



PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Police chief finds hidden gem in Hyde

Pictures available

Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable Peter Fahy has opened a new public garden in Booth Street in Hyde.

The residents' association vision has transformed a piece of neglected land in to an area that will benefit the whole of the community. The ground has been cultivated to include a sensory garden, vegetable patch and a grassed area with park benches and picnic tables for disabled residents.

Pupils from Leigh Primary School on Walker Lane are also involved in the project and will now be tending to the garden.

Chair of the local residents' association Don Dargavel said: "The garden will hopefully provide somewhere for the community to come together and become something of a focal point.

"When I think back to how the area had become neglected and overgrown with rubbish dumped on it and surrounded by damaged fencing, the transformation has been tremendous.

"Hopefully with the school children helping tend the garden, they will learn about their environment and look after their surroundings when they get older."

Chief Constable Peter Fahy said: "It is a pleasure to be asked to open the garden that will benefit so many members of the community.



“The residents’ association has worked hard to improve this area for local people and it is by working together that Tameside can become a safer and more pleasant place to live and work.”

Tameside Chief Superintendent Zoë Hamilton, Councillors Joe Kitchen and Peter Robinson and New Charter Group Chief Executive Ian Munro also attended the event.

Ian Munro said: “It’s a transformation, but what’s great to see is the residents’ commitment to looking after this garden. Simply spending money to improve an area does not guarantee success. Here, Walker Estate Residents’ Association will ensure that this is an asset which everyone locally can use and be proud about.”

New Charter funded the work to the garden, and Tameside council donated flowering plants as part of its Britain in Bloom efforts.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 840, New Charter is one of the region’s largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named in the Sunday Times best 100 companies to work for in 2009.
2. The work was undertaken by local firm Cheshire Services of Dukinfield and the St Peter’s Partnerships. Total scheme cost was £25,000 + VAT.
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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