

MANCUNIAN AGREEMENTS

Brooklands

Brooklands Tenants and Residents Association (BTRA) have heard from local parents that there is not enough for children to do in the area. As a result of this lack of activities there is some anti-social behaviour displayed by some young people congregating outside or near shops on Wendover Road and Maple Road and this has worried residents, shopkeepers and public agencies.

The agreement focuses on a small number of youths and involves them in developing activities that would give them alternative entertainment.

Fourways Litter Agreement

A problem with litter around the North Manchester High School for Boys caused residents to focus on school children as the culprits. To resolve this, work started between pupils at the school and the Council's environment officers in the area on creating awareness of the problem.

Firstly members of the school council took part in a walkabout of the area with the Street Environment Manager, pointing out litter hotspots, suggesting new locations for litter bins and providing useful local knowledge. The school also ran a poster competition and the winning posters will be printed and displayed locally.

A local residents' association became involved and work began on an agreement between a wide range of people and organisations that wanted their neighbourhood to look better. Members of the residents' association have agreed to report any litter or refuse problems to the council so that they can be promptly dealt with.

Local businesses have also joined the agreement. Shops and businesses have received information about the Environmental Business Pledge and many have joined up. As an additional incentive they were offered a free litter picker to help them keep their shop fronts clean and litter free. Local community police have agreed to support the agreement by encouraging litter-free zones and to confront youths who truant.

The Street Environment Manager has agreed to monitor the cleanliness of the area and report his findings to the school and residents' group. Enforcement on environmental issues, including littering, will be used when necessary. The council have agreed to produce information cards which will carry details of the agreement plus useful phone numbers and information. These will be distributed around the surrounding area.

A new roundabout near the school, known as the Fourways Roundabout, will feature a design by the schoolchildren, that will demonstrate the commitment of all those involved in the Fourways Litter Agreement.

Crumpsall Agreement

Crumpsall is a great place to live, and there are many improvements taking place in the Parkhill and Ashtree areas of the ward, including physical improvements to properties.

There are two active residents groups in these areas, but there is also a high turn-over of residents living in rented accommodation, and they live closely with residents who have been there a very long time. The Council, local police, the Residents Associations and others expressed the feeling that residents would benefit from working together to support the improvements taking place in their neighbourhood. By bringing neighbours together everyone could share their pride in the areas.

A wide selection of residents were asked what actions they could take, and what actions service providers could take, to build on the improvements in their area. The responses showed that people were most concerned with behaviour, dog fouling, litter, and the poor efforts of some local people to recycle or even to put their rubbish out for collection. The Crumpsall Agreement has been developed into a set of values and commitments to tackle these issues. The agreement is a document in which residents list what they will do for their neighbourhood; the Council commits to what they will do and likewise for community police, the fire service and others. Every resident will receive a pack of useful local information and all will clearly understand the actions they can take to make their neighbourhood one that anyone would want to live in.

Communities Together

Harpurhey in north Manchester is an area that has recently seen increasing numbers of new residents moving in to the neighbourhood. Some of these new residents are refugees or people seeking asylum, while others have migrated to the UK from Europe and wider to come and work or to join family members who are already here.

The neighbourhoods within Harpurhey have a strong community spirit with many active residents, tenants or community groups working hard to bring about improvements in and around their area. Some members of these groups and council officers working in the area have noticed tensions and misunderstandings within the community about the new residents to the area and have been concerned about the potential results of this.

The Communities Together Agreement is bringing together residents groups in Harpurhey with council officers and organisations supporting refugees and new immigrants. The aim is to provide opportunities for new and existing residents to come together around shared interests about what they want for

their neighbourhood. A local residents group is leading the work and has carried out house-to-house surveys and held residents meetings to find out how local people can work together to promote understanding between all residents. The residents group hope that the project will develop some events where everyone can come together and eventually into an agreed set of values that everyone in their neighbourhood can sign up to. They also want to pass on what they have learnt to other neighbourhoods in Harpurhey who might want to carry out the same kind of work.

Pasturefield Road Residents

Following the success of entering North West In Bloom last year a few residents on Pasturefield Road in Wythenshawe decided that they wanted to get to know their neighbours better and also to improve the look of their street. They have been working with each other and with the local Ward Coordination Support Officer on a scheme that would provide them with hanging baskets, bedding plants and bulbs, through an existing CASH grant initiative. Some residents in the area had had baskets in the past, but these had not been well maintained, so they set about creating an agreement whereby they could develop an all-year-round awareness and set of actions that would improve the neighbourhood. The idea is that residents will look after each others' baskets when they are away from home for any reason, and thereby get to know each other better.

The Pasturefield Agreement is still developing and the final name for the agreement will probably be "Bloom in Peel Hall" as there are several roads radiating from a local park who are going to be involved. But work is progressing on developing an agreement to increase neighbourliness by caring for plants when their neighbour is ill or out of the area for any length of time. The aim is to improve the look of Pasturefield Road and the other roads along the proposed Bloom route and to develop respect and awareness for each others' presence and needs. This will mean that people who've lived on the same street for years will now have the opportunity to get to know each others names and care for their area in a joined up way.

Friends of Blackley Forest

Blackley Forest in North Manchester has a very active "Friends Of Blackley Forest" group. The group wants to take a more active ownership of the forest with a dedicated budget and maintenance programme. Initially the Friends of Blackley Forest were at a loss as to where to go to progress their ideas, but with the assistance of Manchester City Council officers, they were put in touch

with the relevant Council departments who were able to help with the funding for their project.

But the group didn't just want to plant trees, they wanted to involve local schools so that children could learn about the environmental benefits of the forest; they wanted to involve local police officers who could help with incidents of anti-social behaviour in the park; they wanted to actively promote the forest, involve more residents and from that emerged the Friends of Blackley Forest Agreement.

The agreement is coming together as a set of pledges and actions that will make the park a more safe and pleasant place; it will be an environmental haven, a place of rest where people can enjoy and learn about the importance of taking care of, and respecting, a communal space. To commemorate the agreement, a sculptor is working with local school children on the design for a sculpture carved from wood that will be put into the park and be a testimony of civic pride.

Responsible Licensing – East Manchester

In response to a problematic hot spot in East Manchester, there is a need to reduce alcohol related crime and nuisance, particularly relating to young people. The local off-license forum, made up of some of the local off-licensees, has been working to reduce incidents associated with their shops. They have instigated 'good practice' arrangements such as insisting on ID for anyone who appears underage; of putting posters in the windows encouraging responsible drinking and of supporting local police by reporting incidents.

The Responsible Licensing Agreement is now attracting more licensees who see the local benefits of joining in. The aim is to broaden the agreement out to involve more local residents, especially the parents of young people who congregate around the off-licenses, even if they are not trying to buy alcohol.

By strengthening businesses' involvement and by encouraging collaborative working, the aim is to improve the neighbourhood and to raise awareness of the need for respect between all members of the community.