

**Welcome to Gedling Borough**



**GEDLING**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

*Healthy, Green; Safe and Clean*

**Outcomes achieved**

**During**

**Quarter 2 2011/12**

## Theme: A place of safe and strong communities

- **Killisick Court development** - Families have started moving into new homes in Jacob's Court on the site of the former Killisick Court in Arnold, after the completion of a £1.7m redevelopment.

The development includes 12 houses and eight apartments, which have been built on the site by local housing association Derwent Living, feature solar thermal panels and other measures to ensure energy efficiency. The Secretary for Arnold and Killisick Residents Association (AKRA) said: "It looks so much better than the previous building. The developers have been mindful of the residents throughout the process and have produced a newsletter to keep residents informed. It looks superb and will be great for families."

- **Work to reduce level of all crime** - Work continues to be targeted in Netherfield and Colwick ward as a 'priority plus ward' within the County. Whilst there are crime reductions across the borough, this ward has shown a slight crime increase. The volume of this crime is around theft (from shops) and making off without payment from petrol forecourts. Morrisons supermarket in Netherfield has been engaged through the Community Safety Partnership to help address this, working with Community Safety Partnership representatives to look at practices within their petrol stations, installing CCTV in Netherfield for the first time and working to increase awareness of this. They are also looking to work with the Community Safety Partnership on car crime campaigns on their premises.
- **Work to reduce anti- social behaviour** - Work has been targeted at hotspots such as Netherfield where an all-partner problem solving group is working through an agreed action plan to look at short and long term solutions. Netherfield Primary School has made itself available as a focal point in the community. They will host a 'marketplace' event during their parents' evenings on 16/17<sup>th</sup> November giving parents opportunity to engage with agencies on the school premises.

The Gedling Local Delivery and Tasking Group are funding a dedicated Antisocial Behaviour Victim Support Officer to work in the borough targeting victims within the borough's antisocial behaviour hot spots. This is a pilot scheme but has had positive results in other local trials.

## Theme: A place where we can take care of our environment

- **A fifth green flag has been won by Arnot Hill Park.** Working closely with the Friends of Arnot Hill Park to manage and maintain the park this is the fifth consecutive year this award has been won, recognising the high standards maintained in the park and the conservation aims.
- **Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunner Status** Gedling Borough Council has been awarded Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunner Status to develop a neighbourhood plan for Newstead village. Neighbourhood planning is a new tier of planning that has been introduced to allow neighbourhoods to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in their neighbourhood. Newstead has long been recognised as suffering from significant levels of deprivation, evidenced by above average levels of anti-social behaviour and unemployment. Frontrunner status brings with it a grant of £20,000 to help bring forward the neighbourhood plan plus support from Communities and Local Government and the Planning Advisory Service.
- **Improved recycling rate and reduced residual household waste** –the amount of household waste that is sent for reuse, recycling and composting has increased from 36.27% in Quarter 2 2010/11 to 38.55% in Quarter 2 in 2011/12 which reduces the amount of waste residents send to landfill. The effect of this is reflected in the reduced amount of residual waste household per household falling from 148kg in Quarter 2 2010/11 to 131.85kg in Quarter 2 2011/12. Gedling Borough Council has also increased membership to the garden waste collection scheme to over 9000 members which again contributes to reducing the amount of general household waste.

## Theme: A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle

- **Holiday programme of arts activities** We ran 4 projects overall with around 100 children taking part in sessions in Arnot Hill Park and around 60 children attending sessions at the Bonington Theatre. Activities taking place in August included a variety of arts and crafts, puppet and mask making, storytelling, making musical instruments and willow weaving. All sessions were extremely well attended with feedback suggesting the price, location and type of activities on offer are greatly valued by families. The evaluation from these sessions will be used to plan future holiday and family arts activities. As part of the activities families worked with an artist to create a willow Heron which has been installed on one of the islands on the lake in Arnot Hill Park.
- **Our Arts and Mental Health work is national good practice** In September our flagship Arts and Mental Health projects 'Arts on Prescription' and 'Express Yourself' were shortlisted as national good practice at the 2011 Association of Public Sector Excellence Awards. Under the category Best Partnership Working Initiative between Public and Voluntary Sectors these projects work on a referral basis whereby partner organisations in primary and secondary health care, youth work professionals, schools and voluntary organisations are able to refer participants onto the relevant programme. 'Arts on Prescription' targets marginalised adults using creative activity to build upon improved confidence, social networks and reduced dependence upon healthcare professionals. Express Yourself encourages self expression amongst 13-17 year olds and raises their self esteem through participation in high quality arts experiences. Gedling Borough Council works closely with a Nottingham based organisation City Arts to deliver these projects.
- **Gedling Show** Over 15,000 people attended the Gedling Show on Sunday September 4. Entertainment included The Long Eaton Militaires Marching Band, Horticultural show and fun fair. Also on the day there was a Classic Cars and Motorbikes show and a dance showcase of local youth dance groups. The Love Food Hate Waste Roadshow with Celebrity Chef Richard Fox also offered money saving tips to local residents by making healthy meals for all the family with leftovers.
- **Gedling Play Day** Over 4500 people attended the Play Day at Arnot Hill Park on 10 August, jointly organised by Gedling Play Forum and Gedling Borough Council. Activities included cricket and athletics taster sessions, crazy golf, BMXing and an ice arena shoot out. The Play Forum provided their ever popular rocket making and firing, imaginative play in the fantasy castle and table top arts and crafts.
- **Papplewick Play Day** In July the Papplewick Play day was bigger and better than ever! Jointly organised and funded by Papplewick Parish Council and Gedling Borough Council it offered a whole range of different activities for all the family to enjoy, including BMX Biking and grass karts, and arts and crafts provided by the Gedling Play Forum. Families were also able test their skills on the Crazy Golf course, have a go on the road safety activity stall and find out all there is to know about den building.

**Theme: A place where people are treated fairly and have an opportunity to get involved**

- **The Contentment Event** was held on 4<sup>th</sup> July and attended by 46 individuals from a wide range of organisations including a variety of faith groups and partner organisations including the Police, Primary Care Trust, the Fire Brigade and Community Voluntary Services. The Deputy Leader of Gedling Borough Council opened the event, and a guest speaker from the University of Nottingham gave an overview of contentment in different faiths. The event had very positive evaluation and feedback from the discussion groups will be used to shape future conferences and used along with feedback from other events such as the Youth Conference to be held in October 2011 to inform future decisions.
- **Phoenix by-election** –In September a Borough by-election was held. By its nature the timetable was short and complicated by the electoral register canvass running at the same time. All properties were written to ensure everyone who wanted to vote was aware of the arrangements in the ward. The team delivered a professional, reliable service with an accurate and transparent result.

## Theme: A place that contributes to a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham

- **Arts and Crafts Fair** – was again held in Arnold in August and in Mapperley during September and again was well attended attracting more visitors to the area.
- **Increased take up of small business rates relief** - The revenues team has worked hard to ensure that the take up of this very beneficial relief scheme is maximised as much as possible, sending letters to those businesses who could benefit from the relief. The campaign had led to an extra £62K being granted in relief - increasing take up from 68.4% to 74.5%.
- **Shop Front Grant** – The Shop Front Grant Scheme was launched in March this year, and is a discretionary grant scheme that aims to enhance the physical appearance of independent retail shops and create a thriving retail experience for residents of and visitors to Gedling Borough. Promoted through flyers sent alongside the annual Business Rates letters, an excellent response was received with over 90 expressions of interest resulting in more than 20 applications from a range of businesses. Funding was via the Gedling Homes' Public Realm Works programme and gives businesses up to 50% of the cost of works, up to a maximum grant of £2,000, towards external improvements. Works can include repairing or replacing shop fronts, essential external repairs (including brickwork, woodwork, guttering, rendering and signage) or decoration

The owner of Silver Marlin Fish and Chips, was pleased to have received a £460 grant to tidy up the front of her shop. She said: "For some time we have been considering carrying out work to the front of the shop because it was looking run down and tatty. The business is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and when we saw the leaflet for the scheme we were really excited and thought it was perfect to help us mark the occasion. It was only a small project but it's made a really big difference".

Home Deli in Arnold has received a £2,000 contribution towards a new shop front. The Managing Director is delighted about the support he has received to transform the front of his new business. He said: "The shop front grant scheme has enabled me to improve the existing frontage of Home, which will increase our external visibility generating more passing trade. I feel we have also helped to uplift the appearance of the street which is now becoming a primary shopping and leisure area in Arnold's town centre. I am grateful for the initiative and feel it will encourage others to invest in the external front façades of their businesses."

- **Get it in Gedling** - Over 400 people have already signed up to the free Get it in Gedling discount card, giving them access to a range of offers at businesses across the borough. More than 130 businesses for all across the borough have registered to the site with more joining quickly, offering a range of discounts.

- **Shop Doctor** In June 2011, the council put on a series of four workshops, which aimed to provide practical support for local shopkeepers by equipping them with basic marketing skills. The sessions, which were run under the successful 'Shop Doctor' brand, offered practical and achievable tips and ideas that could improve the health and vitality of shops.

Over 20 businesses attended at least one of the sessions, with some attending all four and feedback from those that participated was overwhelmingly positive. One business felt that "The Shop Doctor knocked the spots of Mary Queen of Shops!" with another commenting that since the sessions, they have "...seen a big difference. Now a customer isn't just leaving with one item, they're buying six or seven!"

Further collaboration between the Shop Doctor and the council is planned to take place during the year and it is hoped that more businesses can be encouraged to participate.

- **Town Centre Satisfaction** - In August this year, we undertook a survey of shoppers within our main shopping areas. This annual activity allows the council to gather valuable views and ideas directly from the people that regularly use the centres.

As part of the survey people are asked to rate their satisfaction with their visit on that particular day. Out of 610 people that were surveyed across the borough, 98.5% said they were either fairly or very satisfied with their experience. This is an increase from 2010, where the figure was 95.5% and shows that people get a lot of enjoyment from visiting our main shopping areas.

The survey also found that 98.4% of people surveyed felt safe in our town centres during the day, although the figure dropped in the evenings with 23.1% of respondents stating they felt either fairly or very unsafe.

## Theme: Operational vision and strategy: Gedling as a top performing Council

- **The APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) awards** - Gedling Borough Council's Leisure team has been recognised in the **Best Sport, Leisure and Cultural Service** category for its progressive, pioneering, dedicated and ambitious approach to delivering a key service to help enhance people's lives. The team constantly strives to improve what they do on a day to day basis by working closely with the community and its partners, ultimately working towards a brighter future for its residents.

The second category the council has been shortlisted for is **Best Public/Voluntary Working**. The council's innovative partnership with City Arts and other voluntary and statutory organisations has led to a series of successful projects to support mental health of adults and young people across Gedling borough. The partnership has provided two projects; Arts on Prescription and Express Yourself, which together have helped more 260 people improve their wellbeing, confidence, occupational opportunities, increased social networks and inclusion, increased motivation and peer support.

The council has also been shortlisted on the **Best Healthy Living Initiative** category for an exercise referral scheme which has helped over 250 young people to become more active. Young Person's Positive Moves helps 8 to 15 year olds, who have conditions such as Autism, ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and obesity, to become more physically and socially active. They can participate in activities such as dance, swimming, basketball and Get Growing in Gedling (a community allotment based activity).

The fourth category the council has been shortlisted for is the **Best Street Cleansing and Street Scene** Services, following a successful scheme which saw 14 unemployed young people given training and employment in Environmental Services. The team, named Environmental Crusaders, removed graffiti, painted fences and knee rails, cleared litter and cut grass across the borough. At the end of their employment they have left with more confidence, new skills and better knowledge. The project was funded through the Future Jobs Fund and their work has made a significant impact on the borough's appearance.

- **Community Infrastructure Levy Frontrunner Status** We have been awarded Frontrunner status in recognition of our commitment to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy in the Borough. Frontrunner status allows us to benefit from a tailored package of support from the Planning Advisory Service. The Levy offers a new way of collecting money from new development to support future development by funding infrastructure in the Borough, for example road schemes, park improvements or a new health



centre. The Levy will be straightforward, based on the size and type of the new development.

- **High quality planning service** - The new development of Affordable Housing on the former site of Killisick Court is now being occupied and has been an excellent example of how the council's Development Management process provides an end to end service which is particularly valued by stakeholders involved in more complex proposals. The Architects for the scheme have expressed a hope to work with the Case Officer and Gedling Borough Council again, describing their experience as being 'a delightful process in terms of Planning and Building Control'.

The pre-application advice offered at the start of the process provides more certainty for the prospective developer before the application is submitted and establishes what lesser, but still important, matters could be dealt with by condition after the decision was made, but before work commences on site. Prompt compliance with the conditions then reduces the need for monitoring and enforcement on the site by the Council, and the need for any remedial works, which would incur costs and delay for the developer. This improves the process for the applicant and reduces the burden on the Council to fulfill its planning duty.