

PRESS RELEASE

7th June 2004

Garden Party!



Photo opportunity in the garden at Hadfield Crescent, Ashton-under-Lyne with David Heyes MP at 12 noon Saturday 12th June

Determined tenants of one New Charter estate have reason to celebrate, as they unveil their very own community garden.

The HPL (Hadfield, Palace and Leech) Tenants and Residents Association identified a plot of land with potential, even though it was completely surrounded by their homes. They set about transforming the area to convert it to a garden for all residents, and a safe place for children to play.

Proud tenants invited Ashton-under-Lyne MP David Heyes to perform the opening ceremony. The open day on Saturday 12th June features lots of fun and games for kids, including a bouncy castle, refreshments and an England football souvenir raffle.



business for neighbourhoods

Speaking at the opening, Christine Beresford, Chairperson of HPL, was delighted. “We’ve come a long way in a short time with this idea. I can remember us saying, wouldn’t it be great if we could get that land. Now, it’s a real bonus especially for families with children – and we’ve done it ourselves. We’d still like to get more volunteers to help with the regular maintenance, so I hope we’ll recruit a few new faces today”.

Director of Tenancy Services at New Charter, Tony Powell said, ‘Giving residents the opportunity, belief and power to improve their neighbourhoods is part of New Charter’s aim to transform estates. With support from us, a strong tenants group has achieved wonders by their own hard work. They’ve turned the garden into a real community asset”.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage nearly 16,400 properties transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £50million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL’s), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
2. Christine Beresford, 34 Hadfield Crescent, Ashton can be contacted on 07855 992154.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a major new campaign, through which housing associations and companies across England are demonstrating the positive difference they make to people’s homes, communities and quality of life. New Charter is one of over 370 housing companies and associations supporting the initiative. We’ve made public commitments to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence as part of our response to the **iN business for neighbourhoods** campaign. Our commitment to neighbourhoods includes working with local people and responding to local needs. Our commitment to customers is to involve them at all levels within the business.

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