

Engineering News *February 2005*

Information Bulletin from the Department of Engineering Services

Awards Aplenty!

Engineers have had a successful start to the year. There was recognition from the corporate Team of the Year judges and the next generation of employees were also honoured by the Mayor and senior staff at the apprentice of the year awards.

At the 28th January ceremony at the Investment Centre, the diverse functions of the department were extremely well represented. In the Team of the Year category for cross-departmental working, the **decriminalised parking**

steering group achieved third place and the **litter wardens** came second. For achieving their BVR targets, the **street scene and lighting team** came third in the customer satisfaction category. And for exceeding targets and raising funds, the **waste management team** was first in the category of achievement. On the night, the Director paid tribute to each team in his introduction and explanation and each team received their awards from the rugby (and ballroom dance) legend Martin Offiah.

And a few weeks ago, the council's top young tradesmen—and women—were rewarded at a special ceremony in the



Peter Taylor, Department of Engineering Services, Civic Buildings, New Market Street,
Wigan, WN1 1RP www.wiganmbc.gov.uk/pub/beng

town hall's central atrium. Every year, Director of Engineering Services Peter Taylor salutes apprentices who have undergone successful training in his department, which includes building, highways, cleansing and transport. Many of the young men and women are 'modern apprentices', trained in a fixed term contract of three or four years. And with the numbers of skilled workers in many trades in decline, the role of the council in supporting them is vital.

The awards were presented by the Mayor of Wigan, Cllr John Hilton and the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr David Molyneux.

Mr Taylor told the press:

"We pride ourselves on training to a high standard — and we're tremendously proud of our young apprentices and all they have achieved. This ceremony is our way of recognising their success and showing our support and commitment to offering school

leavers good quality and thorough training."

Stuart Belshaw of Leigh Building Services received this year's Martin Pearse Trophy. The award is in memory of the late building manager, who was a



strong supporter of the council's role as a primary training organisation. Stuart, from Platt Bridge, has also been Student of the Year at his college for two years running.

Apprentice of the Year is Ashley Stokes of Hindley Green, a paviour in the



highways section. And there's a special award to Mark Adams, a trainee technician in the department's engineering consultancy. Mark, from Ince, is currently working unpaid whilst retraining from his previous job as a pipe fitter.

Special merit prizes were presented to: electrician Ritchie Ingram (from Abram), painter and decorator Dale Moss (from Platt Bridge), plasterer Shaun Bennett (Winstanley), plumber Andrew Houghton (Ashton) and paviours Antony Fitzgerald (Platt Bridge), Phil Grogan (Hindley Green) and Lee Higham (Hindley). Four modern apprentices are rewarded: Vicky Bamber (Standish), Ashley Knowles (Wigan), Laura Fisher (Leigh) and Jemma Sedgwick (Ince).

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Shortlisted for Success

Half a million bulbs and three hundred trees planted in just twelve months is a tidy haul — but that's just part of the work of Wigan's clean-up campaigners over the past year.

Now the efforts of the council's People and Places team have put the borough in the running for a prestigious national award — along with high level endorsement from Wigan-based EnCams, the charity behind the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

Last year major works included grot spot landscaping at 20 sites from Atherton to Pemberton, 150 new litterbins and half a million roadside daffodil and crocus bulbs, set to bloom shortly on routes between local townships.

The team has worked closely with Encams since its clean-up programme began. Residents' surveys continually told the council that issues like street cleanliness, dog fouling, street lighting and highway maintenance are seen as priorities — but the services were poor.

Now there's been a solid effort to address these concerns and make visible improvements to the local landscape — with the result that Wigan's programme is on the shortlist in EnCams' national awards for partnerships for the second year running.

Later this month, street scene teams from councils across the country will gather at Birmingham's Villa Park for what promises to be even tougher competition than last time.

Working with several local partner groups, the People and Places Programme won second place in last year's awards.

This year judges are focusing on the link between poor local environmental quality and anti-social behaviour. In Wigan, this has seen a close rapport develop between the People and Places team and community protection officers.

Alan Woods, Chief Executive of EnCams, said:

“Wigan Council has done tremendously well to beat off stiff competition from other councils across the UK.

“The fact that residents, visitors and people commuting to the area on a regular basis get to see and experience a cleaner, tidier town is of course the most important achievement but it would be the icing on the cake if

it gets some formal recognition in the shape of a People & Places Award.”

Nick Burdekin, People and Places Programme Manager, said:

“It was great to receive endorsement of our programme here in Wigan from such a high level. I’m grateful to the two chief executives, Steve Jones of Wigan Council and Alan Woods of EnCams, for supporting our work.

“This year we’ll be focusing on stamping down on fly posting and continuing to issue on the spot fines for people dropping litter and fly tipping. Thanks also to all residents for helping to keep our borough clean.”



A Tidy Team: Wigan Council and EnCams chief executives Alan Woods and Steve Jones display the latest award. Also pictured are Nick Burdekin and Paul Dandy of the council's People and Places team, and Gail Ormston, regional officer for EnCams.

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Green bins on their way

Plans to improve Wigan’s recycling figures took a big step forward this month after council bosses agreed to

introduce kerbside collections of garden waste.

‘Green’ waste collections will start later this year from a third of the borough’s 120,000 homes. Details are still being finalised, but householders with gardens in the trial area will get a new green wheelie bin for getting rid of all their grass and plant cuttings, bark, leaves and other garden waste. Brown cardboard will also be included.

If successful, the scheme will go boroughwide within three years, and it should increase the borough’s recycling rate from its current 15% to nearer 20%.

The contents of the green bins will be turned into valuable compost. They will be emptied on the same day as the waste paper collections, which have already proved to be a resounding success.



Bin there, done that: Director’s secretary Norah Sprung with a new bin

Cabinet member for the environment Cllr David Molyneux said:

“The amount of rubbish we recycle has increased in the past two years thanks to a determined effort by residents and the council. But we all accept it’s still not high enough, and this new scheme will go some way towards helping us meet our obligations.”

Councils that fail to meet national recycling targets or curb the amount of waste they get rid of at landfill sites face massive government financial penalties in the future. For this reason, council bosses will stop household waste recycling sites being used for trade waste. A permit scheme will be implemented for householders with vans. Cars carrying household waste without a trailer will not need a permit. Trade waste will have to be taken to a private waste operator.

Council chiefs say this is needed because traders from outside the borough have been coming to Wigan in increasing numbers to get rid of their rubbish, after other neighbouring councils introduced permits. This has increased the amount of rubbish being sent to a landfill site and is putting the council at risk of hefty fines.

The council will also stop directly providing a skip and trade waste service, and will instead encourage current customers to use private sector alternatives. Wigan is one of a dwindling number of councils still providing such a service, and the waste collected also adds to its landfill problems.

Taken together council bosses believe these measures should reduce the risk of Wigan having to pay the punitive penalties that will be imposed on councils that fail to cut the amount of rubbish they get rid of in landfill sites.

But to combat the possibility of unscrupulous firms dumping their rubbish rather than paying to have it properly disposed of, the council is also to set up a team of enforcement officers whose job it will be to take action against fly tippers.

Cllr Molyneux added:

“Since permits banning trade waste were introduced in Lancashire, many people have been coming across the border to get rid of their rubbish at our household recycling sites. That just creates more rubbish for us to get rid of, and unless we do something now then we’ll be facing horrendous fines.

“We accept that this might see an increase in fly tipping, and so we are setting up a small team to combat this possibility. The costs involved in doing this are far less than the fines we’d face if we didn’t take urgent action now to cut our landfill liability.”

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Join The Patrol — Call Up For Crossing Crusaders

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to help school kids cross the road in safety!

It’s no mission impossible — but road safety chiefs are looking for new recruits for the small army of school crossing patrols.

The service, which is paid, escorts thousands of school pupils, and grown ups, across the borough’s busy roads each year.

The number of lollipop patrols has dropped markedly in recent years.

Road Safety Manager Julie Dagnall said:

“Councils do not have to provide crossing patrols but in Wigan we really want to offer the service to all our pupils. However, we cannot do this without the public’s help.”

Julie has seen eight of her patrols either retire or move on in the last few months and no one has come forward to replace them. Even though it is the parents’, not the council’s, obligation to ensure their children get to school safely, Julie’s team is looking closely at the patrol service to make sure there are lollipop men and women on the streets.

“Some areas are desperately low for patrols,” she said. “We just don’t have anyone spare to cover illness or holidays. Ashton and Orrell are especially in need of cover.”



Top Of The (Lolli) Pops: Olive Aird, 59, is proud to look after the busy Holden Road / Wensleydale Road crossing in Leigh. But she wants more community-minded residents to join the service.

The Road Safety team is committed to the service and has already appealed to schools for help. There are currently 139 sites which need a patrol, with only 113 people available for them.

“Please join us if you can,” urged Julie. “We have patrols in their 30’s and in their ’70’s, so it’s open to almost everyone. You’ll be paid and given a uniform and I guarantee a high level of job satisfaction as you become a valued member of the school community and a popular figure for the children.”

People who want more information about how to join the crossing patrol team can call Wigan Council’s Road Safety Team on (01942) 488250.

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Satisfaction! ‘Lights Fantastic’ in Worsley Mesnes

A Wigan community has given a council-backed improvement programme a resounding thumbs-up.

Residents of Worsley Mesnes have seen the appearance of their estate transformed over the past three years and a survey has now shown that the vast majority are happy with the changes.

Satisfaction rates about the improvements to major roads like Cornwallis Street and Baucher Road are currently running at 90 per cent.

Money from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB6 One Stop for Regeneration) and the council’s

Engineering Services Department has provided 80 new street lights on the estate. They are modern, stainless steel columns with a life expectancy of 70 years, using energy efficient electronic controls. The lights are fitted with the latest white lamps and provide excellent night time vision, which in turn helps reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Residents have been involved in the transformation every step of the way.

Street Lighting Manager Keith Benson said:

“It is rewarding to know that residents like the look of the new ‘white light’ columns and also feel much safer. We’re continuing to work with residents to bring these improvements to the whole borough.”

Before the lights were put up a mere 19% of residents were satisfied with the level of lighting on Worsley Mesnes compared with 90% now. While 82% now feel road safety and personal safety has improved because of the lights.

People and Places Manager Nick Burdekin said:

“We have been working in Worsley Mesnes for three years as part of a partnership with residents and SRB6.

“The project is now coming to an end on the estate but a lot of improvements have been made which will last for years to come.”

The work doesn’t stop because the council has now unveiled plans to improve lighting along Worsley Mesnes Drive and Tyrer Avenue.

The Worsley Mesnes project is part of an ongoing series of improvements to the quality of street lighting across the

borough, with recent projects in Atherton, Westleigh and Standish being positively received by residents.

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The Pride of Leigh

‘It’s for the lads and for Leigh!’

These were the words that said it all at the town’s annual civic pride awards.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Brian Jarvis, who heads the Leigh Town Centre Management Group, recently presented this year’s Pride of Leigh Award to council cleansing manager Stuart Richardson.

Stuart and his team are responsible for removing litter and keeping the streets clean. And what a year it’s been for the team.

Reports into the state of Leigh’s roads and paths show a year-on-year improvement in the quality of the street scene and a decline in the amount of litter. Recent projects have also increased the number of bins and improved the look of Leigh even more through bulb planting and better quality street lighting.

Each year Leigh’s Town Centre Management Group looks to recognise and reward achievement in public service that promotes Leigh and encourages more people to come to the town.

With a record like theirs, the cleansing team was the obvious choice!

Cllr Jarvis and wife and deputy mayoress Cllr Barbara Jarvis were on hand at the council’s main depot in

Hindley to present the award and pay tribute to the workers. Also present were Leigh township manager Andrew Sharrock and town centre manager Janis Maleedy.



Cllr Jarvis said:

“Stuart Richardson heads a team that gives that little bit extra. They contribute to Leigh’s civic pride and their work makes a real difference to our community.”

In accepting the accolade on behalf of the team, Stuart said:

“It’s a privilege to share this award. Everyone on the team deserves it and it’s a testament to their hard work and dedication.”

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The Road Works Bulletin

The aim of the road works bulletin is to give the public advance notice of road works in the Wigan Council area. We recognise that roadworks can cause inconvenience and it is hoped that this information helps to minimise delays and other problems associated with the works. Every effort has been made to provide accurate and the most up to

date information available but it is not intended to be a definitive list and cannot cater for works carried out at short notice. We also reserve the right to make changes to the programme if emergencies arise.

1. GRAND ARCADE, WIGAN

Major works began on Tuesday 4th January 2005 in relation to the construction of the Grand Arcade Shopping Centre. The roads that will be directly affected are Station Road, Watkin Street and Millgate. The works may also affect adjoining roads. Station Road closed on Wednesday 12th January 2005 and changes to the road layout will be required on Millgate.

Millgate will be one-way in a north-easterly direction between Station Road/Rodney Street and Hewlett Street. The one-way system between Market Place and Hewlett Street will also be revoked to allow access for businesses and construction traffic.

Demolition work adjacent to Riverway started on Monday 31st January 2005 for approximately 4 weeks. Riverway will be reduced to 1 lane during off peak periods whilst work is undertaken.

2. EAST LANCASHIRE ROAD (A580)

Work involving alteration to the verge, manholes and cycle lane commenced on Monday 7th February 2005 for approximately 3 weeks between Higher Green Lane and Greyhound Island. To carry out this work safely it will require an inside lane closure for several hundred metres during off peak times.

3. BOLTON ROAD / HALL LANE, ASPULL

United Utilities (Electric) started major cable laying work on Hall Lane near to

the junction with Bolton Road on Monday 17th January 2005. The work will then lead onto Bolton Road and continue towards Westhoughton (Borough of Bolton). The work within the Wigan Borough is expected to last for a total of 6 weeks.

Temporary traffic signals will be in operation for the safety of motorists and operatives carrying out the work at all times.

4. WARRINGTON LANE, DARLINGTON STREET, DARLINGTON STREET EAST, WIGAN

Carriageway resurfacing work at this junction planned for Sunday 20th February 2005 is postponed. It is likely that the work will now begin on the following Sunday for a series of 4 consecutive Sundays.

Resurfacing is also required on Warrington Lane between Brookhouse Street and Brookhouse Terrace. These restrictions to traffic will be needed:

1. Closure of Warrington Lane between Brookhouse Street and Brookhouse Terrace. The diversion is via Darlington Street, Riverway, Crompton Street and School Lane.
2. Closure of Darlington Street and Darlington Street East at the junction of Warrington Lane. The diversion for Darlington Street is via Riverway, Crompton Street, School Lane, Warrington Lane. The diversion for Darlington Street East is via Birkett Bank, Scholefield Lane and Scholes.

The closures will be phased and diversion routes will be signed when closures are implemented.

5. EDGE GREEN LANE, GOLBORNE

Highway works are substantially complete on this road except for minor works including carriageway markings.

6. BROWNING STREET / KEATS STREET / CAMERON STREET and WORDSWORTH AVENUE, LEIGH

Drainage, carriageway surfacing and footway reconstruction commenced on Monday 10th January 2005 for 18 weeks. To carry the work out safely it will require road closures, but these will be phased. Local diversions will be signed and access will be maintained for residents and businesses.

7. ELLIOTT STREET/ASTLEY STREET, TYLDESLEY

Transco have started gas mains replacement work on Elliott Street. To carry out work safely at the junction of Elliot Street and Astley Street, temporary traffic signals are likely to be erected on Thursday 17th February 2005. When the work is complete at the junction, the scheme under temporary signals will travel down Astley Street towards Standish Street. The work will last for approximately 4 weeks.

8. REDWOOD, SHEVINGTON

Redwood will be closed for United Utilities (Waste Water) sewer replacement work on Wednesday 16th February for approximately 4 weeks. The diversion routes will be signed via Elmfield, Elnup Avenue, Old Lane, Shevington Lane, Parbrook Lane, Longbrook and High Park.

9. HIGHFIELD GRANGE AVENUE, GOOSE GREEN

United Utilities (Waste Water) started sewer works near to the junction with

Kelvin Grove on Monday 24th January 2005. Temporary traffic signal work has been suspended until further investigations are carried out.

10. HOLDEN ROAD, LEIGH

Footway works commenced on Monday 31st January 2005 between The Avenue and Charles Street. Temporary traffic signals may be in operation when required for approximately 3 weeks.

11. WALLGATE, WIGAN

Carriageway resurfacing works commenced on Monday 7th February 2005 for a total of 4 weeks between the Railway Station car park and Clayton Street. The work should be carried out on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. However if unforeseen circumstances occur it may be possible that works will be carried out on additional nights during the week. To carry out the works safely it will require lane closures and road closures, which will operate between the hours of 7pm and 7am the following morning during the week. The restrictions are:

1. Temporary closure of Wallgate, Wigan from Queen Street to King Street West.
The alternative route will be via Library Street, Rodney Street, Riverway, Chapel Lane, Caroline Street or Queen Street.
2. Temporary closure of Great George Street, Wigan from Wallgate to Brown Street. The alternative route will be via Clayton Street and Brown Street.
3. No right turn from Caroline Street onto Wallgate. The alternative route will be via Wallgate and Pottery Road.

12. LOVERS LANE/WIGAN ROAD TO ATHERLEIGH WAY, ATHERTON

Footway resurfacing works commenced on Thursday 10th February 2005. The works will take place on the footway involving properties with odd numbers only during off peak periods. This work is expected to be complete on Wednesday 16th February 2005. After the completion of these works, further resurfacing work will start on the opposite side between house number 56 and Leigh Road. This work is expected to last for approximately 3 weeks. To carry out the works safely, temporary signals may be needed.

13. SWAN LANE, HINDLEY

The road closure planned between Coupland Road and Alder Lane to commence this coming weekend on Swan Lane has been postponed. However the closures for the resurfacing works are likely to commence on these dates:

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th February 2005

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th March 2005

The diversion route is via Green Lane and Alder Lane.

14. ORRELL ROAD, ORRELL

Footway resurfacing works are programmed to start on Monday 21st February 2005 for a period of approximately 3 weeks. The resurfacing work will be carried out between Fisher Drive to the boundary with Upholland. To carry out the works safely, temporary lights will be in operation during off peak periods.

15. WESTLEIGH LANE, LEIGH

Carriageway resurfacing work commenced on Westleigh Lane between Sovereign Fold and Lawson

Avenue on Monday 14th February 2005. The work is expected to be complete within 1 week. Temporary traffic signals will be in operation during off peak periods.

16. PLATT LANE, STANDISH

Platt Lane will be closed on Monday 21st February 2005 for 1 week near to 'Hilgay'. This will allow sewer works to be undertaken by a private developer. The diversion routes will be signed via Chorley Road, Wigan Road, High Street, Preston Road, Avondale Street.

17. LIVERPOOL ROAD, PLATT BRIDGE

Highway Improvement works recently began on Liverpool Road at the junction of Lomax Street. Temporary traffic signals will be in operation on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February 2005 to carry out work safely.

18. BANK STREET/ GRIMSHAW STREET, GOLBORNE

Fulcrum Connections will carry out gas works at this junction starting Wednesday 16th February 2005. Temporary traffic signals will be in operation to carry out the work safely for approximately 3 to 4 days.

19. WARRINGTON ROAD, INCE

United Utilites (Electric) are scheduled to carry out works on Monday 28th February 2005 for 1 week. This will involve electrical related work near to the junction with Wilding Street. To carry out the work safely, temporary traffic signals will be used during off peak times.

20. STANDISH TOWN CENTRE

Street Lighting related work begins shortly around the town centre. It involves work on School Lane, Preston Road, Market Street and High Street (work is in relation to a scheme recently carried out). Work with little disruption to traffic will be carried out in off peak periods during the week. The work near to the traffic signals will be carried out by temporary signals (replacing the existing set) over 2 consecutive Sundays, starting on the 20th February 2005.

21. CARRIAGEWAY PATCHING, SHEVINGTON

Carriageway patching is scheduled outside Shevington County Primary School on Miles Lane on Wednesday 16th February 2005 and is expected to last for 3 days. Further works on Miles Lane are scheduled for Monday 21st February 2005 lasting for 2 days. A further 3 days patching will be carried out on Gathurst Lane Shevington commencing on Wednesday 23rd February 2005. Temporary traffic signals may be in use to carry out the work safely.

Forthcoming road closures

MANCHESTER ROAD/HOLDEN ROAD/GREEN LANE, LEIGH

Carriageway resurfacing will be carried out on Manchester Road at the above junction on a series of 6 consecutive Sundays starting on the 27th February 2005. To carry this work out safely Holden Road and Green Lane will be closed at the junction with Manchester Road. The diversion for Holden Road is via Manchester Road, Chapel Street, Spinning Jenny Way, King Street, Market Street, Leigh Road and The

Avenue. The diversion for Green Lane is via Kenwood Avenue and St. Andrews Drive.

BRYN ROAD, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

Bryn Road will be closed for a series of Sundays between Nicol Road and Bryn Road South for carriageway resurfacing. The first closure will be on Sunday 27th February 2005 and will be repeated for a further 4 consecutive Sundays. The alternative route for the closure will be signed via Wigan Road, Bolton Road and Bryn Road South.

LONG LANE, HINDLEY

United Utilities (Waste Water) have now planned their sewer replacement work on Long Lane. In order to carry out the work Long Lane will be closed between Atherton Road and Woodland Avenue on the following weekends:
Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th March 2005
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th March 2005
Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th March 2005.

The diversion route will be via Swan Lane and Crossdale Road.

Temporary traffic signals will also be required on Atherton Road at the junction of Long Lane whilst the work is undertaken.

Further details regarding any of the matters contained in this bulletin can be obtained from Mr A. Hemingway, Street Works Co-ordinator, Wigan Council on 01942 404690.

NOTE: Where reference is made in this bulletin to "peak periods", that period is defined as 7-30am to 9-30am and 4pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Street Works Co-ordinator.....	01942 404690
British Telecom.....	0800 591083
Telewest	0500 500 151
Cable and Wireless	0800 136786
Transco - (Gas) (Escapes).....	0800 111999
United Utilities.....	0345 462200
Council Drainage.....	01942 244991 x 5142
GM Police.....	0161 872 5050

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