



"I think it's important that it's young people... it's great to see hundreds of young people who could well be doing something else with their time, but are here making a difference and that, to me, actually is what it's all about."

– Chloe Smith, MP



"I found the work conducted last year to be a great assistance to persons living in the Mile Cross area, it has led to decreased anti social behaviour and has undoubtedly helped in generating a better community feeling in the neighbourhoods.

I was particularly pleased to note residents assisting in the work that was being carried out. This enabled the residents to have ownership of the work and therefore be more likely to continue the good work that took place and ensure that the impact that was made during the week had a longer lasting effect."

– Inspector Rob Wickes



**Last summer as part of the Newday Christian youth event at the Norfolk Showground more than 3000 youngsters converged on the streets of Norwich and Norfolk to take part in social action projects.**

Catton and Mile Cross benefitted from several of these projects like: fence painting at residents homes; garden and rubbish clearance; tidying and cleaning local parks (such as Pointersfield and Peterson Park); and a kids holiday club at the Norman Centre. These projects worked in collaboration with Norfolk Police and Norfolk County Council and took place between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

More than 400 young people were transported from the Showground in to Catton and Mile Cross each day for four days to take part and the involvement and impact it had on the community was amazing.

Chloe Smith (MP for Norwich North) arrived to see what the young people were doing and even joined in the fence painting herself. She commented on the positive impact of young people volunteering in effective community work:

"It's so good to see hundreds of young people out... here in Catton Grove and Mile Cross... doing fence painting, doing garden clearance, getting on with residents, residents' own kids are joining people as well. I think it's a really good day where everyone is getting along together and actually doing something really good for the community."

Police Inspector Marie James from the Mile Cross, Catton and Fiddlewood Safer Neighbourhood Team, who was involved in setting up the projects, gave her reaction:

"It shows that not all youngsters cause trouble and anti-social behaviour and are willing to work hard and give something back to the community."

Over 150 homes in Mile Cross were visited by young people, who cleared rubbish from 28 of them. It took 11 lorry loads to dispose of the rubbish, plus many van loads of green waste. 153 homes in Catton had their fences painted with help from locals (and Chloe Smith!).

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