

WIGAN COUNCIL

WIGAN COUNCIL PLEDGES TO CONTINUE TO TACKLE SMOKING

Wigan Council has pledged to continue its efforts to reduce the number of smokers in the borough. Lord Peter Smith, leader of Wigan Council signed the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control which outlines the commitment Wigan Council has to tackle tobacco use. In addition, Wigan Council has also detailed and signed an additional commitment as part of The Deal for Health and Wellness to further tackle tobacco use locally. The signing comes as part of Wellfest, a festival aimed at encouraging people to look after their health and wellbeing by trying something that will benefit their physical or mental health.

GET YOUR TEETH INTO THE DAILY SMILE

Keeping the teeth of people of all ages well is the key of The Daily Smile, which launched as part of Wellfest.

The Daily Smile also encourages simple steps everyone can take to look after their oral health. It includes restricting sugar to meal time and only having sugar free snacks and drinks between meals.

Parents are also urged to start brushing their children's teeth as soon as they appear with a smear of adult fluoride toothpaste until they are old enough to spit out, which is usually around eight years of age. Then they can add a small strip of toothpaste on the brush and follow the three step rule of brush, spit, don't rinse.

Parents are also encouraged to take their children to the dentist as soon as possible and not to wait until they have teeth to get them used to the surroundings. It is recommended to book a child in at the same time as the parents regular six monthly check up

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO 'RECYCLE MORE, RECYCLE RIGHT' AT THEIR LOCAL CENTRE

If you have been down to the Kirkless, Slag Lane and Chanters Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) recently you might have wondered why the team there have been intercepting and splitting black bags. It's all part of Wigan Council's drive to recycle as much as possible in the area and since starting the bag splitting trials in January, Wigan Council and its partners FCC Environment have been able to recycle an additional 222,105.13kg of material that might have otherwise gone to waste.

This has helped to take the council's overall recycling rate at the household recycling sites to 63.28% , an improvement of 8 % on last year. The overall recycling rate for the borough is still under target at 43% and needs to reach 50% by 2020, which the new three weekly collections will contribute to, so it's important residents recycle more and do it right.

Materials the team is on the lookout for include:

- electric items such as hairdryers, electric food whisks
- textiles including clothes, bedding, towels
- missed metals including saucepans and bike parts
- brass including ornaments
- cardboard from delivery boxes and Amazon parcels
- wire and copper from household DIY
- steel and aluminium, not just from food cans which can be recycled at home
- paper including wrapping paper, printer paper, newsletter
- hard plastics from drainpipes to old toys

- wood from indoors and outdoors
- plugs and sockets from household DIY chores
- books, video, DVD and CD's
- old paint tin
- batteries

So next time you take a trip to the tip, take part in the Black Bag Bonanza and let us help you recycle as much as we can. Please check the wide range of items that can be recycled before attending site, log on to wigan.gov.uk/recycling for more information.

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

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.

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

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 and for more details on 'You Can Foster' go to www.youcanfoster.org

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. 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

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.

To find out more about dementia support visit www.wigan.gov.uk/dementia

TOGETHER FOR ADOPTION IS HERE

One of the first regional adoption agencies in the country has opened its doors to adopters. Together for adoption brings together the adoption services of five local authorities – Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan.

It will build on the outstanding adoption services in Wigan Borough as judged by Ofsted earlier this year. Current figures show there are around 30 children in the area covered by Together for adoption waiting to be adopted and the service will be looking to find families for around 140 children a year.

Speaking after opening with staff and partners from across the region, Bryan Glover, Head of Service for Together for adoption, said: “Together for adoption is bringing together outstanding expertise from across the region under one roof and we have talented and dedicated staff and partner organisations who will continue to offer the outstanding service people who have adopted have experienced.

To find out more about Together for adoption visit www.togetherforadoption.co.uk

NEW PARKING FACILITIES TO GET YOU ON YOUR BIKE

Wigan has been awarded £2.1m from the Department for Transport Cycle City Ambition Grant to create five new routes which will connect neighbouring communities to the town centre. Local residents and businesses were given the chance to comment on the routes before any work begins in 2018.

Wigan Council and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) have taken the comments into consideration and are now revising the designs. One of the suggestions that came out of the feedback was to ensure there was sufficient cycle parking in the town centre. The council has been awarded a further £15,000 funding from TfGM to install the parking hoops.

The facilities are part of Wigan Council’s plan to invest in cycling infrastructure across the borough to connect local people with opportunities and improve their health and wellbeing.

The new dedicated cycle facilities will allow residents to leave the car at home and safely travel by bike into the town centre. Along with the health benefits of cycling it is hoped the schemes will reduce congestion on busy town centre routes and reduce carbon emissions. It will also mean residents who don’t have a car or access to public transport can access job opportunities in the town centre and footfall is increased helping grow the local economy.

The routes will be delivered in two phases to minimise travel disruption to residents and motorists. The first phase of work will begin in early 2018 with all work expected to be completed by summer 2018.

Phase one includes:

Robin Park Road (connecting the retail, leisure park and local communities with Saddle junction)

Warrington Road (connecting Alexandra Park to Saddle junction)

Wallgate / Queen Street junction (providing new crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and a better connection into the town centre)

Phase two includes:

Saddle junction (improving routes around the junction, including a new crossing facility for pedestrians and cyclists)

Pemberton cycleway (extension of Ormskirk Road cycle facility into surrounding residential areas)

To view the plans and to read suggestions from residents visit www.wigan.gov.uk/cycling For more information please contact majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk

COUNCIL STEPS UP SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

Wigan Council has written to all its school transport contractors in order to outline their responsibility to ensure they are fully aware of council safeguarding protocols. Wigan Council proactively works to safeguard all children and prevent child sexual exploitation as a top priority.

If anyone has any concerns about a safeguarding issue or suspect child sexual exploitation they should contact Greater Manchester Police on 999 in an emergency, 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Wigan Council's social care duty team can be contacted on 01942 828300 or out of hours 01942 828777.

SHOWCASE BUSINESS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS BOOMING WIGAN BOROUGH

A showcase event for business in Wigan Borough is once again set for success.

The Wigan Business Expo is one of the most popular annual business to business events in the North West. It is now in its eighth year and will take place on Friday 6th October at Robin Park Sports and Tennis Centre in Wigan. More than 1,000 delegates are expected to attend and exhibition stands have sold out with more than 100 businesses exhibiting on the day.

Wigan Borough's economy is continuing to grow with employment rates increasing year-on-year. The borough's current employment rate is 75.4% beating the regional (71.8%) and national rates (74%).

There are more than 9,000 businesses in Wigan Borough – which includes the towns of Wigan, Leigh and Ashton-in-Makerfield – supporting nearly 120,000 jobs. Key sectors include food production - 75% of the world's top 25 food companies are based in Wigan – as well as manufacturing, business admin and logistics.

Major employers include Heinz, Wincantons, AB World Foods, Hovis, Tesco and ASDA and the digital economy is a key growth sector with 475 digital businesses now operating in the borough. Wigan will also become the North West's gateway to HS2 with the high speed route beginning just a mile south of Wigan North Western train station, reducing journey time to Birmingham to 35 minutes and London to 1 hour 23 minutes.

Keynote speaker at the opening of the Expo will be Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham. The event will feature an International Zone with experts offering advice on doing business and tapping into new markets in China, the Middle East and across the world following Brexit.

There will also be business speed networking, a business advice centre and interactive exhibitions.

Event sponsors are Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Nice Pak International, VW Corkills, Shearings Leisure Group, Fleet Dynamic, and the Wigan Observer.

To attend the Wigan Business Expo on Friday 6th October visit Eventbrite and search for 'Wigan Business Expo.

SENSORY SERVICE HELPS BRIAN BACK ON HIS FEET

A Wigan man who is profoundly deaf has described how he would have been made homeless if it wasn't for the help of a council service. Brian Quinn, aged 54 from Worsley Mesnes, was facing eviction from his private landlord when he missed a mandatory safety check of the property because he couldn't hear the doorbell ringing.

When a rehabilitation officer from the council's sensory service visited Brian to fit a specialist doorbell they noticed the eviction letter in his flat along with further letters from debt collectors. Brian struggles to understand written English so he didn't understand the letters and couldn't communicate with the landlord.

Wigan Council's sensory service offers support to residents across the borough who have any type of hearing or sight loss. As part of The Deal for Adult Social Care, rehab officers will carry out a full holistic assessment when visiting a resident to try and understand what further support they need to remain independent in their homes.

They will support with the emotional difficulties of hearing or sight loss and also look at the practical ways to help day-to-day which can be anything from helping them to hear better on the telephone to fitting specialised door bells or loop systems to help alleviate difficulties with the TV, along with any support highlighted during an assessment for visual impairment or dual sensory loss.

Rehab officer Sue Porter has been supporting Brian for the last year and has helped him to avoid eviction, spoken to the utilities companies of his behalf to resolve his debts, arranged the repairs to his property and referred him for a full benefits assessment where he has discovered he is eligible for further support.

Brian worked as a forklift truck driver for 30 years before battling a brain tumour two years ago and is now unable to work. Brian said: "Without Sue I would be begging on the streets with a cup. Other Deaf friends have support but I have no family or friends around me. Sue has been my private secretary! "Now I have had a full assessment and I will receive enough money each week to pay for rent, food and bills and I am so relieved. "I say Sue is my angel.

Anyone who feels that they are struggling with their sight or hearing can request support from the sensory service, they will initially be contacted by our Duty Officers who will gain further information.

For more information about how to contact the service visit <https://wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Adults/Community-support/Hearing-and-vision-support.aspx>

THE DEAL CONFERENCE

Public servants from across the UK descended on Wigan last Wednesday to find out more about The Deal. Wigan's revolutionary approach to public service reform has attracted the attention of organisations far and wide with some travelling miles to learn more.

In 2010 Wigan Council was hit with the third worst budget cuts in the country. But despite that the council has remained positive and embraced the challenge. At that event was subtitled 'reasons to be cheerful'.

Donna Hall, chief executive of Wigan Council and founder of The Deal said: "Public service reform and the local government cuts narrative needn't be all doom and gloom. When faced with these challenges we can either put our heads in the sand and hope they go away or tackle them head on. We've adopted the latter approach and it's working."

Launched in 2013, The Deal makes a series of pledges in return for residents' help. One of those pledges is to keep Council Tax low if residents recycle more. Not only is this approach helping the council achieve its financial savings targets but it's also protecting frontline services like libraries and school crossing patrols. It's led to improvements elsewhere too with children's services achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating, the adult reablement team being named the only 'Outstanding' service in the country and the number of 'Inadequate' care homes going down to zero. All while improving staff and resident satisfaction.

The deal has waved goodbye to red tape and bureaucracy and replaced it with trust.

Donna Hall added: "This new relationship between citizen and state is one founded on trust and honesty. In order for it to work we recognise the need to give residents the permission and tools to build a better world for them, their family and their community, because ultimately they know what's best for them. Our role is to facilitate that process."

Inundated with requests for information about how The Deal could help other organisations, Wigan Council decided to host a conference to share their experience and to help others.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham was among the speakers at the event. He was joined by Eamonn Boylan, chief executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Tom Riordan, chief executive of Leeds City Council, Trevor Holden, Chief Executive of Luton Council, Sara Todd, Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, Katie Kelly, Head of Housing and Communities at East Ayrshire Council and Dr Robin Pharoah, Anthropologist. Local speakers included Tom Flower, head of community at Wigan Athletic Community Trust, Rachael Coulthard, Executive Head teacher for The Wings' CE Trust, members of Wigan Council's leadership team and local community group representatives.

The conference was treated to a musical performance by The Bright Days Silver Choir from Age UK Wigan Borough which has been supported by The Deal to help prevent loneliness among the elderly

UNDERCOVER EXERCISE PROMPTS WARNING TO SUNBED SALONS

A warning is being issued to sunbed salons in Wigan Borough after an undercover exercise found children were illegally being allowed to use the facilities. Wigan Council's Trading Standards recently carried out the exercise which showed five out of 12 shops allowed a child to use the sunbed without asking for proof of age. A 15 and 16 year old were used in the undercover exercise over the summer holidays.

It is a criminal offence to offer or allow a person under the age of 18 to use a sunbed.

Trading Standards is encouraging sunbed businesses in the borough to operate a 'Challenge 25' age verification policy. The business owners are now being investigated and legal action may follow.

Mark Tilley, Assistant Director For Infrastructure And Regulatory Services at Wigan Council, said: "We were disappointed and alarmed at the results of our exercise. "All salons have previously been advised to be vigilant and operate an age verification policy to stop children using the sunbeds illegally. "We hope this reminds operators of their legal responsibilities and to check the age of customers so they help to protect our children and young people. "We will be carrying out further undercover exercises across the borough."

The local Public Health team have warned of the dangers of regularly using sunbeds, particularly to young people.

Professor Kate Ardern, the borough's Director for Public Health, said: "Sunbeds give out ultraviolet (UV) rays that increase your risk of developing skin cancer later in life. "However the risks are greater for young people with evidence showing that people who are frequently exposed to UV rays before the age of 25 are at greater risk. While a tan can fade quickly, the long term damage is irreversible. "We would encourage young people to use safer alternatives such as tanning creams or spray tans."

If any salon owner in Wigan Borough would like information on the law relating to the use of sunbeds by under 18s, they should contact Trading Standards on 01942 827476 or email ts@wigan.gov.uk

WIGAN FOOTBALLERS WALKING THE WALK ON SKY SPORTS

A group of Walking Footballers from Wigan are set to take centre stage on primetime Sky Sports viewing this week. The programme features Wigan Walkers, the borough's first walking football team, at a highly successful over 50's session provided by Inspiring healthy lifestyles on behalf of Wigan Council.

Growing in popularity amongst Wigan and Leigh's football community, the sessions have been running for three years, with more and more 'ex footballers' flocking from all corners of the borough like something out of Field of Dreams.

The 30-minute programme (which focuses on the positive health impacts of walking football and the organisation through the Walking Football Association, features Wigan Walkers member Paul Carr. Paul was so inspired by the rapidly growing sport) that he decided to get involved at a national level, as Chief Executive of the WFA. He said: "Being a member of Wigan Walkers, I know just how passionate the Wigan players are about the sport. The sessions at the Soccerdome are truly inspiring and I couldn't think of a better group to help promote the sport."

One regular attendee to the Inspiring healthy lifestyles sessions added: "What started out as a group of nervous senior citizens had suddenly become a vibrant and re-energised group of sportsmen, spring chickens who want to prove themselves on a bigger stage."

And so they have - winning a number of regional and national trophies - including representing Wigan Athletic Community Trust. The club have been sponsored by Age UK and also successfully applied for National Lottery Funding and benefitted from Wigan Council's Community Investment Fund.

For information on Inspiring healthy lifestyles' Walking Football sessions, contact Stephen.dixon@ihlmail.org

You can see the film on both 'Sky Sports Football (SSF)' and 'Sky Sports Mix (SSM)' on Wednesday 4th October.

There are 11 showings in total at the following times:

Wednesday 4th October:

9.00am - SSF

1.00pm - SSF

3.00pm - SSM

5.00pm - SSF

7.00pm - SSM

9.00pm - SSF

10.00pm - SSM