

# Clean sweep helps to shut out crime for good



**RESIDENTS** from one area of Hyde used the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting to discuss the problems they were facing with youths causing annoyance near their homes.

The area of Travis Street had been suffering from anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance for many years, with police regularly receiving complaints.

The issue was discussed at the local PACT meeting and the community beat officer, working together with town planners, local councillors, Manchester and District Housing and Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council's Community Safety Unit made the decision to gate the area, limiting the access to the alley.

With the gates in place the number of complaints dropped significantly in a very short period of time.

Although the area was trouble-free, the alley looked unsightly so officers from South Tameside's neighbourhood policing team, the Tameside Patrollers, and partners who helped to install the gates, spent one morning cleaning the area.

Travis Street is now a cleaner and safer place to be and is a good example of how everyone can have an impact in their community by simply working together.

Julie Stringer, Alley-gating Project Manager for Tameside Council, said: "The area is now considerably cleaner, tidier, more secure and altogether a more pleasant environment for people to live in."

"The overall impact on the fear of crime in this location has been tremendous and the Tameside Patrollers have not received any recent complaints of youths causing annoyance in this vicinity."

"This initiative is a shining example of what can be achieved within communities when all parties come together."

PC Mark Smith, Community Beat Manager for Godley ward said: "The results have been fantastic and the feedback from the residents has been really positive."

"The area is now a much more pleasant place to be and it shows the police do listen to community concerns and work together with partner agencies and the local community to make a difference to people's quality of life."



**ABOVE:** PC Mark Smith helps residents tidy up the area.

**TOP RIGHT:** PCSO Dave Hulme and Insp Terry Finn help with the big clean.

**RIGHT:** PC Mark Smith, Kevin Garside and Diana Russell, neighbourhood regeneration officer from Manchester District Housing Association, get ready to clean up.



**'EXCELLENT NEWS':** Tameside Executive Council Leader Cllr Roy Oldham.

## Four star service for a third year in a row

**TAMESIDE** Council is delivering value for money to its service users.

That is the official view of The Audit Commission.

The Council has been awarded four stars for its performance for the third year running.

The Council is awarded its standing by a method known as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment which gives an overall rating by looking at a council's use of resources and the quality of services that it provides with those resources.

These include the Council's work with children and young people; adult social care arrangements, payment and collection of benefits, cultural services, environment services, housing services, and corporate capacity to improve

services.

The Commission also praised Tameside as a council that is "improving strongly" in its future progress.

Tameside Council claims that improvements have been made in a number of key areas including educational attainment which is improving faster than the national average.

Unemployment is lower than the Greater Manchester average with inward investment high and low levels of crime.

These are key factors in determining resident's quality of life, which may be reflected in the increase in life expectancy across the borough.

This has been achieved on a low cost base. Last year Tameside's Council

Tax increase was set as just 2.73 per cent, the third lowest increase for all metropolitan boroughs nationally.

Tameside Council Executive Leader Cllr Roy Oldham said: "This is excellent news for us and for local people."

"It shows that we're making real progress and that we're making a positive difference to people's lives."

"This will give us a boost and help us improve even more strongly."

"Many authorities never achieve this performance, we have done it twice in a row."

"It is down to clear focus, a commitment to continuous improvement, strong leadership and hard work by everyone who works here."