

## **WIGAN COUNCIL**

### **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](http://wigan.gov.uk/recycling) for 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](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

### **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)

### **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

### **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

### **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](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/dementia)

### **TOGETHER FOR ADOPTION IS HERE**

To find out more about Together for adoption visit [www.togetherforadoption.co.uk](http://www.togetherforadoption.co.uk)

### **TOWN CENTRE BUSINESSES GIVEN £500,000 BOOST THANKS TO THE DEAL**

A £500,000 boost to support small businesses and start-ups in Wigan Borough's town centres is to be launched. The Business Booster fund was unveiled by Wigan Council at the Wigan Business Expo on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

The Expo is the biggest business event in Wigan Borough and attracted more than 1,000 delegates from across the North West. At the event Wigan Council unveiled its commitment to supporting entrepreneurialism and small businesses in its town centres with the launch of the fund. It will support start-ups and the growth of businesses with a priority focus on Wigan, Leigh and Ashton town centres.

Businesses will be able to access loans of up to £10,000 and grants of up to £2,000. In exchange for financial support businesses will sign up to 'The Deal' to pledge their commitment to supporting the local community.

Businesses will be able to play their part in The Deal through actions such as employing apprentices, offering local companies the opportunity to be suppliers, paying business rates on time and volunteering in the local community.

The council's part of The Deal includes business support, access to financial support packages and programmes, advice on staff development, health and wellbeing, and employment and recruitment. A further 'Business Deal' fund and package of support has been allocated to attract businesses looking to relocate to the borough. This will enable the borough to compete in attracting businesses of all sizes looking to relocate to help boost employment and reduce the number of people in the borough on benefits. Again businesses accessing support from the council will be expected to fulfil their part of The Deal.

Applications for the Business Booster and Business Deal will be through the Wigan Works website at [www.wiganworks.com](http://www.wiganworks.com)

### **LOCAL GROUP CONNECTS PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA THROUGH MUSIC**

A monthly event encouraging people living with dementia to interact through music was attended by the Mayor of Wigan Borough today. Organised by Music in Mind, the event tackles social isolation in those living with dementia by bringing people together and also provides respite to carers.

The event, held at The Wheel Restaurant in Wigan, saw residents enthusiastically sing in groups, play percussion instruments and dance while enjoying cakes baked by Wigan and Leigh College students.

The Mayor of Wigan Borough, Councillor Bill Clarke said: "Wigan Borough was named the most Dementia Friendly town in the UK last year and it's easy to see why after attending today's event. "It was heart-warming to see everybody enjoying themselves and be connected with a shared love of music, despite the day-to-day challenges they may face. As part of The Deal, Wigan Council pledged to help communities support each other and this is a perfect example of that in action. I'm proud to have been invited along and would like to congratulate Music in Mind on the difference they're making."

The event runs every first Friday of the month between 1.30pm and 3pm at The Wheel restaurant in Wigan and costs just £3.50 to cover refreshments.

Although the event is open to both those living with dementia at home and people in care homes, the group also take their instruments on tour by visiting a number of care homes every week, bringing their musical respite to those less mobile.

Alan Hart, co-partner of Music in Mind said: "The plethora of academic research that looks at group music making and its application to mood, brain, learning and memory are central to our community music project. "We generate engagement through encouraging singing, which promotes a sense of community, while increasing heart rate, lung function and releasing positive hormones. What is there not to like?"

For more information about Music in Mind events or to see videos of what they do, search 'Music in Mind' on Facebook.

### **POOLING HEALTH AND CARE BUDGETS**

Wigan Council and Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are set to pool a significant proportion of their budget under plans to integrate health and social care commissioning in the borough.

The move, if approved by councillors at the its cabinet meeting and the CCG body meeting in October, would see the creation of a single commissioning function, complete with joint commissioning committee. The committee, made up of representatives from both organisations including politicians and clinicians, would be responsible for overseeing the combined health and social care budget – ensuring the money is spent as effectively as possible to provide health and care services that improve the health and wellbeing of the borough's population.

Following the £6bn devolution of health and social care in 2016, each of Greater Manchester's ten boroughs were tasked with producing a local plan to improve the health of residents and to make services more joined up. An important part of the plan is to bring together leaders from organisations with responsibility for commissioning health and care services to do so in a joined up way.

In a joint statement, Wigan Council and the CCG said: "The long term health and wellbeing of residents will only be secured if organisations and individuals work together to take charge of the health needs of Greater Manchester. We're already seeing some really positive results of this kind of joined up working between adult social care services and community nursing and with GP clusters, and in places like Scholes where public services like the police, health and council work together under one roof to solve some of the local issues. To support the providers of services working together it is really important that commissioning of these services is also joined up as much as possible. It is a great step forward for the council and CCG to not only continue to work effectively together but to have a responsibility for a shared budget."

While the permanent committee will only come into force in April 2018, councillors and CCG body will be asked to decide whether a shadow committee can be formed in the meantime to begin making the necessary preparations.