey was carried out by Charnwood Borough Council on behalf of Charnwood Together in recognition that we can only address local issues if we work together and provide multi-agency action and solutions.

The information we have collected will be examined in detail by the Priority neighbourhood Sub-group.

As well as responding to immediate concerns raised by respondents to the survey, the group will develop action plans to address medium and long-

term issues.

Whilst a lot of issues were raised, the key priorities identified by local people included traffic congestion, Transport, Street Cleaning, Parking and Anti-Social Behaviour. Whilst there was some variation between the different priority neighbourhoods these themes were common across all five.

If you would like any further information about this survey or would like to view the detailed results please do not hesitate to contact our CSSO's Hiron Miah or Ashley Russell by calling (01509) 632 517 or 632 518.

Alternatively you can send an e-mail to us at [consultation@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@charnwood.gov.uk).

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**FUN FOR ALL:** Events for youngsters will be held over the summer at the Cobden Multi-Use Games Area.



## Youngsters get active!

CHILDREN in the Cobden and Rendell area will be able to enjoy a wide range of fun activities this summer.

Charnwood Borough Council's Summer Activity programme runs between 21st July and 19th August and has been funded through Sport England.

The programme includes activities for children between 0-4 and 5-11 year olds and costs 50p a day or just £2 for the week.

As well as daily activities which include Mini soccer, Skipping, Boogaloo, mini tennis and general play time sessions there will also be two special events, one at Rushcliffe County Park and the other at Manor Farm.

For more details and a copy of the programme please contact Leisure Services on 01509 634673 or visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/leisureservices](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/leisureservices)

# New CCTV cameras are having a positive impact

**A** NEW CCTV system introduced in one of Charnwood Borough Council's priority neighbourhoods is having a positive impact on the community and helping to make residents feel safer.

The Borough Council invested £56,000 on two cameras in the Hastings Ward, which is in the Loughborough East Priority Neighbourhood, and they are now monitored 24/7.

Their introduction earlier this

year has been welcomed by local residents, while the Police believe it has helped reduce crime in the area.

PC Tam Singh-Bains, the former Neighbourhood Beat Officer for the area, said: "We've been talking to residents since the cameras were installed and they have certainly reassured residents and increased their confidence.

## Loughborough East

"We've been able to use the cameras to trace and locate suspects and they've provided us with real time evidence to support our investigations.

"Overall crime on the Hastings Ward has fallen and we feel sure some of that fall in crime is due to the CCTV cameras."

Cllr David Snartt, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet

member for Community Safety, said: "The cameras do make people feel safer and they certainly offer reassurance to local residents.

"It's still early days but they are an extra weapon in helping crime to be reduced."

To find out more about Charnwood Borough Council's work in the Priority Neighbourhoods, call Hiron Miah on (01509) 632 517 log on to [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk) or email [community.strategy@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:community.strategy@charnwood.gov.uk)

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## Hope 08 walk with church leaders

HOPE 2008 is an initiative of the churches of Britain and Ireland which is helping to demonstrate Christian faith in action and to explain the meaning of that faith in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK.

There are a number of initiatives planned by local churches that will take place throughout the year.

The local church leaders approached the Police and Charnwood Borough Council to give a tour of the Priority Neighbourhoods for them to understand the needs of the



areas and to see if there are things the Hope 08 movement could support.

The leaders were informed about the success of the Youth Zone that takes place from The Hut on Ashby Road and then spoke to a local shop owner who talked about her experiences of operating a business in that area. The group were then shown around the Peel Drive area.

The church leaders very much appreciated the exercise as they got to see parts of the town which suffers from multiple deprivations and are in great need of support.

The Church leaders who were not able to attend have requested another visit of the priority neighbourhoods.

If you wish to know more about Hope 08, please contact Paul Stevens at Elim Church Centre, Ashby Road, Loughborough, LE11 3BA.



**BIG CLEAN UP:** Cllr David Snartt, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Community Safety, and Allison Fadesco, Charnwood's Community Safety Policy Officer, clean up the Warwick Way estate.

## Working together to clean up estate

**A** WEEK of action to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and improve the local environment has taken place on a Loughborough estate.

Officers from Charnwood Borough Council joined forces with the police, fire service, local community and other partners to tackle a number of issues during the Warwick Way Partnership Action Week.

The partnership approach also involved residents living on the Warwick Way estate so they can take pride in the local community.

Charnwood's Community

### Loughborough West

Safety Team, Cleansing and Housing departments plus the Street Wardens all took part in the event.

Litter, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping and other grot spots in the area were all being cleaned up, while crime and fire prevention advice was handed out throughout the week.

Cllr David Snartt, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Community Safety, said: "It's fantastic to see so many

different organisations all pulling together in the same direction to help make a difference to local people.

"Partnership Action Weeks have been a huge success in the past and that's because we have listened and taken on board the concerns of local residents.

"By involving them in events such as this, residents can play a key role in improving their environment and, ultimately, take pride in their local community once again."

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## Working together on Walks

### Mountsorrel & Syston

**L**OCAL residents from Mountsorrel and Syston have taken part in two Ward Walks with representatives from the County Council, the Borough Council, the Parish Council, the Police and other local organisations.

The Ward Walks allow local residents to discuss their ideas and concerns for the area with senior representatives from various agencies, who follow up on the issues identified.

Cllr Richard Shepherd, Leader of Charnwood Borough Council, said: "We are very keen to involve local communities and listen to their needs.

"By listening to people's needs and, where possible, acting upon them, we can really make a difference.

"We are planning a regular pattern of ward walks in neighbourhoods across the Borough. The ones held in Mountsorrel and Syston were extremely successful and all the partners are currently working together to address the issues raised."

Inspector Cathy Yallop, Commander of Charnwood local policing unit said: "Ward walks are a really useful way of finding out what issues are affecting communities and being able to immediately identify the correct agency to tackle those issues whether they are related to crime, litter, graffiti, vandalism, abandoned cars, nuisance neighbours or anything else that affects the quality of people's

lives.

"By working with other agencies, and looking at the issues together, we can ensure action is taken to try and find a solution."

The next Ward Walks will take place on July 14th in the Peel Drive area of Loughborough and November 24th in the Warwick Way area of Loughborough.



**IN PARTNERSHIP:** Representatives from Charnwood Borough Council, the police, Leicestershire County Council, Parish Councils and local residents work together during the Ward Walks that were held in Syston (above) and Mountsorrel (left).

To find out more about Ward Walks, call (01509) 632 516, email [community.strategy@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:community.strategy@charnwood.gov.uk) or write to Charnwood Borough Council, Freepost MID24276, Loughborough LE11 0BR.

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## Support for young people struggling at home

A NEW service aimed at addressing the housing needs of young people in Charnwood has been launched.

Charnwood Borough Council, in conjunction with local Housing Advice Centre The Bridge, on Leicester Road, Loughborough, has put together a Single Access Point.

The aim of the new service will be to

provide and co-ordinate support and give guidance for 16 and 17 year olds who are experiencing problems at home.

The Single Access Point involves The Bridge making a thorough assessment of all 16 and 17-year-olds with potential housing problems and they will be directed initially to this service rather than the Council's Housing Needs Team.

The outcome will be a structured plan to help the young person access appropriate advice and support from a wide range of agencies.

Cllr David Slater, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Housing and Health, said: "The pressures many young people face can be huge. The SAP is there to support these young adults, encourage

them to make a decision which is right for them at this stage of their life and before a problem gets out of hand."

For more information, log on to [www.bridgehousingervices.com](http://www.bridgehousingervices.com) or [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk).

Alternatively, email [assistance@bridgehousingervices.com](mailto:assistance@bridgehousingervices.com) or call (01509) 260 500.

**A BENEFICIAL project which helps steer 'at risk' youngsters away from anti-social behaviour is being expanded across Charnwood – and new volunteers are now needed.**

The Charnwood Mentoring Scheme was set up in parts of Loughborough at the beginning of last year as part of a joint venture between Charnwood 20:20 and the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership.

Six young people were mentored during the 12 month trial - but now the scheme is being expanded across the Borough, more volunteers are required to become mentors.

The Charnwood Mentoring Scheme aims to create a professional friendship between mentors and a disengaged young person and the project has the backing of Charnwood Borough Council and the Local Area Police.

After specialist training, the pairs spend five hours a month in a year-long mentoring relationship – with the ultimate goal of helping them take on a positive community role and enhancing their prospects of education and employment.

Wendy Brown, Charnwood Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, added: "Charnwood Borough Council is delighted to be involved in an



**SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE:** Mentors can help steer 'at risk' youngsters away from anti-social behaviour.

## Appeal for new Mentors

innovative scheme which seeks to bring about positive change in the lives of young people and provide sustainable solutions for local communities.

"The mentoring scheme involves local voluntary

agencies with a strong commitment to community cohesion. It will assist us to deliver alternatives to enforcement action which is, of course, of considerable benefit to the young person."

Andy Cook, Charnwood 20:20 Project Manager, said the scheme was a fantastic display of the community working together.

He added: "The project provides young people with an opportunity to gain help, encouragement and support from local mentors who are committed and enthusiastic towards making a significant difference to the life of another."

"It will be a challenging process for all concerned. However, the rewards will far outweigh the costs as the changes to lives across the Borough will be visibly seen."

Anyone wishing to find out more about the scheme, or volunteer as a mentor, can contact Andy Cook from Charnwood 20:20 on (01509) 234 234 or email [andy.t.cook@gmail.com](mailto:andy.t.cook@gmail.com).