



Working together to deliver support

A witness can be critically important to any legal action regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The specific behaviour that an ASB witness must endure varies from one case to another. It ranges from being at the receiving end of abusive language to actual violence or threatening behaviour.

These types of experiences can leave a witness feeling vulnerable, powerless and angry.

In line with the Government's Respect Agenda, Bournville Village Trust, Beth Johnson Housing, The Wrekin Housing Trust and Bromford Housing have come together to work

in partnership and deliver high-quality and consistent support for witnesses of ASB within Telford and Wrekin. This support will be tailored to each individual's needs.

Witness Support Groups have been identified as being a successful and effective way of delivering support to witnesses throughout any ASB case. The Witness Support Groups will engage with those residents who have previously experienced ASB and have taken a stand against it. They will voluntarily support residents currently experiencing ASB and will use their personal experiences to empathise with the witnesses and offer advice and support.



• *Witness support groups are very effective*

If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour or would like more information on witness support groups, please contact Jane Griffiths on 01952 293777.

Developers chop to it to save trees from axe

An abundance of trees on the site of Shropshire's largest residential development have been saved from the axe by its own developers.

The original proposal for the 3,300-home Ironstone scheme in the Lawley district of Telford granted permission to clear large areas of existing woodland.

However, the Ironstone Developer Group (IDG) - comprising Barratt, Persimmon and George Wimpey - commissioned architects to revise the original housing layout for the second and third phases of its 15-year programme.

This new plan will leave more trees intact to form a woodland edge around much of the site's boundaries. More than half the trees which would have been removed under the original proposals will now form part of the new Ironstone community.

Following the new proposal, Lawley and Overdale parish council decided to plant an oak tree to symbolise the number of trees saved by the revised housing proposal.

The planting ceremony was attended



• *Oak tree will symbolise trees saved from the axe*

by, among others, Councillor Pauline Picken - Chair of Lawley and Overdale Parish Council, Councillor Darren Blackburn - Parish Councillor of Lawley and Overdale Council and Kath Hughes - Resident Involvement Officer for the Trust, and Ironstone Management Services (IMS) - the organisation established for the community management of Ironstone's new village.

Kath said: "Everyone was pleased to see the revised proposal to save trees and we wanted to mark this by getting involved with the planting of the oak which we hope will be a lasting symbol of commitment to the area's woodland."

Ironstone's developers have also been helping the area's wildlife to flourish, including the preservation of the rare Dingy Skipper Butterfly.

Homes in spotlight



BVT is carrying out surveys in Shropshire homes to ensure we comply with the Decent Homes Legislation.

All registered social landlords and local authorities must meet this standard by 2010 under a target set by the government.

Decent Homes Legislation states that accommodation must be safe, warm, wind and weather tight, and have facilities that sufficiently meet the Decent Homes standard.

The surveys are being carried out by BVT's Senior Technical Officer, Paul Sachania.

For more information on the Decent Homes Legislation, please contact Paul on 01952 293777 or email paulsachania@bvt.org.uk



• *The Hudson family dropped in to the open-house event*

Team open to ideas

The Lightmoor team is to hold a quarterly open-house morning.

The first event took place in April. It is hoped that these regular meetings will be an opportunity for residents to meet the team, voice any concerns that they may have, and get face-to-face feedback on issues that concern them.

The team see this contact to be integral to creating a real community atmosphere at Lightmoor and they are confident that this is already taking shape. The next meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the planned village play-areas. Children and young people are welcome to attend to share their views on the proposals.

Karen on course to make a difference



• *Karen receives her award*

Resident Karen Barrett was all smiles after receiving her "Routes for Growth" certificate in Budgets and Finance.

Karen took part in the course, which was run by the Community and Voluntary Sector in Telford, of which BVT is an affiliate member. Courses are open to staff and residents on a first-come first-served basis, and those run in the first three

months of 2008 included Media and Public Relations, Budgets and Finance, as well as finding funds for community groups.

Anyone interested in personal development, skills for life or community volunteering should contact Kath Hughes on 01952 504390 or email kathleenhughes@bvt.org.uk

On the wild side

A wildlife group has been set up in Lightmoor village to protect and preserve the environment. Several residents indicated they would like to establish a properly constituted group to try to attract external funding for projects. BVT's Kath Hughes helped them set up the group and their first meeting was at Lightmoor on April 25.

An informative flyer for the group was designed by its founder Emma Philips. It can be found on the Shropshire pages of the BVT website and it features the barn owl that is often seen hunting at dusk in and around the old buildings at Lightmoor Village. The group aims to organise wildlife walks and find out more about local flora and fauna. They intend to involve

members of the community who will have local knowledge and can give an insight into wildlife sites. They also want to link up with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on projects.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Emma on 01952 502878, Kath on 01952 504390 or visit the BVT website at www.bvt.org.uk