

# A YEAR IN PICTURES...

Highlights of 2011/2012

As well as day to day services, like collecting bins and council tax, we provide many other services that may not be so obvious but make the district a better place to live. Here you can see and read about some of the highlights which delivered real benefits to local people and businesses over the last 12 months.



APRIL



JULY



MAY



AUGUST



OCTOBER



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



JUNE



SEPTEMBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



MARCH

## April...

Residents benefited from a free compost bin giveaway and our ongoing promotion results in 612 compost bins being sold over 12 months.

## May...

Our Garden Waste Collection Crew won the Let's Recycle Awards for Excellence Crew of the Year award.

On the 28th and 29th of May, we held our second Canal Festival in Kidderminster.

## June...

Honouring all the service men and women at the Armed Forces Flag Day held on 20th June.

A theme of 'Fun at the Farm' for our Under 5's event in Brinton Park.

The Horse! The Horsefair's piece of public art was unveiled.

The first bricks were laid as work begins on the Council's New Headquarters on Minster Road.

## July...

200-400 people entertained by our annual Bands in the Park programme of events.

Kidderminster Town Hall hosted a Showcase of Services for Older People where 40 organisations took part.

## August...

Our Annual Mike Oborski No Barriers Awards (recognising local businesses, organisations and individuals that have provided significant access, service or employment possibilities for people with disabilities within the Wyre Forest district) opened for nominations.

New Fitness Trail on Burlish Top opened.

We exceeded all targets on our Summer of Fun Programme. Record breaking attendance of nearly 100 children a week.

## September...

New masterplan for the redevelopment of the Churchfields area was adopted. This included improving connections to town centre, regeneration of the Horsefair area and providing new affordable homes.

## October...

District Council and Community Housing Group joined forces to clean up our local neighbourhoods.

## November...

Work started on a new public arboretum on Northwood Lane in Bewdley. 60 new specimen trees were planted to mark the Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

Exciting multi million pound regeneration investment plan for Wyre Forest District unveiled at this year's Autumn ReWyre Conference attended by 80 delegates.

## December...

Joint initiative with 8 neighbouring councils regarding procurement which helped to save a massive £4.5million of public money.

## January...

Special discount offered for early adopters of garden waste collection service, now entering its third year.

Centre opened in Kidderminster providing a place where people aged 16-25 can seek assistance and advice if facing homelessness.

## February...

800 dancers from all disciplines took part in our annual dance festival at the Civic Hall in Stourport-on-Severn.

Local nursery children got a visit from one of our recycling wagons encouraging recycling as early as possible.

## March...

We staged our first 'Question Time' style debate where residents posed topical questions to a panel of local partners and business people.

Our website was rated amongst the top council websites in the country as we were awarded a four star rating. Out of 433 local authority websites surveyed, just 23 got the top award.

## A few more...

We smashed our target of 60 affordable homes being delivered - we provided a fantastic 104.



16 start up grants were awarded to new businesses.

Both the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Park in Bewdley and Brinton Park in Kidderminster received Green Flag accreditation.



We provided mortgage advice and assistance to 37 households in 2011 and prevented 288 households from becoming homeless. Through our intervention 56 empty properties were returned to use..



Recycling increases to just under 31% and the average amount each household throws away each year has reduced by over 5%



Wyre Forest District Council