Tameside Metropolitan Borough

"An excellent council"

Tameside in Bloom Tel: 0161 342 2220 email: tamesideinbloom@tameside.gov.uk

Beacon Council 2000-2001 Preventing Crime and Disorder

Beacon Council 2001-2002 Maintaining a Quality Environment

Beacon Council 2001-2002 Accessible Services

Beacon Council 2002-2003 Community Legal Services

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Getting Closer to Communities

Positive About Disabled People

Investor in People

Charter Mark Awarded for excellence

Design & Print Services 61166

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Making Tameside a cleaner, greener place

Portfolio

Presented to Councillor David Sweeton

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Front Cover Photographs

Stamford Park

Hyde
Hyde Park

Ashton
Town Centre

Mossley
Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Denton
Jubilee Square

Audenshaw
Ryecroft Hall

Dukinfield
Central Estate

Stalybridge
Armentieres Square

Longdendale and Hattersley
Broadbottom Road

Droylsden
Williamson Lane

With thanks to:

Willow Wood Hospice
Iris Gardening Club
Holden Clough School
Mottram Road Allotments
Sainsbury's
John Smith Surfacing
PJ Spencer Ltd
TN Robinson Ltd
B & Q
Woodend Garden Centre
MVS
New Charter Housing Trust Ltd
Ladybrook Nursery
Tameside Allotments Federation
The Reporter Group
Jim Buckley and the Community Service Team
Ashton-under-Lyne Bus Station
Ashton-under-Lyne Railway Station
Cheshire Landscapes
Mr Hewitt, staff & pupils at Westhill School
Accent North West
Ashton Pioneer Homes
Irwell Valley Housing
Manchester and District Housing Association
Peak Valley Housing Association
West Pennine Housing Association
Daisy Nook Garden Centre
ASK Developments
Watkin Jones
Ashton Park Garden Centre
Greenscape at St.Peter's
All Garden Competition Entrants
Tameside's 70 Eco Schools

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Further mini question time events have since been held in local libraries and given to meetings of the Women's Institute.

Dukinfield Women's Institute meeting May 2007

A further event next year is already being planned.

Garden Competitions

Residents and local businesses continue to enter Garden Competitions in their area. This year the eight District Assembly competitions are joining with competitions from seven of the borough's registered social landlords to create a "Champion of Champions" competition, in our opinion unrivalled by any other. The competition has gained incredible media support and really shows the work of local residents.

Tameside in Bloom DVD

Each year we produce a DVD to showcase the year-round effort that makes up Tameside in Bloom. The film is shown in Customer Service Centres and has proved so popular that copies are now publicly available to buy. The DVD clearly sets out the main elements of the Britain in Bloom competition whilst also showing the beautiful floral features that adorn the borough and receive such positive praise from the public.

Tameside in Bloom 2007 Garden Competition leaflets

Tameside in Bloom publicity material

Welcome to Tameside

AUDENSHAW

ASHTON

DENTON

DROYLSDEN

DUKINFIELD

HYDE

STALYBRIDGE

MOSSLEY

LONGDENDALE AND HATTERSLEY

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Tameside in Bloom 2007

Councillor David Sweeton

Project Head,
Tameside in Bloom

Welcome to Tameside!

Introduction

Welcome to our entry for the North West Regional Britain in Bloom competition 2007. This is our fifth successive year of entry into the regional competition and the whole community of Tameside is going all out to win for the third year running.

In 2006 we were immensely proud to represent the North West Region in the National Britain in Bloom Finals held in Perth, Scotland. As a first-time national competition entrant we were delighted to receive a Silver Gilt Award along with some fantastic comments from the judges who visited our community and assessed our entry. This year we have worked even harder to improve our entry and in particular we have listened to the positive and helpful comments from both the regional and national judges.

As ever, our entry is a true team effort that involves all sections of our community and reflects the passion that Tameside people have for the competition and what it can bring in terms of community benefits. Schools, voluntary groups, businesses and local residents have all been involved in our campaign and their efforts have made the borough a cleaner, greener and more attractive place to live, work and visit. Through this portfolio, our DVD and the judging tour we want to show you some of the many highlights of the work that has been done over the past year and want to give you the chance to meet as many people as possible who will tell you how they have contributed to the Tameside in Bloom programme.

We firmly believe in the principles of the Britain in Bloom campaign and know that it benefits the community in ways that go far beyond providing attractive floral displays and public spaces. Since last year's campaign we have done lots more work to improve our parks and open spaces and continue to do this through the Green Flag Award scheme. I am delighted to say that our hard work over the last 12 months has now been rewarded by us doubling the number of Green Flag sites from four to eight, an incredible result and a 100% success rate. We have also worked with community groups to help them submit an increased number of Green Pennant applications for spaces that they manage and maintain. Once again, that hard work has paid off and all four applications submitted have been successful.

We are also in the early stages of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve Stamford Park, the borough's main park. This exciting project has already received massive public support and we are working towards a conservation master plan which will be finalised by September. The council has already underlined its support for this project by allocating £1million from its capital programme.

The council regularly asks residents how we are doing and in this last year our survey work has shown overwhelmingly positive support for the Tameside in Bloom programme. Residents also tell us that satisfaction with their area as a place to live continues to improve well above the levels to be found in many of our neighbouring areas.

On behalf of the whole community of Tameside can I welcome you to the borough and wish you an informative and enjoyable visit.

Tameside in Bloom Webpages

This year we have totally renewed the Tameside in Bloom webpages to provide more and better information about our work and the national RHS competition. The pages also link to other useful sites e.g. Civic Trust Green Flag site and the Heritage Lottery Fund site.

We have recently started filming a series of gardening tips on the internet which will give people practical advice on everyday gardening activities such as planting, pruning and lawn maintenance.

Tameside in Bloom webpages 2007

These short films will be filmed in public parks and then placed on the internet for people to view at their leisure. The filming events will also provide an opportunity for residents to attend and see and hear first hand advice from gardening staff.

Gardeners' Question Time

The ever popular Radio 4 show started in Ashton-under-Lyne 60 years ago. To celebrate this event the council recently sponsored a Question Time event at the Broadoak Hotel, the venue for the first ever programme.

The event was attended by Doris Sowerbutts, widow of original presenter Bill Sowerbutts, and proved to be incredibly popular. Local gardening experts from allotment societies, gardening associations and local garden centres joined forces to field varied and challenging questions. The whole event was filmed and copies of the DVD are now publicly available via the council's website.

Gardeners' Question Time event, Broadoak Hotel, Ashton, March 2007

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Gardening Roadshows

Every month during the summer our popular Gardening Roadshow is on the road visiting local markets to give people handy tips and hints on any gardening queries. The roadshows receive lots of visitors and gardening staff are on hand to answer questions and provide information about garden competitions and other events.

Publicity Materials

A range of material is now being produced to both celebrate and promote the Tameside in Bloom programme.

We have now commissioned pens, car stickers and umbrellas, all with the same colour theme, that are being distributed widely and spreading our message.

Positive media coverage is also invaluable to us and through press releases, District Assembly meetings and specific initiatives we have gained a massive amount of awareness which is reflected in our Citizens' Panel and Residents Opinion Surveys.

The current Champion of Champions Gardening Competition for example, has gained incredible support from a local newspaper, which is running a half page slot that features one of each of the partner organisations for 15 consecutive weeks.

Gardening Roadshow Ashton Market Ground, May 2007

Hyde Park, August 2006

Denton Cemetery, April 2007

Mossley Road Rest Gardens, Ashton, June 2007

Armentieres Square, Stalybridge, August 2006

Itinerary

Ashton Town Hall
Civic Welcome and DVD Presentation

▼

Market Square, Ashton
In Bloom Roadshow
Recycling Roadshow

▼

Crescent Close, Dukinfield
Residents' Front Gardens

▼

Central Estate, Dukinfield
Central Residents' Association

▼

Willow Wood Hospice, Stalybridge
Staff and Volunteers

▼

Mottram Road Allotments, Stalybridge
Allotment Society Members

▼

Armentieres Square, Stalybridge
Town Manager & District Assembly Staff

▼

Stamford Park, Stalybridge
Staff and Modern Apprentices

▼

Wilshaw House, Ashton
Iris Gardening Group

▼

Holden Clough Primary School, Ashton
Head Teacher and Pupils

▼

Park Bridge Heritage Centre, Ashton
Countryside Wardens
Meet with Partner Organisations

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Floral Displays

Striving for Excellence

Denton Cemetery, April 2007

Floral displays right across Tameside provide a fantastic 'feel good' factor for residents and visitors alike and we have a year round programme of spring and summer bedding displays that regularly receive compliments.

The positive value of Tameside in Bloom is also reflected in key judgements of the council via regimes such as the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA). In the most recent CPA assessment the council was recognised as the best in the North West and our Tameside in Bloom work was specifically mentioned as contributing to our outstanding success.

Hyde Park, August 2006

Council Leader Cllr Roy Oldham, Chief Executive Janet Callender and staff, March 2007

In recent weeks the council has also been judged 'Best Achieving Council of the Year' at the prestigious Municipal Journal Awards. Once again, the work we do on Tameside in Bloom was seen as a key factor because of the way it enhances the look of the borough and improves the lives of local people.

Floral Display at the Old Ball public house, Ashton, April 2007

Raising Horticultural Standards

The standards and design of our displays are continually reviewed and we are eager to learn from best practice, tailoring it to our own circumstances. Our Horticultural Continual Improvement Group meets

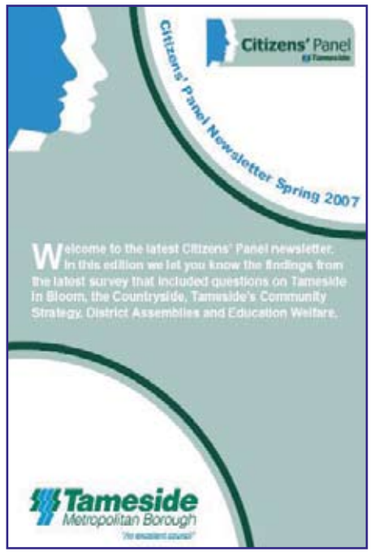
Public Awareness

Tameside Citizens' Panel

Raising awareness of the Tameside in Bloom programme is a constant process of informing, educating and involving the local community. Tameside residents are now aware that the success of the work not only improves the look and feel of the borough but also the way it involves the whole community on so many different fronts.

We regularly ask people what they think of our work and our most recent Citizens' Panel has shown some fantastic results:

- 93% of residents have noticed hanging baskets and floral displays
- 97% of residents feel that floral displays improve the appearance of the borough
- 63% of residents feel Tameside in Bloom has made them more positive about the area in which they live



Citizens' Panel, Spring 2007

- 90% agree with the use of offenders to do reparation work to support Tameside in Bloom

Business Support

For the third year running Sainbury's supermarket in Ashton is supporting Tameside in Bloom with a loaf baked especially for the project.

Store Manager Bob Pepper, Bakery Manager, Simon Leavy and Cllr David Sweeton, Sainsbury's Ashton, July 2007

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Over the past year over 1,000 enforcement actions have been carried out by the unit including nine successful prosecutions. Prosecutions receive good media coverage and are also reported to local District Assembly meetings.

The unit works closely with other council services to ensure incidents are promptly identified, visited and cleaned up whilst at the same time gathering evidence for any possible legal action.

Working with Partners

In the last year a partnership has been established with partner agencies including public utility companies and transport undertakings. The Street Scene working group now meets every two months to share best practice and tackle joint problems. Recently the group has been looking at issues regarding off-road motorbikes and responding to the recent smoking ban.

The work of the group is fed into the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel who meet quarterly to review progress on enforcement across all service areas.

Littering

As well as providing a comprehensive range of street litter bins, the council also targets litter droppers by a team approach. A number of council staff regularly identify litter droppers and in the last year over 100 fixed penalty notices have been issued as a result of our work.

Littering on Sackville Street, Ashton

regularly to review planting schemes and designs and this year we are further developing our innovation in terms of plant species, colour themes and the use of planting features that bring out the beauty of our designs. Whilst we are proud of our results we continually learn by looking at best practice from others. In this last year we have really benefited from our national Britain in Bloom experience and have visited a number of other local authorities to see how our standards can be raised even higher. The group has members from all our workgroups, including the nursery, and work together to ensure

Denton Cemetery, April 2007

that plants are delivered to site and planted at the optimum time with the minimum of delay.

Hyde Park, August 2006

Members of the group have also attended the RHS workshop at Tatton to get new ideas and inspiration for bedding and floral displays.

Stamford Park, Stalybridge, August 2006

Staff also visit open days such as those provided by Ball Colegrave to get first hand experience of how new designs and colour themes can be employed back in Tameside.

This year we have also been invited to provide a display at Southport Flower Show. Our proposed flower bed will not only show off the excellence in horticulture we are now achieving, it will also celebrate the history and heritage of Tameside.

Encouraging our Staff

For the second year running our in-house flowerbed competition provides a real focus for the improvement of floral displays and introduces friendly 'rivalry' between our various area teams. Last year's winners were the gardeners at Stamford Park and they proudly received their award from the Civic Mayor of Tameside at a celebration lunch in October last year. The executive leader also attended the lunch and addressed the whole workforce on the benefits of the Tameside in Bloom programme.

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Civic Mayor Cllr Margaret Sidebottom, Cllr David Sweeton and staff from Stamford Park, October 2006

Denton Nursery

Our floral displays and decorations are produced by the in-house nursery at Denton and each year they produce more and better quality plants than the year before.

This year approximately 500,000 plants were produced along with 2000 hanging baskets and 600 troughs and planters.

Denton Nursery, April 2007

The nursery also planted out 27 Garsey flower towers which were located at key gateways and public areas throughout the borough and once again received real public support. As in previous years the floral displays,

Flower tower being planted, May 2007

including the flower towers, are not only loved by the public they also received little by way of vandalism or abuse - a true sign of the value that the whole community puts on the work we do.

The council has just approved a comprehensive re-development package for the nursery operation which will see the replacement of the vast majority of the current growing

Flower tower in place, Ashton, August 2006

and we are already planning for new equipment due in 2008. Our work is not only looking at the unique and varied townscape that is Tameside it is also involving staff at all levels. This process will ensure that only the best and most appropriate equipment is selected.

Education and Enforcement

A balance of education and enforcement continues to be the strategy adopted to maintain high standards of environmental quality. This year we have focussed work on the issue of chewing gum removal and are currently working through our town centres removing chewing gum with a purpose built machine. At the same time promotional material has been distributed to advise on responsible disposal. Chewing gum pouches have

Chewing Gum Removal, July 2007

also been distributed via schools, community groups and directly to the public. Work has also been done to prepare for the smoking ban which came into force on 1 July 2007. Our approach has been a balanced, non-judgemental one which seeks to encourage smokers to dispose of material safely and responsibly. Our approach is not to 'target' smokers or promote an anti-smoking message. A number of promotional events have been held and literature and portable ashtrays distributed free of charge.

As the full effect of the smoking ban is understood we shall be closely monitoring the quality of the local environment and working in any hot-spot areas to deal with any issues that arise.

Continuing to Tackle Fly-Tipping

The council's dedicated fly-tipping enforcement unit continues to clamp down on people who dump material rather than disposing of their waste by legitimate means. The team provides a rapid response to incidents that are reported and works with partner agencies such as the police and trading standards officers.

In recent months a number of joint stop and search operations have been carried out to ensure that waste carriers are operating within the law and possess the correct legal documents.

Fly-tipping at Brushes Road, Stalybridge

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Local Environmental Quality

Clean Streets

Basic public services are the foundation stone of how people feel about their local area and quality of life. Over the last year Tameside's streets have got even cleaner and we know this from our own observation and also from what residents have told us.

Our Best Value Performance Indicator (BV199a) has now improved to be amongst the best in the country – down from 23% to just 7%. The Best Value User Satisfaction Survey score (BV89) has also leapt an incredible 11% to 61% - one of the best scores locally.

Through the use of Public Service Agreement money we have also made massive strides in improving cleanliness in areas of deprivation. In those areas we have seen improvements of over 30% in lower density housing areas.

These improvements have been reflected in our Residents' Opinion and Citizen's Panel Surveys. Both these show that while local environmental quality remains a top priority our performance on the ground is so good that the level of concern shown by residents is falling.

Better Equipment, Better Methods

Recent improvements in cleanliness have been achieved by good planning and excellent service delivery. This year sees the end of our current contract for street cleansing vehicles

Tameside Clean Sweep Team, July 2007

Denton Nursery, May 2007

houses with new state-of-the-art facilities. This will not only enable us to produce more plants but also ones of an even better quality. Mindful of the environmental impact of our work, we are also incorporating a number of sustainability measures into the project including rainwater harvesting and the use of bio-mass fuelled boilers that will be fed by waste generated from the council's own arboricultural and countryside units. This year the nursery has also successfully linked in with a number of local schools to pass on recycled plants for schools to re-use and learn more about horticultural activities. Staff have worked with schools to advise them on planting arrangements and we intend to work with more schools year on year.

Assisting in Community Regeneration

Last year, as part of our national judging route, we showcased work done at Central Estate, Dukinfield. This deck-access housing development has been transformed by the partnership struck up by the Tameside in Bloom Team, New Charter Housing Trust and local residents.

The project enabled residents to improve the look of the estate by the installation of 232 floral troughs that

Central Estate, Dukinfield, July 2006

they had assisted in making. Perhaps more importantly, the project has brought residents together in a true sense of community so much so that residents are now singing the praises of the project.

Bernise Dunn one of the estate residents said: **"At one time no one knew each other only to say good morning, but now we really get together and have become great friends and it is all because of In Bloom."**

Central Estate, Dukinfield, July 2006

This year we have been working with an estate in Droylsden on a similar project and we are confident of the same result.

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Residential Front Gardens

Every year we encourage more and more local residents to take pride in their local environment and showcase their front gardens. Our eight District Assembly garden competitions attract increasing numbers of entrants and competition is tough. This year we have devised an even better competition that links in with the seven registered social landlords across Tameside.

The various garden competitions will run as normal with the winners being nominated for a prestigious 'Champion of Champions' garden competition which will culminate in a major presentation evening in October.

We have already attracted a number of major local sponsors for the competition and gained a regular slot in a local newspaper to publicise this unique event.

Residential front garden, Hattersley, July 2006

Residential front garden, Mottram, July 2006

Residential front garden, Ashton, July 2006

unit has become the first in-house team to use a chemical free plate making machine. We are sharing this best practice with others including, local businesses, other councils and a local university. We are also increasing the use of recycled paper, including the printing of this portfolio.

We are successfully using recycled road aggregates for highway schemes thereby saving precious natural resources.

Our Building Schools for the Future project contains a host of energy and emission saving initiatives.

Recycled plastic kerb, July 2007

We have recently trialled a new kerb made from recycled plastic. The "Envirokerb" is 70% lighter than it's concrete equivalent, weighing in at just 15kg compared to 67kg. The plastic kerbs are also resistant to oil and petrol and don't chip, therefore enhancing the look of the borough for longer. They require no mechanical handling and are quick to install. The speed and lack of extra machinery required make them even more environmentally friendly. There have been 100 installed in a project in Mossley, and 400 installed at a project in Ashton.

The Tameside Patroller service has recently taken ownership of a fleet of nine hybrid vehicles that operate on electrical power in towns thereby reducing emissions.

Providing Incentives

This year the council is encouraging everyone to 'think local, act global'. Initiatives this year include:-

- A borough wide scheme to provide every household with two free low energy light bulbs
- £50 off cavity wall insulation in partnership with British Gas and the Millfold Group.

The council has also signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change; this underlines our commitment to reduce energy use and the emission of CO2 and other pollutants.

Council Leader Cllr Roy Oldham and Cllr Alan Whitehead, Cabinet Deputy for Technical Services with the new fleet of Toyota Prius, July 2007

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Staff can give presentations on all topics and with a fully operational sorting facility the session can be made more interesting with demonstrations of material sorting and baling. Our award winning glass pulverisation plant which can also be seen, turns glass into a range of sand sizes. Around the site are a number of recycled plastic products such as benches, planters, and litter bins.

Recycled plastic bench and planter at the Ash Road Recycling Centre, Droylsden, July 2006

Working with the Community

We recognise that we cannot achieve our targets alone. For that reason we engage with the public whenever we can. In 2005 we commissioned the construction of our talking dinosaur. In 2006 we chose the theme of the rag and bone man as an early recycler. So impressed were the judges at the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management in Torbay that Tameside won the Best Exhibitor Award.

In 2007 our campaign is even more exciting and headline grabbing. An original horse drawn refuse cart which was built in Ashton-under-Lyne around 1907 and used in the Dukinfield area for many years was recently located on a farm in Cambridgeshire. Acquired by the council, it has been totally renovated and will be used, complete with shire horses, to bring attention to waste management and minimisation. It will be used at local events and some local collections will also be made using the methods of a century ago.

Horse drawn refuse cart, July 2007

During the months of April, May and June this year we have carried out a survey of 6,000 households in hard to reach areas to establish the barriers to recycling. We aim to use the results to improve our services and hence our performance.

Managed Collections

The collection of residual waste on alternate weeks has created much national publicity this year. In Tameside we are using a series of trials to establish the success, or otherwise, of this method of waste collection. In two areas of the borough we are now recycling as much as 53% and with results like this right across Tameside we could achieve recycling levels on a par with most of Europe. This is being done in a way to ensure the public are supportive and the system works. Further trial areas will be introduced throughout the summer of 2007.

Acting Responsibly

As a major player in the local community it is important that the council does its bit. This year our print

Council Leader Cllr Roy Oldham and members of the 1st Longdendale Scout Pack, Hollingworth, June 2007

Celebrating Local Organisations

Tameside is extremely proud of its heritage and traditions and this year the council is recognising the centenary of the Scouting movement by donating money for various celebrations. To further celebrate the year, eight carpet beds are being installed at key roadside locations across the borough to remind people of the values and benefits of the Scouting philosophy.

Year Round Displays

Tameside prides itself on year round displays that provide colour not just in summer but also in the darker winter months. Our gardeners are now choosing planting schemes and designs that provide a greater impact by the use of plant species that flower at different times and for longer. This not only provides a better visual image it also provides for a more effective use of resources and labour.

Coupled with that, we also choose designs and plants that complement the colour themes that we use for street furniture in the nine towns of Tameside. Across the borough every town has its own colour that declares its identity and together these combine to form the borough that is Tameside. Residents and visitors alike, and hopefully our judges, will see that this approach is a key part of the branding for our Tameside in Bloom programme and the borough as a whole.

Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Droylsden, April 2007

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Stamford Park

Stamford Park provides a central focus for our judging tour and as the borough's main park showcases the best of our floral displays. This year we have re-designed and improved the main flowerbeds by the installation of metal edging to show off the fantastic blooms to best effect. All beds have been carefully prepared and the floral designs can now be seen to even greater effect.

Within the flower garden we have also carried out extensive work to trees and shrubs to improve sight lines and the amount of natural lighting. The garden has also been planted with new low maintenance, drought resistant grasses which provide a stunning backdrop for the summer bedding displays.

Metal edging, Stamford Park, May 2007

Tulips, Stamford Park, April 2007

Grasses planting, Stamford Park, May 2007

Local Agenda 21

Our Approach to LA21

In Tameside our approach to improvements and new developments is one that always seeks to balance the impact of any proposals with the impact they will have on future generations. We regard LA21 and sustainability as part of a journey where we are always learning and seeing more as we progress. We also believe that it is crucial to our success that we take the whole community with us. It is because of this that the work we do impacts on all sections of our community.

Expanding Recycling Schemes

During 2006 our garden waste collection scheme was expanded borough wide which resulted in 5,000 tonnes of extra garden waste being reprocessed rather than landfilled. Every household now has access to a fortnightly collection of garden waste using a brown bin. This scheme was so successful that the material collected will ensure the council meets its targets set in its Public Service Agreement. With a target of 14,000 tonnes of all materials recycled during 2006/07 the council did in fact recycle 20,000 tonnes during the year. We will build on this success in order to reach the 30% recycling target set for 2009/10.

Recycling containers, July 2007

Our blue bin scheme for the collection of paper has been in operation for over 12 years. Over the last 12 months we've introduced bins to our hard to reach rural properties and we are now 100% covered by kerbside collections of paper.

Better Recycling Rates

All this work has meant that Tameside has continued to show massive improvement in its recycling rate. Setting a target of 22% in 2006/07 the council achieved 24.26% and this is well above the statutory rate set for 2007/08 of 20%, we are now well

Rolling out recycling collections, March 2007

ahead of our programme.
An indication of how our policies are starting to pay dividends is in seeing the recycling rate move from 12.59% in 2004/05 to its present rate. As garden waste collections gain more momentum there is no doubt that our recycling rate will soar even further in the next year.

Tameside Environment Centre

The council continues to make full use of its Environment Centre at Ash Road in Droylsden. Schools and community groups are invited to the centre for informative talks on waste minimisation and recycling.

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Walker Lane, Hyde

This corner plot at a well used junction was left undeveloped following the construction of Hyde Leisure Centre. The plot was planted with shrubs which struggled to thrive and became overrun with weeds and trapped litter. The corner was used as a cut through by the public, which further hindered the growth of the planted shrubs. An environmental improvement scheme was formed to develop this plot. The damaged and dying shrubs were removed. Paths were laid, along the same tracks formed by public use, as this seemed logical to follow the line already in place. A raised centre bed was installed and planted with herbaceous and bi-annual plants. New shrubberies were planted and these were mulched with tree bark to aid water retention and to suppress weed growth. New fencing was also installed.

Walker Lane, Hyde, June 2007

Promoting Biodiversity

Attractive planting is really important to residents and visitors but we are also trying to spread other messages through Tameside in Bloom work. In particular we are looking at every scheme we implement to encourage plants that are eco-friendly and encourage insects and increase biodiversity and bring it into the town centres. We use plants such as nepeta, rosemary, hypericum and buddelia. We are also providing log piles in parks and other open spaces to encourage wildlife and a greater diversity of fauna and flora.

Common spotted orchid, June 2006

Nature Reserves

These are places that are of special interest locally for their wildlife or natural features and have been legally designated as Local Nature Reserves under the 1948 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Declaring an area a Local Nature Reserve is a very clear signal to the local community of Tameside's commitment to nature conservation.

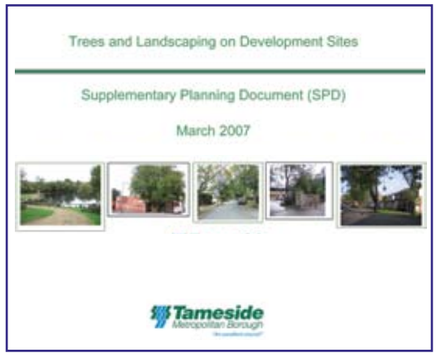
In these areas we can protect the wildlife habitats and natural features and so provide an ideal place for everyone to learn about and study nature or to simply just enjoy the countryside.

The borough has five nature reserves that provide a 'hands on' opportunity for people to see and learn more about the natural environment. Our countryside unit provide regular opportunities for people to attend and also encourage volunteering and community involvement.

Permanent Landscaping

Design Principles

Tameside's policy in designing or changing landscapes is to provide attractive, low maintenance and sustainable designs. To achieve this the council works to ensure that both public and private sector partners e.g. developers, are aware of our aspirations and incorporate them in the work they do achieve our policy aims.



Trees and landscaping on development sites supplementary planning document

Central to our policy is the vision that sees all green space as intrinsically valuable and has a key part to play in the overall street-scene and the quality of life of residents and visitors. Green spaces are not simply those areas that link one development to another; rather they are valuable parts of our street scene that contribute to our vision of 'an attractive borough'. Green spaces are now designed to ensure that they are fit for purpose and add value to the borough rather than provide a burden in terms of increased maintenance or other issues such as promoting crime or the fear of crime.

The council has now adopted a comprehensive series of guidance documents that are used to guide developers down our preferred route in

Whiteacre Road, Ashton, June 2007

terms of landscape choice and design. A recent review of the policy regarding the use of developer contributions has also been completed. This has resulted in revised tariffs being introduced that generate funds for a range of improvements, including green spaces and children's play facilities. Monies generated are then allocated in accordance with the findings of our Green Space Strategy to ensure maximum value and maximum benefit to the community. We believe this approach has the support of our community, meets the key aims of our Community Strategy and supports the guiding principles of the Britain in Bloom competition.

Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities

The Safe, Stronger Communities Fund has provided an opportunity for partners in deprived areas across Tameside to work together and really transform communities. Working at local level, tired and unsuitable green spaces have been refreshed and revitalised. This work has included a number of parks and open spaces:-

Cedar Park, Ashton - new pathways, security works and improved access

Stamford Park, Stalybridge - new grasses and heather bed planting; installation of multi-use games area

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Stamford Park, Stalybridge, April 2007

Sunnybank Park, Droylsden - tree pruning and landscaping to improve sight lines and reduce fear of crime

Haughton Green Playing Fields, Denton - various environmental and security works

All these works have been delivered through close public consultation and has already resulted in better quality, better-used green spaces.

Green Flags and Pennants

The council and its partners are committed to the principles which underpin the Green Flag Award scheme and are seeking to improve award numbers year on year.

For 2007 we submitted eight applications for the Green Flag Award at the following locations:

Hyde Park, Hyde

Victoria Park, Denton

Park Bridge Heritage Centre, Ashton

Lymefield Visitor Centre, Broadbottom

Werneth Low Country Park, Hyde

Denton Cemetery, Denton

Oxford Park, Ashton

Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw

Werneth Low Country Park, Hyde, June 2006

Mottram Library, Mottram

A poorly designed circular bed on the car park had never thrived due to poor plant selection and overhanging trees. The bed is in a prominent position and gives a poor impression for library visitors.

Mottram Library, April 2007

More suitable plants have now been installed including grasses, carex and sedges. These provide a colourful display all year round and are also more suitable due to their drought resistant and shade loving habit.

Mossley Time Line, Mossley

A real gem of a scheme that has seen an unattractive, but functional, town centre public convenience completely transformed. Previously the site had poorly maintained shrub beds and blank walls that added no value to a location with real potential in the centre of Mossley.

Mossley Timeline, April 2007

Working with a local school the history of Mossley has been researched and depicted on colourful murals on the walls of the convenience. A local engineering company has assisted with the project research and also with some of the fencing around a newly planted shrub bed. The bed has been planted with slow growing specimens that complement the local street scene and street furniture.

Mossley Road Rest Gardens, Ashton

Last year we improved the sight lines and access to this site by removing unsightly privet hedges and crown lifting a number of trees. This year we have continued to develop the site by planting over 50,000 spring flowering bulbs and installing new street furniture made from recycled materials.

Mossley Road Rest Gardens, Ashton, April 2007

A new centre piece shrub bed has also been installed that contains low maintenance, drought resistant planting.

Mossley Road Rest Gardens, Ashton, June 2007

Permanent Landscaping

Tameside in Bloom 2007

Cat Nap Park, Broadbottom

A raised, grassed area in a prominent location was suffering from damaged seats and broken down fencing. A number of trees were diseased and the roots were causing problems for people using the site.

Cat Nap Park, Broadbottom, April 2007

Through the local District Assembly the site has now been overhauled by the installation of new fencing and street furniture. The benches installed are made from recycled plastic and the stone setts installed complement the local stone used for surrounding buildings. Street furniture colours also match with the 'town colours' for the District Assembly area.

New, low maintenance planting has also been installed including naturalised bulbs to give a year round splash of colour. Diseased trees have been removed and others crown lifted to improve sight lines and the sense of safety.

Darnton Road, Ashton

A prominent corner plot at a key traffic intersection in Ashton had become overgrown and unattractive. Thorny shrubs on the site were acting as a litter trap and were of little horticultural value. The condition of the site detracted from the overall street scene and interfered with the sight lines for motorists. The site is close to two local schools and school children felt unsafe near the site due to the overgrown and overhanging planting.

The site has now been completely re-modelled to both improve sight lines and improve feelings of safety. New planting of evergreen and deciduous shrubs provide year round colour and are slow growing to reduce maintenance costs. Given the roadside location, pollution resistant plants have been chosen including castor oil plants and mahonias. The site has also been defined by the installation of a knee rail and the beds mulched with bark to assist with litter picking and to suppress weed growth.

Darnton Road, Ashton, June 2007

We are delighted to say all applications have been successful and that our work to improve and preserve the heritage, character and use of our green spaces is recognised.

Community groups have also been supported in four Green Pennant applications at:-

Tower Street, Dukinfield

Haughton Green Playing Fields, Denton

Gorse Hall, Stalybridge

Doorstep Green, Ashton

Once again, we are delighted that all these applications have been successful. In many ways the robust community element in the Green Pennant Awards shows even more strongly the level of local support for our green space agenda.

In each of our Green Flag and Green Pennant sites community group involvement through 'Friends Groups' is strong and is key to their success. Work is already underway to ensure that more green spaces are improved this year and can be considered for future award applications.

Stamford Park, Stalybridge

This 40-hectare park is the borough's premier park and forms a focal point for the In Bloom judging route. An ambitious master-plan is being developed to restore and improve the park's facilities to make it fit for the whole community to use and enjoy. The early stages of our work has already seen massive public support for our proposals and we intend to submit a Conservation and Management Master Plan proposal to the Heritage Lottery fund in September 2007.

Stamford Park consultation, February 2007

Borough-wide Improvements

Our Tameside in Bloom philosophy ensures that whilst we focus on the judging route we also spread the work we do right across the borough. In this last year alone an incredible 113 new projects and initiatives have been completed in all parts of Tameside.

Green Flag Award

Permanent Landscaping

The Probation Service working in partnership with Tameside Council and Ashton Regeneration to undertake a planting scheme as part of a project funded through the European Regional Development Fund at Portland Basin Heritage Centre, March 2007.

Alt Hill Lane Residents Association, Ashton, May 2007. The residents association has transformed part of a lay by on Alt Hill Lane into a community garden.

Children from Holden Clough Primary School selling geraniums they have grown, to raise funds for their gardening club, June 2007

Volunteers at Willow Wood Hospice, Ashton, June 2007. The gardens around the hospice are maintained wholly by volunteers from the local community, assisted by volunteers from the local authority and other organisations.

Members of the Iris Gardening Club, June 2007. The fountain was donated by local company John Smith Surfacing. It was installed by volunteers from Tameside Council. The electrical work was undertaken free of charge by PJ Spencer Ltd and the electrical equipment was donated by TN Robinson Ltd.

Adult learning service users at Grange Road Allotments, Hyde, April 2007

Children from St James Primary school, Ashton, June 2007. Children from nine schools across the borough are growing vegetables to be eaten at a gala evening meal hosted by the Ashton Park Garden Centre as part of the Tameside Food and Drink Festival.

Children from Hollingworth Primary School making bird feeders, Hollingworth, April 2007

Partnerships