

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Winners make the difference



Pictures available

The cream of the community was celebrated at New Charter's annual residents' awards.

Held at the Village Hotel on Ashton Moss, the evening celebrated the neighbours we'd all like to live next door. Two categories of award showcased the community spirit which marks many of New Charter's neighbourhoods. Each winner was nominated by New Charter's staff.

The Making a Difference awards went to individuals and groups who have gone out of their way to enrich the lives of those around them. Some of the winners are:

Len Holt of Mossley – Good Neighbour Award. Len is the voice of his neighbourhood and the local Home Watch coordinator. He genuinely enjoys helping others and is a great neighbour, helping others with courtesy – pulling wheelie bins out, changing light bulbs and even sorting bill payments.

Elaine Rawlings of Stalybridge – Tenant Participation Award. For 18 years, she has been an active member of Brushes Residents Association and more recently the Estate Management Board. Elaine is well-respected and a leading light in organising social events for neighbours.

Walker Lane Residents Association – Together We Can Award. This group has had a magnificent 2008, holding fundraising events and organising social events. They have planned a community garden, work on which will start early in the New Year.

Sam Morehouse of Stalybridge – Youth Champion. Sam is 16 and an asset to his community. He's been active in Crowswood's In Bloom project, and aims to setup his own gardening business. And he's justifiably proud of his award – he plans to tell everyone about it!



iN business for neighbourhoods

The Taking a Stand awards recognised the courage and belief of those neighbours whose peace and quiet was threatened by the actions of an unruly minority. Some of the stories we can recount include:

Jennifer Brown of Ashton – reporting noise nuisance resulted in a friend of the perpetrator attacking her home...with a crossbow. Undeterred, Jennifer's bravery meant her evidence helped the police to jail the attacker, and New Charter to get a Court order to stop the noise.

Suzanne Hadfield of Droylsden - her family suffered repeated noise nuisance in the early hours. New Charter got an undertaking from the perpetrators to stop, but the noise continued. Suzanne's evidence was needed from the witness box for the Courts to fine the perpetrator, and return peace to the neighbourhood.

All the winners received commemorative engraved glass awards to recognise their efforts. New Charter's Group Chief Executive Ian Munro was delighted to present the winners with their awards. He said: "Acknowledging these great people makes me immensely proud of the job we do. Yes, the news will often focus on the minority who don't respect their homes and communities, but here we have just some of the outstanding residents who make the real difference."

The evening included a dinner dance to reinforce the social side of everyone's contribution to making great neighbourhoods.

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 840, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes.
2. A fuller list of winners is available on application.
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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