

Date: 23 February 2009

To:	All Media Outlets and Organisations <b>IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	
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**Respect for Top Valley 2009.**

The latest Community-led Week of Action, **Respect for Top Valley 2009** begins on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**.

'**Respect for Top Valley 2009**', will be focussing on community reassurance, improving the environment, action on anti-social behaviour and inconsiderate parking.

One highlight of the week will be the launch of the Alive & Kicking event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> at the Southglade Leisure Centre where the Sherriff of Nottingham, Councillor Brian Grocock will open a brand new play park.

Top Valley residents will get the chance to say where they would like up to £20,000 worth of Home Office funding spent with a special consultation event which will take

place on the side of a bus! People attending the day will be asked to write the ideas on the side of a bus, and the best will be put forward for consideration for funding.

The week will also play host to a visit from **Louise Casey, the Director General of the Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Unit**, who will be meeting local community crime fighters and seeing Community Payback in action first hand during a tour of the area.

In addition, extra work will be done around environmental improvement, including action on fly tipping at the recycling centre, and trade waste disposal, with businesses in Top Valley being inspected during the week for their levels of trade waste, along with extra litter bins being installed and bollards around schools being painted.

This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Week of Action to take place in the City, and the ongoing success of the Weeks of Action programme is testament to the genuine collaboration between partners, agencies and most importantly the local community in fulfilling the pledge to make **'neighbourhoods cleaner, greener, safer and healthier for everyone'**.

The planning process for Respect for Top Valley 2009 has involved all the key agencies who work in the area, local businesses and local residents. The plans have been generated through an in-depth analysis of needs, and activities will take place during the day and night.

As with all Weeks of Action, the organisations involved have set challenging targets to reach over the course of the week. The results of the Week of Action will be available throughout the week on request.

## **Events, Photo & Media Opportunities**

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Leaflet Drop**

All homes across Top Valley will be getting advice leaflets on a variety of subjects including anti-social behaviour through their doors beginning Monday (**Across Top Valley area, from 0800**).

#### **Welfare and Benefits Advice Surgery**

A help and advice surgery is being held at the Bestwood Area Housing Office this morning (**Bestwood Advice Centre, 1000-1300**).

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Environmental Improvement**

A day of environmental improvement at the Churchfield Plantation today, starting with children and young people from Top Valley school litter picking (**from 0900-1200**),

which will be followed by clearing and painting of the plantation. The participants will learn about caring for the environment, and horticultural skills.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**                      **Louise Casey visit**

The Director General of the Government's new Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Unit, Louise Casey is visiting Top Valley this morning to see how the area is putting community payback into action. She will be meeting members of the community who are 'Crime Fighters' to hear how crime and the perception of crime affects their lives and seeing offenders involved in the Community Payback scheme in action **(0830 – 09.15 at the Eastglade School, NG5 9ED an additional press release will be issued by the Home Office on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February with more details of this event).**

**Planting on the Duke of St Albans Roundabout**

Children and Young People from local schools will be planting on the Duke of St Albans traffic island as part of Nottingham in Bloom **(0800-1200 & 1300-1500, Bestwood Park Drive West).**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**                      **1940's Theme Social Night**

Residents from across Area 2 will be attending a special 1940's themed social night taking place at the TA Centre in Bulwell. **(Hucknall Lane, Bulwell).**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**                      **Fire Safety talk**

Pupils in Year 10 at Top Valley School will be learning about the consequences of playing with fire and arson from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue officers **(PM, Top Valley School).**

**Tenants & Residents Promotion Event**

An event designed to promote Tenants & Residents associations is being held at the Top Valley Social Club. Nottingham City Homes will be there along with other partners. **(1700 - 1900, Top Valley Social Club).**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**                      **'Alive & Kicking' Health Event**

Loads of fun and games is the name of the game at the Alive & Kicking event today. Activities on offer include face painting, how to make a great smoothie, food demonstrations, a climbing wall and White Post Farm will be bringing some of their farm animals along. The team are also looking for 'Dynamic Dads' in the area to keep them updated with health and wellbeing information and activities taking place just for dads in Area 2.

The Area 2 Management Committee will also be running a consultation session for ideas to spend up to £20,000 worth of funding from the Home Office. Ideas will be

gathered from everyone who attends the Alive & Kicking event, and the most popular will be considered for funding. **Alive & Kicking takes place at the Southglade Leisure Centre from 1000-1500.**

**Allan Breeton, Director, Neighbourhood Crime & Justice for Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership said,**

*“Once again the views of the local residents have been at the forefront of our plans for this Week of Action and they will also be able to influence what is happening in the longer term in their area.*

*The Alive & Kicking event will give them the opportunity to decide on how public money is to be spent on community safety projects to make a difference for the majority of law abiding people in Top Valley.”*

**Any residents wishing to get involved or wanting more information on the ‘Respect for Top Valley 2009’ Week of Action can contact the Neighbourhood Management Team on 0115 915 9129 or 07983 718 859.**

#### **[Activities happening throughout the week.](#)**

**Monday to Friday:** Daily partnership briefings will take place from 0900 at the Southglade Access Centre, Top Valley.

**SmartWater:** 1000 homes will be Smartwatered during Respect for Top Valley 2009 by a range of partners and the local Neighbourhood Watch.

**Residents of Top Valley wishing to have their property Smartwatered should call the Burglary Reduction Team on 0115 915 3701. Smartwater appointments can now be made online, via the Nottingham City Council website by clicking here: <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3316>**

**Enforcement, Prevention, Home Fire Safety Checks, Grime and Graffiti:** Operations will be taking place throughout the week, photos, interviews and information can be arranged on request.

**To arrange interviews or to enquire about any aspect of the Week of Action call; Scott Marshall on 07507 884798 or Katy Follows on 07985 885531.**

**/more**

## Notes to editors

### **What is SmartWater?**

- SmartWater is a clear fluid that can be painted onto property to enable the true owner to be identified if it is stolen.
- The SmartWater mark is invisible to the naked eye but can be detected by the Police using special lamps.
- SmartWater uses forensic scientists to give each householder a unique code and enables the Police to return stolen property to the rightful owner.
- The Police can also charge anyone found in possession of an item marked with SmartWater that does not belong to them.

It has proven to be an excellent deterrent to burglars.

Residents from across Nottingham are being encouraged to report problems in their area to the Nottingham City Council's **Anti-Social Behaviour Helpline** on **915 2020**. Crime can be reported anonymously to **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**.

Respect for Nottingham tackles anti-social behaviour in our City Centre and neighbourhoods to make Nottingham a cleaner and safer place.

In 2003, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Homes and partners came together to launch Respect for Nottingham, after the people of Nottingham voiced their opinions loud and clear that they wanted us to take serious action to tackle and prevent anti-social behaviour in our city.

Weeks of Action are just one aspect of the work that the Respect for Nottingham initiative is undertaking to stamp out anti-social behaviour in the city and make Nottingham's neighbourhoods cleaner and safer for everyone.

The Respect for Nottingham 2008-2011 Strategy was refreshed and relaunched in August 2008; copies of this are available from the CDP or can be downloaded from the CDP website at [www.nottinghamcdp.com/index.asp?pageid=Respect\\_for\\_Nottingham.xml](http://www.nottinghamcdp.com/index.asp?pageid=Respect_for_Nottingham.xml).

### **What is 'Community Payback'?**

Community Payback was introduced to counter concern that community sentences are not tough enough – that they are merely a 'slap on the wrist'.

From April 2005 the range of community sentences that used to be available were consolidated under a single Community Order. A Community Order can be made up of up to 12 requirements which will differ from case to case. These include:

- Carrying out between 40 and 300 hours of compulsory 'unpaid work' –now called Community Payback
- Taking part in activities to improve basic skills such as reading and writing
- Attending programmes to alter offending behaviour
- Attending programmes that deal with alcohol or drug abuse
- Other restrictions like observing curfews, or being prohibited from certain areas

Offenders perform five million hours of compulsory Community Payback in England and Wales each year. Community Payback projects continue to benefit local schools, faith groups, churches, charities and community organisations. A wide range of work is being undertaken, including graffiti removal, street clean-ups, recycling projects, building maintenance and improvements to park and community facilities.

To ensure that Offenders undertaking Community Payback are visible to members of the community, the participants wear brightly coloured jackets with the words 'Community Payback' on the back. This is an important step in raising public awareness of and confidence in community sentences. However, alone it will not deliver the increased visibility and public confidence in community sentences needed.

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