

Tameside in Bloom 2008

Making Tameside a cleaner, greener place

Portfolio



 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough
"An excellent council"

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Design & Print Services 64046

Tameside in Bloom 2008

Front Cover Photographs



Residents of Crowwood Estate, Stalybridge



Statue of Jack Judge, Stalybridge



The Ash Tree Public House, Ashton



Clean Sweep Team



Alt Hill Lane Residents' Group



Katherine Street / Margaret Street, Ashton



Milton St. John Primary School, Mossley



Hyde Park, Hyde



Crown Point, Denton



Town Centre, Ashton

With thanks to:

Willow Wood Hospice
Iris Gardening Club
Holden Clough Primary School
Mottram Road Allotments
Tameside Allotments Federation
Jim Buckley and the Community Service Team
Mr Hewitt, staff and pupils at West Hill School
Greater Manchester Police
New Charter Housing Trust
Ashton Pioneer Homes
Irwell Valley Housing
Manchester and District Housing Association
Peak Valley Housing Association
The Reporter Group
The Tameside Advertiser
Ashton-under-Lyne Bus Station
Ashton-under-Lyne Railway Station
Cheshire Landscapes
Greenscape at St Peter's
Tesco, Stalybridge
Mockridges Nursery
Maximach Ltd
Denton Liberal Club
Anvil Masters
Buckley & Rowbotham Ltd
Ladybrook Nursery
Mossley Home Improvement
Potters Corner
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The Moss Tavern
Total Petrochemicals UK Ltd
Royal Oak
Empire Spares Ltd
Jenny's Breakfast and Sandwich Bar
British Gas - Hattersley
MVS
Kerry Foods
Barwoods Fitted Bedrooms
Watkin Jones Group
Lubbe and Sons (Bulbs) Ltd
Woodend Garden Centre
B&Q
All garden competition entrants
Tameside's 70 Eco Schools



Tameside in Bloom 2008

Tameside Horticultural Show

We are undertaking an ambitious project this year to host the first Tameside-wide Horticultural Show to be held in the borough since the mid 1970's.

The event will be hosted at Stalybridge Civic Hall 6-7 September 2008. The Tameside Allotment Federation is involved and we are encouraging the borough's schools to contribute entries, as well as members of the general public.

Public Meetings

We feature the activities and achievements of Tameside in Bloom at the public District Assembly meetings, including an exhibition of the trophies that we have been fortunate to win. We show the Tameside in Bloom DVD

to showcase the work that has been undertaken in the borough.

We deliver talks to various community groups, explaining the purpose of Tameside in Bloom and publicising the projects that have taken place to improve the look and feel of the borough.

Television

The council was thrilled to be invited to feature in a five part series called 'The Consumer Police' screened on ITV. A TV crew followed various officers from our Environmental Services department on their everyday duties and recorded the problems faced by the division, the solutions and the educational projects that were undertaken. A second series was recorded and broadcast in June and July of this year.



Tameside Retired Teachers Group, March 2008



WELCOME TO TAMESIDE



AUDENSHAW



DENTON



DUKINFIELD



STALYBRIDGE



LONGDENDALE AND HATTERSLEY



ASHTON



DROYLSDEN



HYDE



MOSSLEY

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Councillor David Sweeton

Project Head,
Tameside in Bloom

Welcome to Tameside!

I'm proud to welcome you to our entry for the North West regional and national Britain in Bloom competition 2008. This is our sixth successive year of entry into the regional competition in which we have won our category for the past three years. We are honoured to represent our region in the national competition for the second time.

We are delighted with the achievements we have made this year.

Last year we were pleased to find out that all our Green Flag and Green Pennant entries were successful when we were awarded eight Green Flags and four Green Pennants. This placed us fourth in the North West for Green Flags and top in the region for Green Pennants. This year we are delighted to have surpassed that achievement. We have been awarded Green Flag status for ten sites and have been awarded a Green Heritage Award for Victoria Park, Denton. We have also supported local community groups in the retention of the four Green Pennants.

We aim to increase this number year on year, as proof of the changes and improvements we are making in Tameside's parks and green spaces.

This year we were successful in Stage 1 of a Heritage Lottery bid worth over £4m for the development and improvement of Stamford Park. The funding package totals £6m of improvements to restore the park to its former splendour, in ways which benefit its modern community.

Our Corporate Performance Assessment results reflected our continuing hard work. The council received the top rating of 4 stars and Improving Strongly for the second year running, placing it in the top five per cent of councils in the country. We are the only North West council

to receive this accolade this year and one of only eight local authorities to receive this judgement two years running.

At the beginning of March we were awarded a Beacon Award for Transforming Services, which recognises the council's joint work involving partners and local citizens to transform services and quality of life for people within the borough.

In 2007 we were the first metropolitan borough to be awarded Chartermark for its entire services. The assessor praised the council for its strong leadership and vision for residents.

We believe that In Bloom has played an integral part in these major achievements, as a driver for change, as a system to monitor the continuing high standard of our work and as a way of celebrating our success.

In Bloom has been instrumental in our recent success in exceeding our Government set target to reduce British Crime Survey (BCS) Crimes by 21 per cent over the period April 2003 to March 2008. BCS Crimes are the crimes that cause most harm to communities, they include theft of and from vehicles, burglary, criminal damage, wounding and robbery. Overall we have reduced the instances of these crimes occurring in our borough by 27.2 per cent. Tameside in Bloom's success has obviously helped realise these figures with our work to improve the look of the borough and encourage civic pride, whilst reducing instances of gap sites and derelict buildings which can attract anti-social behaviour.

We firmly believe that In Bloom directly improves the quality of life for our residents and is the catalyst to improving civic pride in our borough. In Bloom encourages partnerships between our schools, businesses and the wider community, to make Tameside a cleaner, safer and greener place to live, work and visit.

This portfolio and the accompanying DVD will show you the diversity of work undertaken across the borough, throughout the year, by both the local authority, and by the community it serves.

Welcome to our borough, we hope that you enjoy your visit and that you find it informative.

Garden Competitions

The annual District Assembly garden competitions become more popular every year. In total over 400 entries were received for the competition in 2007.



Tameside in Bloom 2008, Garden Competition leaflets

In 2007 for the first time, we joined forces with seven of the borough's largest Registered Social Landlords. Each District Assembly area and each social landlord held their own first round garden competition. The winners of the various

categories in each competition were entered into the Tameside Champion of Champions garden competition. The winners and runners up of the second round of judging were invited to receive their prizes at a gala awards evening held at Dukinfield Town Hall on 12th October 2007. The event was a huge success which we hope to repeat this year. We have added more categories to the competition to encourage more residents from all backgrounds, ages and abilities to enter.

Gardeners' Question Time

In March 2007 we hosted a Gardeners' Question Time at the Broadoak Hotel in Ashton, to commemorate the first recording of the popular radio programme taking place at that venue 60 years before. The event proved so popular that it was agreed to host it annually and we thoroughly enjoyed the event for the second time in March 2008.



Champion of Champions awards night, October 2007

Tameside in Bloom 2008



Tameside In Bloom Website

Website

We provide an extensive amount of information on Tameside in Bloom activities through our website. As well as using the website to inform the public of the structure of Tameside in Bloom and the In Bloom competitions, we also provide gardening advice and the opportunity to enter our annual garden competitions online.

Local Radio

This year we are working closely with the local radio station, Tameside Radio, which started broadcasting in September 2007. We are regularly featured in their local news sections, and undertake radio advertising campaigns to raise awareness of Tameside in Bloom activities.

We have recorded and broadcast a series of weekly Gardening Question Time radio programmes. These have been linked with articles in the local paper, published the following day

which detail the questions and answers featured in the radio programme.



Business Support

Each year we contact over 3000 businesses in the borough to inform them of the achievements of Tameside in Bloom and to encourage them to get involved. We always receive a positive response and publicise the businesses that take part in Tameside in Bloom via the press, our website and our DVD.

Gardening Road Shows

Throughout summer we hold Gardening Road Shows at the Farmer's Markets held in Ashton town centre. The public are welcome to come and ask our horticultural experts any gardening questions that they may have. This also offers an opportunity for us to publicise the activities of Tameside in Bloom.



Ashton Memorial Gardens



Dukinfield Town Hall



Gardenfold Way, Droylsden



Stamford Park, Azaleas

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
- ▼
- Cheetham Park, Stalybridge**
Greater Manchester Police
- ▼
- Armentieres Square, Stalybridge**
Town Manager and District Assembly Staff
- ▼
- Stamford Park, Stalybridge**
Staff
- ▼
- 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

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Floral Displays

Improvement and Excellence

We are constantly evaluating our floral displays and our working practices to ensure that the highest quality possible is maintained.



Ashton Town Centre, August 2007

Our Horticultural Continual Improvement Group consists of both managers and on the ground staff, to give the widest possible view of the work that is undertaken to produce Tameside's floral displays twice a year. The group evaluates the success of varieties of plants used or the difficulties encountered at particular locations and changes are agreed as appropriate. The group chooses the floral colour schemes each year and ensures that the schemes in each town tone in with the colours of the street furniture. Each of the nine towns that make up Tameside has a different colour scheme to help preserve the towns' individual identities. The floral colour schemes are changed every year to maintain the public's interest in the displays.

When the displays are designed, the target audience and location are taken into account. If the display is near a road, it is designed to give instant

impact without too much detail so that it does not prove too distracting for motorists and other road users. However, where the displays are in a pedestrian area we give free reign to our creativity as members of the public are able to stop and take their time to appreciate them. We aim to inspire the public with our designs and choice of plants, to encourage them to be more adventurous in their gardening at home.

Staff Involvement

We encourage a level of friendly competition between the teams that work in the different geographical areas in Tameside through in-house competitions to find the most innovative displays each year. Bedding Champions are tasked with ensuring that the designs and quality of plants in their areas meet the exacting standards expected.



Civic Mayor Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr David Sweeton and staff from Denton District Assembly, January 2008

Every year our staff visit Ball Colegrave for new ideas for plants and floral display designs. We are fortunate with our environment, here in the foothills of the Pennines, as it allows us to experiment with an array of different kinds of plants. Staff also attend Royal

Public Awareness

Our publicity strategy focuses on enhancing the sense of pride that residents of Tameside have in their borough. We publicise our achievements and encourage everyone to get involved, even if only in a small way, and do their bit.

Branding

We have a distinctive brand for Tameside in Bloom with chosen colours, layout themes, icons and text so that the image presented to the public is consistent and memorable.

We use this brand when we produce publicity materials to promote Tameside in Bloom. The various In Bloom items that we produce include: pens, leaflets, umbrellas, DVDs, car stickers, bags and banners



Tameside in Bloom publicity materials

Local Press

We have press releases regularly published in the local papers, which reach a circulation of over 90,000 homes in the borough.

We also feature regular articles in the Citizen newspaper, which is produced by the local authority on a quarterly basis and distributed, free of charge, to every household in the borough.

We publicise Tameside in Bloom activities in the monthly magazine "The Wire", which is distributed to approximately 7,000 members of Tameside Council staff.

Poster Campaign

This year we have undertaken a poster campaign across the borough. We chose five local residents and community groups to feature in the poster campaign, and tied this into the local press by arranging for interviews with the people featured in the posters to be published, along with the images in the local paper.



DVD

Each year we produce a DVD to demonstrate the activities that take place throughout the year for Tameside in Bloom. The DVD is available to download and view for free from our website and is shown in all the local authority Customer First centres.

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letters, three formal cautions and secured 11 successful prosecutions. In one case a company was fined a total of £5000.

In a new innovative course of action, the Fly-Tipping Unit has purchased a GPS tracking device. The unit carry out test purchases of waste collection services from contractors suspected of fly-tipping. The GPS unit is placed within the items to be disposed of, so that the unit can track where the items are moved to.

The photograph below shows an instance of fly-tipping in the country park at Apethorn Lane, Hyde. The offender was traced, prosecuted and found guilty in his absence of an offence under Section 33(1) of the Environmental Act 1990. He was fined £500 and ordered to pay £1000 prosecution costs.



Apethorn Lane, Hyde

Weed Spraying

We have a contract with Languard for the weed spraying of highways. The contract includes performance and competency controls which define the standards that must be achieved. This is evaluated through joint inspections, carried out by ourselves and the contractors, of 40 streets in each of the 19 political wards which make up the borough of Tameside.

A specification of the contract is the requirement for contractors to have BACCS Membership, the industry accreditation for pesticide providers.

Dog Fouling

Community wardens issue on the spot fines to deter dog owners from allowing their pets to foul public areas. Between April 2007 and March 2008, 22 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

Although we do provide dedicated dog bins in some parks, we also encourage owners to deposit their pet's waste in public bins as this can now be treated as normal waste. We are working to educate the public on the effect of indiscriminate dog fouling.



Dog bin, June 2008

Horticultural Society seminars and take the advice given back to their teams to discuss its integration into our working practices.

Environmental Concerns

We use Micromax, an organic compost, and Swell Gel to improve the quality of the soil in our flower beds, ensure higher quality plants and improve water retention, reducing the requirements for watering. The water in the lake at Stamford Park has been tested and found suitable for watering plants. In the event of drought conditions or severe water shortages, we can continue to water the floral displays in the borough, without putting pressure on regional supplies, thus maintaining the displays for the benefit of the public. Our floral displays, hanging baskets, troughs and tubs, are watered at night to provide the maximum benefit to the plants whilst causing the minimum of disruption to traffic and the residents of the borough.

Tameside Horticultural Nursery Unit

We have invested £500,000 in a new state of the art nursery based in Denton which was completed in March of this year. This investment reflects our determination to continue improving the quality of our floral displays. The new unit incorporates a multi-span glasshouse providing uniform growing conditions. New heating and climate control technology improves and standardises plant quality with different climate controlled zones for different plants. Added to that, there are a number of sustainability improvements including rain water harvesting and more energy efficient boilers. Each year the nursery produces almost 500,000 plants, 500 winter hanging baskets, 1500 summer hanging baskets, 600 flower troughs and tubs and 27 Garsey planters.



Executive Leader, Cllr Roy Oldham opening Tameside Horticultural Nursery Unit, April 2008

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Excellence and Innovation

We believe that our entry into Southport Flower Show local authority bedding display competition last year was the perfect opportunity to showcase the quality of plants grown at the nursery and our horticultural ability. We were thrilled to win our class with a Large Gold Medal and aim to retain our title this year.

As Tameside is densely populated, it is the aim of our horticultural staff to develop ever more imaginative designs and positions for floral displays. Our commitment to produce floral displays all year round ensures that the borough continually offers a welcoming environment for residents, businesses and visitors.

Tameside's Parks

We are rightly proud of our parks. They are an important source of green space in our densely populated borough, providing a hub for community events, as well as valuable play areas for the borough's children. We have recently been awarded £1m Play Builder funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This will be used for a major refurbishment of between 20 and 24 existing children's play sites in the borough.



Victoria Park, Denton, August 2007



Southport Flower Show, August 2007

We work closely with our Enforcement Team to tackle littering directly. In the period between April 2007 and March 2008 we issued 270 Fixed Penalty Notices, or warning letters in the case of juveniles.

Tackling Graffiti

We have a policy of removing graffiti as quickly as possible, so that it does not encourage further vandalism.

We have also successfully piloted an innovative method of preventing graffiti on playground equipment in Cheetham Park by erecting a graffiti board close to the play area. The board is repainted white every two weeks to continually provide a canvas for graffiti.

A local graffiti artist regularly updates the boards with professional artwork to celebrate local and national holidays and events.

Removal of Chewing Gum

We have an established chewing gum removal team which regularly tours set routes in the town centres in the borough to remove chewing gum from pavements and pedestrianised areas. The team operates from 5am to avoid traffic congestion and to minimise any inconvenience to members of public. We are working on methods of education and prevention of this common problem.

Fly-Tipping

The council continues to take a stand against fly-tipping. Success is achieved by working in partnership with the police and trading standards offices. We undertake stop searches of waste carriers and target known hot spots. When legal action taken against fly tippers is successful, we publicise it in the local press as a deterrent to others. In the period from April 2007 to March 2008, we issued 755 Enforcement Notices, 373 warning



Chewing Gum Removal, June 2007

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Local Environmental Quality

Litter Removal

We tailor our litter removal services to meet the needs of the communities in Tameside. We recognise that different areas have different needs, be it because they are close to retail centres or because of the type of housing involved. Where areas such as town centres require more frequent cleansing, this is provided.

The regular regime of litter removal is supplemented by the Street Force Teams in each District Assembly. They are on call for ad hoc work such as the removal of fly tipped materials and clearance of gap sites.

This is further supported by the Clean Sweep Team. This team of eight operatives visits each of the 19 wards



Street Sweeper, June 2008

of Tameside on a fortnightly basis. They undertake litter picking of private sites, as well as properties and land that are owned by the council. They remove litter from residential gardens where they are able to do so without trespassing; this includes both privately owned gardens and those belonging to social landlords. This service has proved to be extremely popular with residents and local businesses throughout the borough.



Clean Sweep Team, June 2008

Stamford Park, Stalybridge

The National Lottery has announced that Stamford Park is on track for a major transformation with a £203,500 development grant to back exciting regeneration plans. The go-ahead for Stamford Park to kick-start the scheme has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund's £160m 'Parks for People' initiative.

The funding will be used to further develop a scheme worth £6m (just under £4m from Heritage Lottery Fund and the balance from the council and other external sources) which will transform and regenerate this much-loved park.

After asking the public what they would like to see in the park as part of the original consultation, over 1,400 different suggestions and comments were made. Park bosses then turned this "wish list" into a list of proposals, some of which are:

- New central café/community facility, including community rooms, toilets and park manager's office
- Improved animal area
- A new performance area
- Improvements to: children's facilities, entrances, signs and boundaries, seating, the play area and paths
- Restoration of the dingle woodland area.

When complete this will see the re-birth of one of the borough's premier green open spaces.



Tulip Sunday, Stamford Park, Stalybridge, April 2007

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War Memorials

War memorials are an important focus of our horticultural efforts. We see it as a mark of respect to war heroes past and present, to do all we can to brighten and decorate the war memorials in the borough and honour our armed forces. This is even more important in light of the continuing fatalities in current conflicts.



War Memorial, Dukinfield, August 2007

Community Action

This year there has been a significant increase in the number of areas entering the North West in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards. Central Estate, Dukinfield started the trend two years ago after being featured as part of the Tameside in Bloom entry. These projects have been well supported by the local Registered Social Landlord,

New Charter Housing Trust and this year entries include:

- Central Estate, Dukinfield
- The Larches, Micklehurst Estate, Mossley
- Brushes Estate, Stalybridge
- Crowswood Estate, Stalybridge
- Dixon Road, Denton

New Charter Housing Trust see the Neighbourhood Awards of North West in Bloom as the ideal driver for change in these communities; a way of bringing residents closer together to improve their own environment and take responsibility for it. These entries into the regional In Bloom competition have drawn together members from these communities of all ages and ethnicities.

Floral Celebrations

Last summer we installed new floral displays in each town in Tameside to commemorate the centenary of the Scouting movement. Those floral beds remained in place and were planted with winter and spring bedding. This summer we have planted floral displays depicting the local heritage of each of the nine towns. These displays are linked to the bronze statues which have been installed in each town to depict and celebrate an aspect of the history of that town.

Communities

This year has also seen a dramatic increase in the number of Tameside communities entering North West in Bloom. Five estates, managed by New Charter Housing Trust, have entered the North West in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards. Many of the community projects in the borough have also received assistance from organisations such as the Princes Trust, the Probation Service, Groundwork and Dream Scheme, a locally run scheme to provide activities for children excluded from school.



Springs Estate, Stalybridge, February 2008

Residents in Ashton joined together to tidy up and improve their local area. The work was undertaken by a residents' gardening group, Pioneer Gardeners, with assistance from Greenscape and Newscape St Peters. Donations were made by Aska Housing Association, Ashton Sure Start Childrens' Centre and West End Methodist Church for the purchase of plants and soil.



Ashton residents, May 2008

Volunteers

Each year we organise a popular volunteer day at Willow Wood Hospice, Ashton. Council staff and local business staff volunteer to undertake some of the more labour intensive gardening projects that the volunteers who maintain the gardens on a regular basis can not manage.



Willow Wood Hospice, Ashton, May 2008

Probation Service

The Probation Service assists the local authority each year in various tasks. This year, as well as painting railings throughout the borough, they have painted the fences at Denton Resource Centre, Hyde Park, Dukinfield Park and at Houghton Green, Denton. They have also painted garden fences for New Charter Housing Trust and undertaken landscaping projects around communal flats for Irwell Valley Housing, as well as assisting with the installation of a woodland path at Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

To further enable the rehabilitation of offenders, an area of Stamford Park has been established to be used by the Probation Service clients as a training school. Offenders will be able to acquire horticultural skills and qualifications, in conjunction with the Horticultural College at City College Manchester.



Dukinfield Park, July 2007

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Planting of butterfly friendly specimens has been undertaken near the heritage centre itself. The species of plants have been particularly chosen to attract a wide range of butterflies and moths. A variety of Buckthorn has also been planted as it provides food for the caterpillars of the "Brimstone" butterfly, which is slowly moving north through the British isles due to the increasingly warmer climate.

A wildflower meadow has been planted at the entrance to the country park. It is hoped that this will provide additional habitat and food for the wildlife that calls the country park home.

A tree close to the heritage centre museum that had been declared unsafe, was reclaimed for a sculpture. Rather than be completely removed, the branches were trimmed in such a way to provide the perfect basis for a sculpture of a sparrow hawk in flight.



Park Bridge Country Park, Ashton, May 2008

Schools

Our work with local primary schools has expanded this year. We have undertaken sessions of planting hanging baskets and potting up geraniums. The schools use the hanging baskets to enhance the school buildings and the geraniums are sold to parents to fund after school gardening clubs.



Milton St John Primary School, Mossley, April 2008

This year Holden Clough Primary School has planted an orchard of several different varieties of fruit trees. They selected older species of trees to link in with a school project based on the "Dig for Victory" campaign of World War Two. The children have also planted a wildlife garden close to the school boundary fence. They have chosen plants such as dog rose, nettles and brambles to attract butterflies, birds and insects, but they have also chosen subjects whose natural defences will discourage unwanted visitors from climbing over the fence.



Holden Clough Primary School orchard, Ashton, June 2008

Children from Lyndhurst Primary School visited Denton Nursery to assist with the planting of the troughs for Central Estate, Dukinfield. The school is located next to the estate and many of its pupils live there.



Lyndhurst Primary School pupils, May 2008

Business Involvement

We encourage businesses in the borough to become involved and are always extremely pleased with the response each year. Many businesses choose to hang baskets or put out troughs and tubs as a simple and inexpensive way of improving their own premises as well as improving the environment as a whole. Some businesses sponsor larger, more prominent floral displays which benefit many residents and visitors. Other businesses offer us their generous support "in kind", either through vouchers or discounts on goods and services.



The Ash Tree Public House, Ashton, June 2008

Gardeners' Question Time

Last year we installed a bronze plaque at Broadoak Crescent in Ashton to commemorate the 60th anniversary of BBC Radio's Gardeners' Question Time being recorded there. A cobbled path was installed which enables the public to access the plaque whilst protecting the grassed area around it. The plaque was further enhanced by the installation of a permanent planting scheme of grasses and the placement of hanging baskets to either side. This year we have further continued the development of the site by installing climbing plants in tubs and trellis against a nearby electricity sub-station to screen the bare brickwork.



Broadoak Crescent, Ashton, August 2007

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Permanent Landscaping

We are committed to providing a wide and varied amount of sustainable planting in the borough of Tameside. We are also dedicated to installing smaller scale, permanent planting schemes in densely built areas, to make the most of the small amounts of green space that are available to these communities.

We are committed to providing quality planting consisting of subjects appropriate to the location they are in. Sustainability is a major factor taken into consideration when designing permanent planting schemes. We also consider the properties of the specimens we select, including their resistance to drought conditions, as plants that require less watering help us conserve our environmental resources.

Schemes are designed and species of plants chosen, to ensure a display is shown all year round and to ensure that the maintenance regimes are achievable.

We are currently evaluating many of our floral bedding sites throughout the borough, to identify opportunities where permanent planting may be incorporated into the existing schemes to reduce the amount of watering required for the display. This is being done with sensitivity, as floral bedding is considered a major feature of the borough of Tameside. Incorporating permanent planting into floral bedding designs allows us to develop innovative displays, parts of which can mature and remain whilst the change over of spring and summer bedding takes place.



Hurst Cross, Ashton, June 2008



Memorial Gardens, Ashton, August 2007



Site of the old town hall, Stalybridge, June 2007

reduces pollution. They are quicker to install, are resistant to oil and petrol and do not chip, which again maintains the appearance of the borough. So far we have installed more than 1200 'Envirokerbs' across Tameside.

Residents of the borough can visit libraries, Customer First centres, community centres and various events held throughout the borough and pick up a free pack containing three environmentally friendly light bulbs and literature providing advice on ways to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions from their homes. We also offer discount schemes on insulation installation in partnership with local businesses.

Working in Partnership

With our Greater Manchester partner authorities on the Waste Disposal Authority, we have worked for a number of years on securing the largest Private Finance Initiative (PFI) disposal contract in western Europe. A £4b 25 year contract that commenced in April 2008, will provide state of the art processing facilities throughout the conurbation. Residual waste will be processed to produce a fuel that will be used at a regional combined heat and power facility. We will be able to expand our recycling collections to include pulpables (mixed card and paper) and food waste collections. All these will be operational in 2009.

Improved Equipment

This year we have invested in a Koro Recycling Dresser ® for use in the maintenance of the football pitches in the borough. The dresser mixes the soils on the pitch and top dresses in the same pass, eliminating the need to use more fuel to drive over the pitch twice. As well as speeding up the process of maintaining the football pitches

dramatically, this also means that the spoil doesn't have to be collected and moved off site, eliminating a further unnecessary use of fuel.

Recycled Compost

A major feature of many of the planting schemes that we have undertaken since the beginning of 2008 is the use of compost from Fairfield Materials Management Ltd. This company was started at Smithfield Market in Manchester, with the aid of Government funding. The market traders used to dispose of seven to eight skips of waste fruit and vegetables per day. Fairfield Materials Management Ltd now processes this waste produce into compost that is rich with nutrients.



Fairfield Materials Management Ltd, February 2008

Park Bridge Heritage Centre

This year there are many exciting projects taking place at Park Bridge Heritage Centre. The Coal Board have developed a reed bed next to the River Medlock within the country park. An iron foundry was originally located at Park Bridge and the river was diverted to provide water to the foundry. This project will realign the river to its original route as in 1891. The reeds will be planted in an area that is currently part of a bend in the river. They will provide a natural method of removing heavy metals in the river water that is discharged from the old mining works. This project should have an extremely beneficial effect on local wildlife.

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Local Agenda 21

Recycling Schemes

Our kerbside recycling schemes continue to improve and provide the ability for residents to recycle their waste. Our garden waste collection service is now well established with 6000 tonnes collected during 2007/08. Every household has access to this fortnightly collection service. With blue, green and brown bins available to residents, we are now recycling over 27 per cent of our household waste and are well placed to meet our 30 per cent target set in the Municipal Waste Management Strategy for 2010.

Expanding our Services

In 2008/09 we will ensure every household has access to the full compliment of recycling bins. Our trial managed collection service has produced recycling levels in excess of 50 per cent and this will be extended during the next 12 months. Our policies not only deliver environmental benefits but also financial benefits for the community. In 2007/08 we received a rebate from the Waste Disposal Authority for reducing our waste sent to landfill. This was the fourth rebate in four years.

Education and Communication

The council has always been innovative in designing marketing tools to promote recycling and waste minimisation. In recent years we have used talking dinosaurs, a rag and bone man and in 2007 our award winning horse and cart. This featured on BBC local news bulletins as well as being the main feature in the five part Granada TV series 'The Consumer Police'. New for

2008 is our interpretation of the classic film 'Wizard of Oz'. With characters such as Dorothy made of recycled glass and the lion made of textiles we know this will yet again provide an award winning formula.

Sustainability

We are always conscious of our carbon footprint and for that reason we use our own Ash Road Environment Centre as the hub of our recycling operations. Our glass pulverisation machine is located at the site and converts glass to sand. We bulk our plastics and cans before onward journeys to reprocessors thus ensuring our carbon footprint is minimised.



Ash Road Recycling Centre, Droylsden

The sand that is created by recycling glass is approved by the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley for use on golf courses and sports pitches. It is also sold to the sand blasting industry.

The reprocessed plastic is used to manufacture benches, waste bins and floral planters. These are used throughout the borough, particularly in our parks and cemeteries. They are hard wearing, which maintains the look of the area for longer. We are expanding our use of the 'Envirokerb' in Tameside. These kerbs, manufactured from recycled plastic, are 70% lighter than their concrete equivalent and therefore require no machinery to install which

Business Involvement

We work with businesses moving into the borough or redeveloping properties within the area to ensure that any development is offset by attractive, sustainable planting. We ensure that businesses, developers and designers are aware of our aims and aspirations for the borough. Council officers provide advice to ensure that planting is appropriate for both the business and the local authority. This is in terms of maintenance, pruning, litter and the provision of a sustained display of species that are appropriate to the area that they are located in. Tameside Council has adopted a Trees and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document and is forming a Green Space Strategy. These documents state our aims and recommendations regarding permanent planting within the borough.



Aldi, Ashton, June 2008



Tesco, Stalybridge, February 2008

An example of a project undertaken in conjunction with a local business is the replanting of shrub beds at Tesco, Stalybridge. Over 200 plants were used to supplement existing shrub planting. Desire lines had been created by customers using the store and some plants had died, leaving gaps, which contributed to making the site look untidy. These gaps have now been filled, enhancing the view of the car park and providing a valuable haven in an urban area for birds and wildlife.

Green Flags and Pennants

We feel that our commitment to the Green Flag and Pennant programmes illustrates our dedication to provide quality green and open spaces and also encourages communities to take ownership of their local areas. We work closely with a network of friends groups to improve local parks and green spaces. These groups have raised over £600,000 to make their parks more attractive and welcoming.

In 2007 we submitted eight Green Flag applications and were thrilled to be successful in all our submissions. Four Green Pennant applications were submitted and it was a wonderful testament to the strength of the community involvement in these projects that they were all successful. This year we are delighted to have received ten Green Flags awards for:

- 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
- Cedar Park, Ashton
- Rycroft Hall, Audenshaw
- Haughton Green Playing Fields, Denton

Tameside in Bloom 2008



Oxford Park, Ashton, October 2007

We also received a Green Heritage Award for Victoria Park, Denton.

The Green Pennant applications that have been submitted this year are:

- Tower Street, Dukinfield
- Haughton Green Playing Fields, Denton
- Gorse Hall, Stalybridge
- Doorstep Green, Ashton

Swallows Wood, Longdendale

In autumn 2007, 6000 trees were planted in the Longdendale area to extend a woodland known as Swallows Wood. A part of the wood will be affected by the creation of the Mottram, Hollingworth, Tintwistle Bypass, although the Public Enquiry has not yet concluded. These trees have been planted in addition to the trees that will be planted by the Highways Agency, as replacements for any removed to make way for the bypass. This project has been undertaken in partnership with United Utilities, Mouchel Parkman and the local landowners. Indigenous subjects have been selected that are appropriate to the natural area. Specimens of different ages have been chosen to replicate the natural development of a woodland area and they have been planted in areas chosen to give them the

maximum chance of survival. Thought has been given to reducing the amount of fencing required to keep the new planting safe from live stock.

West End Park, Ashton

£250,000 has been allocated by the European Development Fund, the local authority and the local regeneration scheme for a major refurbishment of a valuable green space in a particularly densely populated area of Tameside.

Previously the site was overgrown and disused. The original iron fence work was badly damaged and the sports facilities required updating. The project will regenerate the footpaths and sports facilities for use by local schools and residents and will improve the permanent landscaping of the area. The existing eco system will be improved and complemented by the addition of new varieties of trees and shrubs.

Cheetham Park, Stalybridge

A yew hedge, consisting of 415 plants has been planted along a perimeter fence line to provide a natural habitat for wildlife whilst softening the appearance of the fencing.



Cheetham Park, Stalybridge, March 2008

further complemented by the replanting of a permanent landscaping scheme around the "welcome" sign at the entrance to the site.



Bower Fold, Stalybridge, April 2008

Ashton Fire Station

A new fire station has been built on the outskirts of Ashton and as part of the development, an area has been donated for a community garden. Children from local primary schools planted 100 shrubs and raked mulch around the plants to provide nutrients and assist with water retention.



Ashton Fire Station Community Garden, April 2008

Cedar Park, Ashton

This park is situated in a densely built area of Ashton. It provides a valuable and well used resource for the community. A £200,000 refurbishment programme has been undertaken, which has culminated in the park achieving Green Flag status this year.

Fencing has recently been erected at one of the boundaries of the park. A selection of Beech, Holly and Hawthorn has been planted to screen the fence whilst encouraging wildlife. The prickly nature of these plants will also protect the fence.

Lord Sheldon Way, Ashton and Audenshaw

100,000 daffodil bulbs were planted in the central reservation of the main entry way into the heart of Tameside. This planting complements 20,000 bulbs which had been planted previously. It is expected that when the Metrolink line is extended to Ashton town centre, that the tracks will be laid on the central reservation of Lord Sheldon Way. For this reason the decision has been made not to undertake a scheme using larger, more permanent specimens.



Lord Sheldon Way, Audenshaw, April 2008

Tameside in Bloom 2008

the overgrown and damaged shrubs underneath for various species of grasses and perennial shrubs. By lowering the height of the under planting, the line of site has been improved, increasing the security of the car park. The species selected will be able to cope with their proximity to the trees and their impact on the amount of light and moisture available, whilst providing a year round display.

Cosgrove Gardens, Mossley

In March, we enlisted the assistance of a local primary school with the ongoing regeneration of an open space in Mossley. Children from Milton St John School planted 5000 snowdrops at Cosgrove Gardens. Future plans include the planting of 5000 bluebells and also some crocus and narcissus bulbs to complement the existing daffodil planting. Some work is also

planned to improve the existing trees on this site.

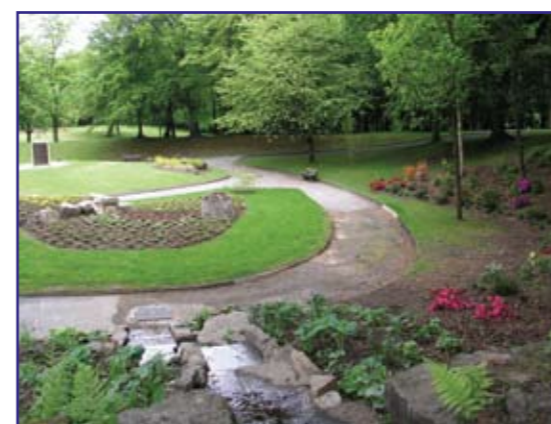
Bower Fold, Stalybridge

A wildlife area has been created between a main road and the car park for local football club, Stalybridge Celtic FC. This area was overgrown and prone to fly tipping. The rubbish was cleared from the site and the overgrowth removed. The trees were crown lifted to improve the line of site from the road and to allow more light to penetrate the area beneath them. The timber produced as a result of the work undertaken on the trees was chipped at the site and the resulting wood chip was used as part of the scheme. Once the ground underneath the trees was fully prepared, a wild flower seed was sown to provide a habitat for wildlife and insects, whilst also giving a vibrant display of colour. This project was



Cosgrove Gardens, Mossley, March 2008

A monument which details the local heritage of Stalybridge is situated in a well used area of the park. The banking around the monument has been enhanced with the planting of 200 azaleas and a further 200 assorted varieties of plants such as Witch Hazel, Cornus and woodland ground cover plants. A smaller, individual banking within this scheme has been enhanced with the planting of 1000 heathers. A natural spring water feature in the area has been regenerated and planted with 50 water loving specimens.



Cheetham Park, Stalybridge, March 2008

Dukinfield Town Hall

Dukinfield Town Hall is a prestigious local building that has recently been the subject of a £3m regeneration programme. This has now been completed with the addition of permanent landscaping around the front and side elevations of the building. The subjects used have been selected to provide a year round, low maintenance



Dukinfield Town Hall, Dukinfield, April 2008

and drought resistant display. The scheme included the planting of seven Photinia Red Robin trees.

Hyde Town Hall

The floral displays at the front of this prominent building have been complemented with the planting of box hedging to add structure and the installation of six Holly trees, pruned to shape.



Hyde Town Hall, Hyde, February 2008

Camp Street Car Park, Ashton

The planting at Camp Street car park, (which also provides an entrance for the administration offices for Tameside council), required improvement. The location of several mature Horse Chestnut trees affected the choice of replacement under planting. It was decided not to perform any work on the trees, but rather to substitute

(continued on page 16)



Camp Street car park, Ashton, June 2008

Local Roots

Our Industrial Heritage

The borough has a rich and varied industrial heritage. At the beginning of the eighteenth century the Industrial Revolution had transformed the economic and social structure of the area. The damp climate suited spinning and weaving. The rivers Tame, Medlock and Etherow provided water power for the early mills. When the mills began to be powered by steam, the coal mines of Ashton, Droylsden and Hyde provided a ready supply of fuel.



Canals in Tameside

The area of Portland Basin is at the hub of Tameside's canal network. Three canals meet here and it is the site of the borough's social and industrial history museum housed in a former canal warehouse, built in 1834 by the Ashton Canal Company. The original building was destroyed in a fire in 1972 but re-opened in a fully restored building through Heritage Lottery funding in 1999.



The Ashton Canal was built in 1797. From Portland Basin the Ashton Canal stretches for nearly seven miles to the west and ends at its junction with the Rochdale Canal in central Manchester. At the height of its commercial use in 1838 it was calculated that the annual freight carried on the canal was 514,241 tons.

The Peak Forest Canal was built in 1805. The canal extends 142 miles from Portland Basin to Buxworth through Marple. During the industrial revolution its main traffic was coal, lime and limestone.

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was built in 1811. The canal runs for 20 miles from Ashton through the Pennines to the centre of Huddersfield. It is the highest canal in the country.

Today the canals have a new role – providing leisure and recreational opportunities for many people – walkers, anglers and canal cruisers. They provide an important natural highway for the flora and fauna of the borough and contribute significantly to its picturesque environment.

Celebrating the Heritage of Tameside

Tameside Council have commissioned and installed a series of bronze statues to celebrate the heritage of Tameside. Each of the nine towns which make up the metropolitan borough of Tameside has individual histories, and these are reflected in the statues.

- L.S. Lowry, located at Jollies Corner, Mottram
- Jack Judge, located in Lord Pendry Square, Stalybridge
- Ashton Market Trader, located on Market Street, Ashton
- Denton Linney Hatting Industry, located outside Denton Town Hall
- The Mill Girl, located in front of George Lawton Hall, Mossley
- Hyde Seal, located in front of Hyde Town Hall
- Chartist Statue, located outside Hyde Town Hall.



Our Multicultural Heritage

Since the 1950s, Tameside has attracted many new communities. Post war labour shortages led the government to appeal for new workers to move to Britain from the commonwealth.

People from Bangladesh arrived in the 1950s and came to the North West to work in the cotton mills. The introduction of work vouchers saw the number of workers quickly rise in Tameside. Most of Tameside's Pakistani community came here in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1965 the first Mosque opened in Ashton. Most men found work initially in the local mills and factories, but by the 1970s the community began opening shops, market stalls and small businesses.

Most of Tameside's Indian community originate from the state of Gujarati on the North West coast of India. The first Temple opened in 1968, followed by another in 1971. East African Indians, expelled from Kenya and Uganda, arrived in the late 1960s.

People from Poland, Italy, Ireland, the Ukraine and the Congo have also settled in Tameside.

Park Bridge Country Park and Heritage Centre

Located in the Medlock Valley, Park Bridge Ironworks was a thriving family business for nearly 200 years. Hundreds of people were employed there and its iron and steel were exported around the world. Much of the produce of the ironworks was used in the cotton industry.

Set in the old stables, Park Bridge Heritage Centre tells the story of this early industrial settlement up to the present day and the wealth of wildlife that has taken over since its demise. There are remains of former ironworks buildings and other features of industrial archaeological importance.

Park Bridge is a managed countryside site with a mix of habitats from amenity grass and shrub areas near the Heritage Centre, to informal grassland and flower rich grasslands, scrub, woodland and wetland areas.

There are paths throughout the site to afford access for all, as far as possible, given the geography of the site and on site interpretation of features of interest.

The iron works closed in 1963 and underwent reclamation in the late 1970's, including conversion of the works' stables to a Heritage Centre, a base for the Countryside Service.

Heritage Lottery Funding and other funding from the Countryside Agency, the Environment Agency and Tameside and Oldham councils enabled work to be undertaken on refurbishment and upgrading of the Heritage Centre, improving access, revealing and consolidating the features of archaeological importance and widening appreciation and understanding of the area.

