

MEDIA RELEASE

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**WEST MERCIA
CONSTABULARY**
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Date:

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Redditch clean up

Neglected areas of Redditch are to be cleared up in a joint venture between the police and probation service.

A session to clear up Lodge Road and the grounds of B&Q in Jinnah Road has been organised by Community Support Officer Mike Meredith in conjunction with West Mercia Probation Trust.

It will take place on Friday 29th August from 10am to around 3pm, and involve a team of supervised offenders.

CSO Meredith said: "The project will involve some graffiti removal, clearing of vegetation and general tidying up.

"We've been working with probation over the last year or so, and this is a good example of how our partnership with them can have joint benefits."

Last October CSO Meredith organised a similar clean-up with probation at a passage between Lodge Road and Millsboro Road.

He said: "Areas which look neglected and have been vandalised can become targets for further damage.

"Not only do these clean-ups improve the appearance of the area, they have practical benefits. For example, cutting back vegetation opens up paths and alleys and provides less hiding places.

"Residents benefit by having a more pleasant and safer environment and the offenders benefit by learning new skills and reducing the risk of them re-offending."

Robert Elmes, Community Punishment Officer, who is supervising the work party said,

"Some of the offenders working on this project live in the area and so they are really giving something back to the community. Hopefully it will encourage them to have a sense of pride in their local area".

"This is an excellent example of a joint agency project with probation, police, the council and B&Q all working together for the benefit of the community. We have carried out this type of work in Redditch before and it really does help to reduce anti-social behaviour".

Ends

Note to editors: Photographers are welcome and CSO Mike Meredith is happy to be pictured but photographers will obviously need to seek the permission of any offenders they wish to take pictures of



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