

# Streets cleaner

Many people comment to me on what matters to them and some of the issues which residents have raised to me are street cleaning, dog fouling and fly tipping.

We have a regular beat sweeper in Johnstown, Tim, who is seen daily keeping our streets clean and tidy and many people have commented on what a good job he does.

More litter bins have been installed and this has greatly helped to reduce litter in the village. Between January and April this year the council's public Protection Department have received 10 complaints relating to dog fouling three of these have resulted in fixed penalties of £75 notices being issued.

In addition officers have returned 3 Strays to their owners and 2 dogs have been taken to kennels.



Warm Wales visited Johnstown with the primary aim to reduce the number of people in fuel poverty in the area by applying energy efficiency measures and Warm Wales is still available to all residents.

Insulation is free to householders who are receiving qualifying benefit (housing benefit, income support, DLA, attendance allowance, pension credit etc) local authority tenants or residents spending more than 10% of their income on fuel.

All householders in the county borough can also take up the offer of cavity wall insulation for £149 per house or loft insulation for £149 irrespective of house type i.e. semi detached or detached.

For further information please contact the Warm Wales on 0845 026 1135.

## Housing improved

Work will be finished soon to replace the fascia boards and guttering in Cwm Glas I requested last year.

This work is long overdue and will bring them up to a maintainable standard.

I am also pleased that the council supported an improvement scheme I put forward to the local estate office which has greatly improved door security for residents in Cwm Glas.

A Painting programme has also started on the Moreton estate to houses and bungalows and again this is long overdue.

Four houses in Heol Kenyon have also been completed in a pilot project which includes replacing the existing concrete frame and the replacement of insulated render (brick effect).



**Congratulations to Johnstown Youth Football Club Senior side who won promotion for the second year running to the Welsh National League division one.**

# Johnstown News

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## PROTECT OUR PLAYING FIELDS

The Council's Environment Department investigated attaching "Owain Glyndwr Status" to a number of recreational open spaces and playing fields in the County Borough.

I recommended the public open space in Heol Kenyon which was subsequently agreed by the council's executive board and the National Playing Fields Association. "Owain Glyndwr Fields" was established across Wales and a plaque was unveiled on March 22nd at Heol Kenyon.

The dedication of this field will commemorate the life of Wales hero "Owain Glyndwr" and the initiative is designed in protecting recreational and public open space in his name. The Owain Glyndwr scheme assures communities of the protection of the playing fields that will remain for ever more, allowing future generations to continue to use and



The first Owain Glyndwr open space launched in Johnstown

enjoy them. The National Play Fields Association has arranged full legal protection for the field at Heol Kenyon, which means it can never be built on.

With a 70% deficit of Public Open Spaces in the County Borough, I am delighted Heol Kenyon playing field is now protected in perpetuity. I fully support preserving public open spaces throughout the county for future generations to enjoy.

Regards

*David Bithell*

**Dave Bithell - working for the people of Johnstown**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD RECYCLING CENTRE OPENS

I am pleased that Johnstown residents can now recycle more following the opening of a new neighbourhood recycling facility at Somerfield in Johnstown.

Following requests from residents for more facilities to assist the recycle with Michael scheme this will make recycling more convenient and I thank Somerfield for helping to improve the environment and local recycling rates.

Based in the car park of the Somerfield store there are facilities to collect paper, glass, cans, plastic bottles and cardboard.

This is the 27th site to be opened in Wrexham and comes when recent figures show Wrexham's recycling rates are on target to improve again this year and recycling rates have risen from 8% to nearly 30% in the last two years.

You can also create your own compost from your kitchen and garden waste and a 330 litre compost bin is available from Wrexham council for £18.23. Call 01978 292044 or e-mail [refuse@wrexham.gov](mailto:refuse@wrexham.gov).



## Promoting local estate

*I am working with the council's economic development department and the North Wales Police to promote the Vauxhall Industrial Estate.*

*This industrial estate is of strategic importance to the local economy where many local people work. I am pleased that a local business forum has been set up and an inaugural meeting takes place in June.*

*I am also pleased that GHA Coaches are relocating their business to the estate and 70 jobs will be relocated.*

*I am working with the highways department to improve signage to the estate and pleased that carriageway re-surfacing work has recently been carried out.*

## Safety first on the roads

**I have been working to secure funding to extend the existing 30 MPH speed limit beyond the railway bridge in Bangor Road.**

**This was supported by the North Wales Police and the Community Council and two new street lights were erected as part of the scheme.**

**This has assisted in creating a suitable buffer zone to the new 20mph zone, which has now been completed on the Moreton Estate.**

**Traffic calming measures have been introduced in Heol Orsaf and Heol Hafod including new pedestrian access.**

**I hope this will now result in slower speeds following many concerns from residents. The North Wales Police are continuing to monitor speeds in the area.**



## Have your say about the Stiwt

The Stiwt Theatre wants feedback on the services they provide to Johnstown residents.

The theatre serves the whole of North East Wales, particularly Wrexham residents and

wants to know what you think of the events and programmes offered.

Contact 844053 or fax 01978 846191 or email [theatr@stiwt.co.uk](mailto:theatr@stiwt.co.uk) with your comments.

## RAIL SAFETY HIGHLIGHTED

Following the recent tragic accident in Johnstown, I have been working with the British Transport Police supporting the education drive on rail safety. All schools are being visited throughout the county together with interactive education at all Wrexham council's youth clubs.

The Info shop in Wrexham is displaying leaflets and posters and the youth offending service are to explore possibility of undertaking projects. Wrexham Football Club is to give out information to children and young people attending a Wrexham match and at the club's next open day.

Network Rail recently provided information in Queens Square Wrexham for children and young people.

To report Railway crime or trespass call the National Railway Crime Line on 0800 40 50 40.

## LOCAL COMPANY SUPPORTS SCHOOL

A local delivery parcel service in Wrexham, McDonald Transport Services based in Whitegate Industrial Estate has donated 100 yellow High Visibility vests to the school to help raise the profile of Road Safety for children at Johnstown Infant School. My thanks to Mr McDonald and his company for this kind donation. For more information go to [www.localdeliveryonline.com](http://www.localdeliveryonline.com).

## Safe routes to school

Over the past sixteen months I have been working with Johnstown Infants' School on the safe routes to school initiative to improve road safety in and around the area of the school.

I am pleased that Johnstown Infant School was awarded funding of £35,000 under the Safe Routes to Schools grant by the Welsh Assembly Government following a recommendation to the council's executive board in November 2006.

The school has actively been working with Wrexham council and project work was undertaken by Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire. The £35,000 will be used in a variety of different ways to include a traffic calmed 20mph School Zone being introduced in Maes Isaf.

Other measures will include improved access to the school gate in Melyd Avenue with a possible visible "Gateway to the school" Consultation will be carried out with residents when further details on the scheme are available.

## WEBSITE LAUNCHED

*In January I launched my own website to provide more information on what I am doing and what's happening in Johnstown.*

*More and more people are now using the internet and I hope this provides another way to let you know what's happening.*

*The website also includes useful telephone numbers and links to other sites. I wish to thank a web designer who lives in Johnstown in setting up the site - [www.davidbithell.co.uk](http://www.davidbithell.co.uk)*