

Respect! National awards and Minister recognise Stanley's local neighbourhood heroes

On Wednesday 14th November the first National Neighbourhood Management Network Awards took place in London. The Awards recognised the exceptional achievements of local people who are making lasting positive changes to neighbourhoods around the country.

Presenting the awards the Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, said: *"The examples of outstanding work which are recognised by these awards are evidence that people are only too willing to get involved in decisions that affect them and their communities. It is local people who know the most about what the challenges are in their neighbourhoods and what solutions might work best for them. Congratulations to all those who are working to empower communities and truly bring devolution to the doorstep."*

Proud winners: l to r: Daniel O'Brien (Partnership & Programmes Development Officer, Green Corridor), the Rt Hon Hazel Blears, Paul Marshall (Neighbourhood Manager, Green Corridor)



Sponsored by the Academy for Sustainable Communities, Harvest Housing Group, the Neighbourhood Alliance and Shared Intelligence, the Green Corridor Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder in Stanley, County Durham were the winners in the category for Community-led Crime and Safety Initiative. This recognition is as follows:

Winner: Green Corridor Neighbourhood Partnership, County Durham

- I Respect – We Respect Campaign

Using branded material to appeal to younger people, including wristbands, thumb rings, stickers and t-shirts, this campaign addresses anti-social behaviour and crime and also promotes community cohesion. It was embraced by not only the local community but agencies, businesses, organisations and other agencies, and has been rolled out in a number of other areas. The department of Communities and Local Government is now looking at how the initiative can be used as an example of good practice.

The Chair of the Green Corridor, Norman King who is a resident of the Green Corridor area highlighted the work of the community: *“To win this award is wonderful, it also goes to show that here in Stanley communities have led the way in turning policy into very real and meaningful action on the ground, our residents of all ages are helping to build a strong, cohesive and diverse community.”*

Paul Marshall, Manager of the Neighbourhood Pathfinder, said: *“It is wonderful for the community of the Green Corridor to win this. This is an exciting reward for all of the time, effort and dedication of the partnership, its staff team and residents who have worked tirelessly at building and embedding respect and social values in the community.”*

Jim Kilgallon, Community Inspector - Stanley, Durham Constabulary stated: *“I am delighted that the Green Corridor has been recognised in this way and it is wholly deserved. The close working practices of the Partnership and the Police have been fundamental in the crime reduction we have achieved and the integration of partnership working into the Neighbourhood Policing Process.”*

Daniel O'Brien, Partnership & Programmes Development Officer for the Green Corridor who leads the campaign for the Partnership, said: *“This is a great achievement for the area. It has and still is a pleasure to work with local residents who feel so passionate about the campaign and the area in which they live.”*

Note to editors:

The National Neighbourhood Management Network was set up in 2003 by Communities and Local Government (previously the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) to support 35 neighbourhood management pathfinder schemes. Since then the network has grown rapidly, and is now in contact with around 1,300 individual practitioners, policy-makers and academics. It involves 350 neighbourhood partnerships run by local authorities, New Deal for Community partnerships,

development trusts, housing providers and other organisations working at the neighbourhood level to 'close the gap' by improving the quality of life in those communities. Its services are delivered by Shared Intelligence and its partners.