

## **WIGAN COUNCIL**

### **GROUND INVESTIGATION WORK TO CONTINUE SOUTH OF HINDLEY**

Ground investigation work is to continue on former industrial land which is allocated for a major mixed-use development. Subject to planning permission, the 112 hectare brownfield site to the south of Hindley will see the delivery of up to 2,000 family homes, 12 hectares of employment land and a new east-west link road. The South Hindley site will also include 40 hectares of open space with a range of natural spaces, play areas and sports pitches

The land was identified for development in Wigan Council's Local Plan Core Strategy in 2013. A planning application is expected to be submitted later this year.

The investigation work will make sure any contamination is identified and addressed before any building work takes place. Some investigation work has already taken place and the remaining work will take place over the next two weeks.

Residents are being reassured that there is no risk to the public as a consequence of the works. The investigations will involve excavations to depths of around 3 metres and a small number of boreholes to depths of around 15 metres.

Karl Battersby, Wigan Council's director for economy and environment, said: "On sites which have previously been used for industry there is usually a need to confirm that the ground is free from significant contamination. "If any contamination is found, appropriate remediation work will be undertaken before any development takes place so that the environment and future residents will be safe.

"This work is safe and is an important step towards reassuring local residents and realising the development of the South Hindley masterplan which will provide jobs and homes for local people in the years ahead."

The masterplan is being developed jointly by the council and Peel Holdings who own part of the South Hindley site. For further information visit: [www.wigan.gov.uk/SouthHindleyUrbanVillage](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/SouthHindleyUrbanVillage)

### **GCSE SUCCESS FOR WIGAN BOROUGH PUPILS**

For 3,400 pupils in Wigan Borough the wait is over with their long anticipated GCSE results out today with many positive outcomes for pupils and their schools.

The GCSE structure is undergoing significant changes with these set to continue in the coming years which has led to the Department for Education (DfE) to urge caution when comparing this year's results to previous years.

Councillor Jenny Bullen, portfolio holder for children and young people, said: "I'd like to congratulate all the young people who have worked very hard for these great GCSE results. We have an excellent education record here in Wigan Borough and that's down to the ambition of our students, together with the commitment of our teachers and the support of their parents. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support in these achievements."

For any young person who did not achieve the results they had hoped for there is a wide range of support available both directly from your school or alternatively email the Aspiring Futures team at [aspiring.futures@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:aspiring.futures@wigan.gov.uk) to find out about a range of support options available. In 2017, Year 11

students were examined in the new GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics for the first time. The exams were linear which means all the examinations are taken at the end of the course. The previous A\*-G GCSE grades will be replaced with a GCSE grade scale of 9 to 1 which will distinguish the new GCSEs from the predecessor qualifications. The examinations have been designed to assess the more demanding curriculum determined by the Department for Education. Whilst all other subjects remain on an A\*-G grading system this year, they will be changing from 2018.

Under this new system pupils with a grade 4 will have achieved a 'standard pass' whilst those with a grade 5 will have achieved a 'strong pass'. A grade 4 or above will be equivalent to a grade C and above and will continue to have currency for individual pupils as they progress to further study and employment. The government is clear that a 'standard pass' is a credible achievement.

As part of the DfE's strategy to improve outcomes for pupils, school performance is now measured in the context of Attainment 8 and Progress 8. Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measure the achievement and progress of pupils across 8 qualifications (always including English and maths which are double weighted).

### **INCREDIBLE EDIBLE WIGAN**

What is Incredible Edible?

What Can I Grow?

How to get involved

Is there Funding Available?

Keep up to Date with Events & Workshops

Go to <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Deal-Communities/Incredible-Edible/index.aspx>

For lots more information

### **THINK YOU CAN FOSTER?**

To find out more about fostering and how to become a foster carer in Wigan Borough go to [www.wigan.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/fostering) and for more details on 'You Can Foster' go to [www.youcanfoster.org](http://www.youcanfoster.org)

### **ADVICE AT HAND EASIER THAN EVER**

Starting Point Plus will now have longer opening hours and a new online service when Wigan Council begins offering the highly regarded support which has previously been provided by Age UK Wigan Borough.

To find out more go to [www.wigan.gov.uk/startingpointplus](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/startingpointplus).

The new phone lines will be available Monday to Friday 8.45 am to 5 pm and 8.45 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. To contact the service call 01942 489011

### **WIGAN COUNCIL'S GOOD TRADER SCHEME**

Wigan Council's "Good Trader Scheme" is a directory of over 200 local, reputable businesses. All the listings have star ratings of up to five gold stars that previous customers have awarded them.

Ratings are given based on workmanship and customer service; the more satisfied the customer the higher the rating.

The scheme has been set up to ensure that the residents of the Wigan Borough are getting a fair deal when it comes to work round the home.

Trading Standards check out the traders' trading history before allowing them to be part of the scheme.

Whether it's painting and decorating, joinery, or just tidying up your garden make sure you visit [www.wigan.gov.uk/goodtrader](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/goodtrader). Or ring the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.

If you are aged over 50 or have a disability Wigan Council Starting Point Plus can access the Scheme on your behalf, contact Starting Point on 01942 489011

### **TOGETHER FOR ADOPTION IS COMING**

A new way of helping people who want to adopt is coming.

Together for adoption is the new service which will offer children and families in the region the support and guidance they need throughout the adoption journey. It brings together the adoption services for five local authorities – Cheshire West and Cheshire, Halton and WWiSH which incorporates St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. It will build on the outstanding adoption services in Wigan Borough as judged by Ofsted earlier this year.

The aim of the new service is to increase the number of children being adopted and improve the experience of adopters.

Together for adoption will also look to provide exceptional support to families who want to adopt.

The new organisation will launch from Friday 1st September at its base in Warrington. Those currently going through the adoption process in all five areas will continue to work with the same team throughout the move to Together for adoption ensuring a smooth transition.

In 2015 the Government announced changes to the way adoption services operate by proposing they be run on a regional basis by 2020. Joining the adoption services of the five local authorities together will make it easier to find the best family for every child.

Together for adoption will build on the existing high-quality service from dedicated and highly skilled employees which families receive from each of the local authorities. Bryan Glover from Together for adoption said: "Together for adoption will be there to help families throughout their adoption journey ensuring Families and potential adopters will get the very best in care and support and we cannot wait to start helping them get the best future for all.

### **RECORD NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR BELIEVE SPORTS AWARDS**

Wigan Borough's desire to showcase local sporting talent has reached new heights in the build-up to the 2017 Believe Sports Awards. A record 139 unique nominations across 10 award categories were made on behalf of coaches, clubs, athletes and volunteers before the August deadline. Judges now have the challenging task of choosing 10 winners ahead of the prestigious awards ceremony at the DW Stadium on Friday 6th October.

The event is co-ordinated by Inspiring healthy lifestyles on behalf of Wigan Council, whose lead member for leisure, Councillor Jim Moodie said: "There has been an astounding number of nominations this year and rightly so. In Wigan Borough there are an excellent number of dedicated coaches, volunteers and athletes who make valuable contributions to local sport. "Every nominee is completely deserving of their recognition and now the judges have the unenviable task of whittling 139 down to just 10 winners on what promises to be a marquee evening on our sporting calendar."

The 139 nominees are split over the following categories:

- Coach of the Year (sponsored by DFC)
- Club of the Year Sports Achiever of the Year (sponsored by Agilisys)
- Volunteer of the Year (sponsored by Wigan Athletic Community Trust)
- Disabled Sports Achiever of the Year (sponsored by realbuzz Wigan)
- Changing Lifestyles Recognition Award (sponsored by Technogym)
- The Wilf Brogan Unsung Hero Award (sponsored by Big Wave Media)
- Team of the Year (sponsored by Wigan Warriors Community Foundation)
- The Martin Lynn Commitment to PE and School Sport Award (sponsored by Alliance Leisure)
- Sports Apprentice of the Year

Event organiser Katie Shone of Inspiring healthy lifestyles added: “The Believe Sports Awards would not be possible without the amazing talent and passion of local people, as well as the backing of our sponsors who see that passion and want to help support the growth of sport across the borough. “We have a small number of sponsorship opportunities left available to contribute to making a difference in the local community.”

For more information about the Believe Sports Awards or to enquire about sponsorship, contact Katie at [k.shone@wlct.org](mailto:k.shone@wlct.org) or call 01942 488495. Sponsorship packs are also available to download.

### **HEART HEALTH HELPS WITH FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA**

Wigan Council and its partners are urging people to think that ‘what’s good for you heart is good for your head’. The Heart of Wigan and Leigh, the borough’s flagship programme for improving the public’s health, has been encouraging people to take simple steps to look after their hearts since they launched in 2014 and is backed by health organisations including Wigan Clinical Commissioning Group, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles among others.

And now those same actions could help in preventing dementia later in life for some people. It comes as a report in The Lancet outlined steps that could be taken to reduce the risk of developing dementia for some people. Among the steps that could make an impact on dementia include stopping smoking, reducing obesity, being more active and tackling pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes.

Other issues that might impact on dementia is social isolation and through The Deal for Adult Social Care Wigan Council is also addressing this issue by connecting people into their community and encouraging them to reach out to others to reduce the isolation that may be felt for some people.

The report states that not all dementia cases are preventable, but Wigan Borough is actively working to improve outcomes for all people living with dementia and their families and carers. Through programmes such as Dementia Friends more than 8,400 people have received awareness sessions to help those with the condition. Dementia friendly communities has seen an increase in dementia friendly activities happening across the Borough and the Dementia Advisors and Carers Support service delivered by the Alzheimer’s Society is available to support people through their dementia journey.

And last year the borough was named Dementia Friendly Community of the Year in the town category at the prestigious Dementia Friendly Awards, hosted by The Alzheimer’s Society, which is also a partner for the borough’s dementia work.

The report is also backed by Greater Manchester’s dementia strategy and improvement programme - Dementia United. Alistair Burns, professor of old age psychiatry at the University of Manchester and national clinical director for dementia for NHS England, said: “This sets the scene for a lot of evidence

based care for people with dementia from prevention to 'end of life care'. Greater Manchester's dementia standards impart focus on prevention as well as highlighting there are opportunities to 'live well' by positively taking care of body and mind personally, supported by wider society, not solely the health and social care system. "The use of technology and innovation also offers us the opportunity as a collective to make improvements and transform the lives of people affected by dementia. Everyone has an opportunity to make a difference personally in reducing risks of dementia as well as supporting those affected by dementia. Let's learn and make improvements together to truly make a difference to those affected and potentially affected by dementia."

To find out more about dementia support visit [www.wigan.gov.uk/dementia](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/dementia)