

Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

12 December 2011



Big Tidy Up in Longford is a Big Success.....

A group of eight volunteers from Warrington have declared the big tidy up project they were involved in within Longford a massive success. The volunteer programme was organised by **Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT), Stronger Together in Warrington (STIW), Warrington Borough Council (WBC) and Job Centre Plus (JCP)** as part of the Longford quality of life project. Its aim was to help clear up the estate prior to work starting on replacing the “castle” walls around tenant’s homes early next year.

Staff from GGHT worked with the Longford Residents Association and Local Councillors to help the volunteers during their time on the estate. Their day started with a good breakfast at the Longford Neighbourhood Centre before getting stuck in on Longford, with the volunteers helping to clear a number of bin lorry loads of waste over the last eight weeks. They were supervised by two of the STIW Wardens who helped with the daily running of the volunteers and helped make the project a success.

The volunteers were also put through Health and Safety and Manual Handling courses prior to the programme starting and had access to the Collegiate every Friday for advice on jobs and careers. After a successful end to the course the volunteers received a provisional licence, a number of driving lessons, one months free gym membership and a glowing reference and job portfolio.

GGHT Chief Executive Peter Mercer was on hand to present the volunteers with their portfolios at the end of the programme. Speaking at the presentation, he said: “I would like to congratulate all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the last eight weeks. It is through projects

like this that we hope to make a real difference in the Longford area and to improve the quality of life of all its residents”.

To learn more about Golden Gates Housing Trust and the Longford Quality of Life project visit www.gght.org.uk

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GGHT Chief Executive Peter Mercer with members of the Trust's staff and the Get Britain Working Volunteers

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For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager neil.martin@gght.org.uk or phone 0800 25 26 27

About Golden Gates Housing Trust

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) launched on 29 November 2010, formed as part of the Stock Transfer of 8,700 homes from Warrington Borough Council. The transfer converted the successful Arms Length Management Organisation Golden Gates Housing into a registered provider of social housing.

GGHT will be investing around £105M in tenants' homes and neighbourhoods over the first 5 years and £530M over 30 years to deliver the “Warrington Standard”. This Standard has been developed by GGHT's tenants to ensure

that improvements and investment is prioritised in the areas that tenants have said are a priority. Plans include the installation of double glazing and secured front and rear doors in all properties over the next five years as well as environmental improvements such as fencing, gates and lighting.