

# Keep Wales Tidy

Presentation to the National Assembly  
for Wales Social Justice and  
Regeneration Committee

by

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7<sup>th</sup> March 2007





# Keep Wales Tidy

**Status :** Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered Charity

**Staff :** 40

**Vision:** “To achieve a Clean, Safe and Tidy Wales”

**Mission:** “Keep Wales Tidy will work to encourage positive action to maintain the cleanliness of Wales”



# Keep Wales Tidy and Community Safety

## Why Keep Wales Tidy works to promote Community Safety?

### How do we work?

- Providing advice and guidance
- Supporting groups to take responsibility for their own area.





# Providing Support and Guidance

Keep Wales Tidy has extensive experience of providing support to the Welsh Assembly Government, Local Authorities, groups and individuals:

- **Welsh Assembly Government Anti-Social Behaviour pilot projects**

- **Criminal Damage Action Plans**

KWT has worked on a Home Office funded scheme to develop an action plan to reduce criminal damage for seven Community Safety Partnerships in Wales.



# Supporting Community Groups

Keep Wales Tidy seeks to empower communities to take responsibility for the cleanliness of their local area.

To achieve this objective Keep Wales Tidy undertakes the following programmes and projects:

- *Coastcare*
- *Clean Rivers*
- *Pride in our Communities (flytipping project)*
- *Environment Wales*
- *Tidy Wales Week*

Every year we support over 40,000 volunteers to take responsibility for improving their local environment



# Groups Supported by Keep Wales Tidy

**Probation service** - Young Offender teams and Community Service Offenders

**Rehabilitation of Drug Users - *Communities Against Drugs Team*** - a voluntary scheme worked through Social Services to support the rehabilitation of drug offenders. ***Clients serving Drug Testing And Treatment Orders.***

**Disengaged Youths** – deflection tactics - School pupils that are in danger of being excluded from schools are provided with support to develop practical environmental skills.

**Community First Partnerships** – request for support from over 70 partnerships

**Renewal Area** – officer based in Aberavon and Sandfields East





# Examples of Work

Case Studies from Aberavon and Sandfields East  
Renewal Area:

- *Multi Usage Games Area*
- *Alleygating*
- *Identity Fraud*
- *GR'0'T Squad*
- *Waste Amnesties*





# Multi Usage Games Area

- Aim - To Provide a Youth facility at the heart of the Renewal Area.
- Old derelict play area which is subject to flytipping and vandalism
- YOT will supply a designated Youth Worker to work with disengaged youngsters at the site.
- KWT Volunteer Group will adopt part of the site for planting and landscaping works

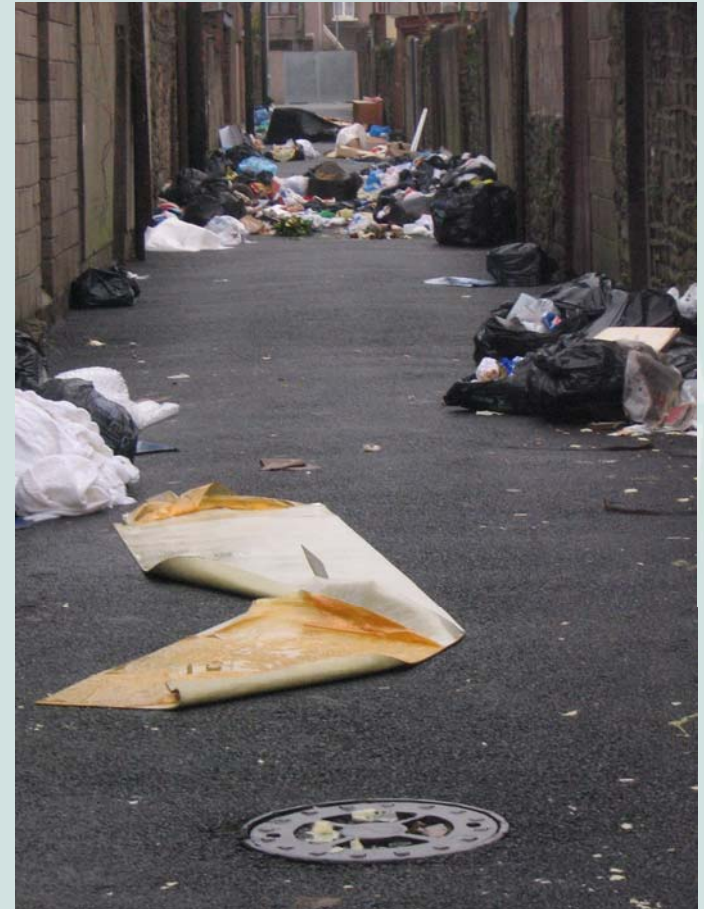






# Alley Gating

- Rear lanes will be gated off thanks to recently passed legislation.
- Lanes are no-go areas which are flytipped and used for anti-social behaviour activities
- Ownership returned to residents who will have gate keys
- A greening initiative will then be undertaken providing hanging baskets to brighten up the area.



# GR'O'T Squad

- Graffiti Removal Zero Tolerance
- KWT select the sites for graffiti removal which is undertaken by the YOT and probation service.
- Funding secured to purchase a high pressure water jetter & safety equipment to remove graffiti.
- When not in use in the Renewal Area, the equipment is made available Borough-wide.

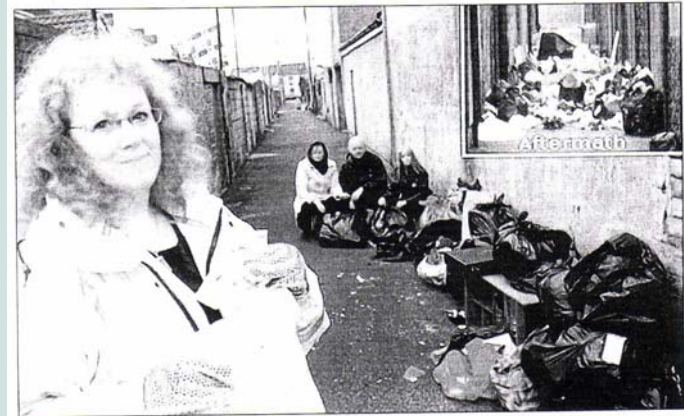




# Identity Fraud

- Whilst attending a Community Skip event, KWT discovered wind blown litter was caused by attempts to steal identities from the weekly Kerbside Collection.
- KWT Volunteers removed excess waste.
- Regular campaigns are now undertaken to re-educate residents on how to protect their weekly refuse from being targeted.

## New weapon in identity fraud battle



**TAKING ACTION** Waste enforcement officer Yvonne Perry with Keep Wales Tidy officer Kathryn Britton and housing renewal officers Chris Davies and Lucy Chaves. (inset) The alleyway after criminals had slashed open bin bags.

**GATES could be put up in lanes and alleys in Port Talbot to prevent criminals who are slashing open bin bags to steal people's identities.**

BY PAUL LEWIS  
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Residents have been warned they face being ripped off unless they take better care of their personal information.

They are said to be putting bin bags out too early, giving opportunist thieves plenty of time to scour them.

Environment chiefs who carried out a security audit in Sandfields East and Aberavon say they were staggered at how much confidential information people were putting out with their rubbish.

The renewal area team operating in the two wards is now urging people to avoid expensive heartache by either shredding or pulping any sensitive information.

Team members have joined forces with Keep Wales Tidy and waste enforcement officers at Neath Port Talbot Council to raise awareness of the need for greater security.

A spokeswoman said: "During the early hours of the morning, criminals are cutting open bin bags in an attempt to obtain privileged information in order to commit identity theft.

"This week we targeted rear alleys, carefully searching through bin bags which had been placed out too early for collection.

"We were astounded by the amount of personal information

that was thrown away in bags that had names, addresses, telephone numbers and even National Insurance numbers.

"Thankfully, any personal information we found, was correctly disposed of, although this did not stop the criminals wreaking havoc in the alleyways during the early hours of the next morning."

Council officers are now urging people to buy a shredder to deal with sensitive mail before putting it in bin bags.

A cheaper method is to soak personal documents in soapy water overnight, which renders them unreadable.

Cabinet member for health and housing, Paul Thomas, said the renewal area team was working with the police and the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership to find long-term solutions.

Putting gates on alleys was one idea under consideration, he said.

"In the meantime, we would urge all residents to ensure that absolutely no items that contain names and addresses be discarded unless properly destroyed," added Mr Thomas.

"We are working hard to help reduce the levels of crime in Neath Port Talbot.

"Identity theft is a national problem and we all need to do our bit to make sure it doesn't happen to us."





# Appliance Amnesty

- Resulting from the EU's new 'WEEE' Directive.
- Residents unable to take unwanted appliances to the Civic Amenity Site were offered an amnesty and free removal of appliances.
- 63 appliances were removed and taken to be recycled at NPT Recycling Centre.
- Volunteers assisted from KWT & Communities First.





## Key issues

For Keep Wales Tidy to continue and develop its role in creating safer communities, the following are key issues:

- *How do we boost the capacity of the organisation to meet the demand for support?*
- *How do we share best practice?*





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