

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

15th October 2008

Fab five floral awards from Liverpool!



Pictures available

Five groups of New Charter tenants scooped awards for their efforts in the North West in Bloom 2008 competition.

The award ceremonies were held in Liverpool's largest venue, the Arena and Convention Centre on the waterfront. The competition started in the '60's and attracts entries from Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire. A record number of groups from housing associations entered this year. More than 340 entries were judged.

Two entries were adjudged outstanding. Residents of Central estate off King Street in Dukinfield are no strangers to success in this competition, but this year exceeded their previous accolades. And first time entrants at Dixon Road and Forrest Road, Denton also made it a day of celebration with their community garden.

Three areas were awarded Merit status. In Stalybridge, Brushes Estate Management Board followed up its recent success of a Green Pennant from the Civic Trust with the certificate. And Crowswood at the top of the valley found reward at its first time of entering.

Completing the winners was the Micklehurst Residents Association in Mossley, one of the first areas where tenants set up their own tool bank hire.

Representatives of all five were in Liverpool to receive the awards from BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips. The fivefold success was reward for the work each group of residents put in. Estate clean up days, planting days and fund raising throughout the year showed tenants' commitment to brightening up their neighbourhoods.



iN business for neighbourhoods

And there was an additional success for Central residents. Their work over four years to transform the neighbourhood with flower power attracted the inaugural Community Housing Award.

All the groups will interrupt their preparations for next year to get together and celebrate at a special event at New Charter's headquarters at the end of this month.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £59million a year and a workforce of almost 800, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. The North West Neighbourhood Awards are part of the Government's 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' campaign and they reward communities who are playing a part in urban regeneration. The competition rewards neighbourhoods, communities, residents and businesses who have improved the local environment by investing their time and effort to create beautiful gardens and floral displays.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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