

# Great Western Drive Estate News

February 2008

## Great Western Drive residents tell us what they want!

Soha Housing invited every household on Great Western Drive Estate to take part in a community walkabout in September 2007, asking residents to voice their opinions on the issues that affect them. Residents met with representatives from Soha Housing, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), grounds maintenance service 'Countrywide' and local councillors.

Richard Peacock, Soha's Chief Executive, said "Soha were pleased to meet with the residents to discuss any issues. We want to have residents on board and listen to their ideas for improvement for the estate. This means we are more accountable to feed back to them with the changes we have made and plan to make."

Freda Griffiths, Chair person of Great Western Drive Estate Residents' Group, has lived on the estate since it was built in 1973. Freda said "I am delighted that the Chief Executive of Soha was there so we could highlight some of the issues. I do understand that it is not always possible to do things because of money, but changes do need to be made."



### Kids clean up their community!



Soha Housing, Great Western Drive Estate Residents' Group and Sovereign Housing all joined together for a clean up and car wash day. The clean up day took place in 2007. Many residents and youngsters from the estate celebrated the success of the clean up with a barbecue and a game of rounders. Jane Cox, Housing Officer from Soha said "It was really great seeing everyone come together. We cleared loads of rubbish and it was really good to see everyone so enthusiastic about keeping their community clean."

### Great Western Drive Estate Residents' Group

As you may know, Great Western Drive Estate's Residents' Group is there for you to voice your opinions to on the things that affect your community. Soha consults the residents' group on any proposed changes to the estate. Freda Griffiths, who lives on the estate is the current chair and can be contacted through Soha. The residents' group is open to all residents on the estate.



## Soha going the extra mile - or 1000 metres

You may have seen two men wandering around your estate or taking things away in their shiny Soha vans. Darryl and Derek are Soha's mobile caretakers. Once a week Darryl and Derek visit Great Western Drive Estate to pick up litter and report back if there is any damage. Darryl says "Derek and I are usually up at Great Western Drive at least once a week checking that the grounds are clean and we report back to Soha if there is any damage. We put a lot of time and effort into making sure the estate looks nice."

## PCSO for Great Western Drive Estate - Chris Wyatt

My role as a Police Community Support Officer includes patrolling designated areas such as the town centre, schools and parks in Didcot. Whilst on patrol, I look out for criminal damage and use the town's CCTV to monitor any youth or antisocial behaviour. I will radio for assistance if necessary. When on an early shift, I patrol the town centre, looking out for any shop lifters or young people who should be in school, and aren't.

If youths are found out of school, I will contact the school and give them the pupils' names or walk them back to school. I patrol Great Western Drive regularly as this area is one I look after. I take an interest in what is happening on the estates. I walk through the alleyways by the Church and pay a visit to 1a Hagbourne project to monitor for any issues anyone might want help with. When on a late shift I can be walking around the estates until 1am in the morning to monitor for any antisocial behaviour such as under age drinking problems, criminal damage, or abandoned vehicles. You can contact me by calling 0845 8505 505 if you have any concerns or issues you would like to talk about and I will be happy to help you.

### Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is a constant problem on the estate. SODC are working with Soha and their partners to try and solve the problem.

If you see anyone dumping rubbish on your estate, please contact:

SODC on 01491 823416; or

Soha Housing on 01235 515900.

Thank you!

### Anti Social Behaviour down!

Didcot Neighbourhood Sergeant, **Fraser Weller** has commented that there has been a decrease in the level of complaints of anti-social behaviour coming from the estate. "We have improved the patrols for Great Western, which include foot patrol and on cycles. There has been a decline in reported antisocial behaviour on the estate, however there are always numerous other incidents that go un-reported, please encourage your residents to report all incidents so we have a complete picture not just a few pieces. We work closely with Soha Housing to resolve issues on the estate.