



# Press Release

20 January 2011

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## Offenders carry out big clean-up

Residents of Brockhampton Close expressed their gratitude as offenders carrying out Community Payback transformed the area this weekend.

The area has been plagued by fly tippers. So offenders carrying out Community Payback work got stuck in to give it a clean-up and make it a more pleasant environment for the residents. They removed nearly 5 tonnes of rubbish that had been dumped including tree roots, garden waste and concrete.

Work parties of between 10 and 17 offenders and supervisors worked over the weekend and on Monday at the site. They carried out over 350 hours of Community Payback work.

This work was carried out through a partnership agreement between West Mercia Probation and Worcester City Council, whereby offenders carry out a certain number of hours each week to clean up areas in Worcester.

The work is part of *Take Pride in Worcester* – a campaign to encourage both local people and visitors to take pride in the city and to work together to reduce litter and to improve Worcester's overall appearance.

Mike Harrison, Head of Cleaner & Greener at the City Council said, *"This site has been an on-going problem over a period of time. The work carried out by the Community Payback team is a really good example of how we can deliver a service to residents over and above the normal level of provision"*.

Resident of Brockhampton, Des Miley, was very grateful for the work the offenders have carried out, he said, *"What a pleasant surprise, having been away for the*

*weekend I thought I had come back to the wrong place! The area adjacent to my garage has been blitzed; it looks like it did twenty years ago. Thank you to all those involved, it must have been a mammoth job. If this is the kind of thing that Community Payback is used for, then it's a great idea".*

Ian Hampton, one of the West Mercia Probation Trust Supervisors that worked on the job said, *"It went really well, it was one of those jobs that everyone really got stuck into and worked hard. It is a good example of where offenders are able to make a visible difference to their own community".*

If you have a project in your area that you think probation may be able to help with please call our Community Payback team 01905 723591 or fill in a form on-line to nominate a project [www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk](http://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.

**ENDS**

**For further details please contact:-**

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**Editors Notes**

- Community Payback is a punishment which requires offenders, sentenced by the courts to unpaid work, to repay the community for their crimes. Offenders must carry out between 40 – 300 hours of work.
- If offenders are in full-time work or education they must give up one day at weekends. Unemployed offenders may have to work for three days a week.
- The sorts of projects we work on include:- street clean-ups, ground clearance and landscaping, footpath clearance, churchyard maintenance, painting and decorating and maintenance work to community centres and parish halls, improvements to parks and other community facilities and work for local charities.
- We work in partnership with local Councils helping out with street maintenance and at countryside sites.