



Press Release

For immediate release

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Offenders help smarten up the area

Offenders on Community Payback have given Offmore and Comberton housing estates in Kidderminster a spring clean to remove litter and make the area more pleasant for residents.

The big clear-up is thanks to a partnership initiative between West Mercia Probation and Wyre Forest District Council to make improvements and smarten up open spaces.

Offenders carried out the work to pay back for the crimes they have committed. Five work parties, each comprising of around eight offenders and a probation supervisor, worked for over 200 hours to clear up the area. They picked up litter from pathways and surrounding areas, edged the pathways and cut back overhanging bushes. The offenders wear high-vis jackets so that the public can see the work that is being done and how they are paying back for their crimes.

Offmore and Comberton Action Group approached probation to ask for help to make their area better and thus help reduce anti social behaviour. Rose Bishop, member of the Offmore and Comerton Action Group said,

“The work was exceptionally good and we have had many positive comments from residents. Now the area doesn’t look like a dustbin, we don’t have people treating it as a dustbin. Another positive has come out of it - since the

Community Payback team finished the work, we have had volunteers coming together to try to keep the standards up. It has established a really good feeling in the area and has made a real difference”.

Councillor Marcus Hart, Cabinet Member for Housing & Environmental Services, is really pleased with how the partnership initiative is going, he said,

“This is an excellent initiative between the Probation Service and the Council’ It will help keep our district cleaner and improve the environment for residents across Wyre Forest. We hope that the use of Community Payback to make these improvements will be welcomed by the public.”

Jan Breen, Probation Community Payback Manager in Kidderminster said:

“The Community Payback workers did an excellent clear-up job and the work done there was very visible. Members of the public will be able to see an improvement and also see offenders giving back to the community. We look forward to assisting with other clearance projects”.

If you have a project in your area that you think probation may be able to help with please call our Community Payback team 01562 820071 or fill in a form on-line to nominate a project www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk Projects must benefit the community and must be work that can be done safely and not take paid work from others.

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