

Copeland Homes

European Neighbours Day 27th May 2018

Copeland Homes housing stock is based in the West of Cumbria on the edge of the Lake District National Park. This is a rural area consisting of small towns and villages along a coastal strip. Several of the neighbourhoods we manage have high levels of deprivation and the associated problems.

We used the Neighbours Day banner to encourage residents to come together and celebrate their community and support the development of community spirit. We choose to support small neighbourhood events where residents would take ownership of developing their own activities. As an organisation we host an annual Funday in the Park which attracts thousands of local residents this took place a week later.

We developed a Neighbours Day challenge and invited community groups to apply for funding offering 10 groups £200 towards the costs of the events.

The challenge

We challenge your Group to bring together a cross section of people in your neighbourhood to a social gathering where they can have fun, make new friends and be entertained. The events could take place during the week 25th – 31st May.

We also offered development support to those groups who needed it but most groups were confident that they could do it on their own. Each group was provided with a scrap book and two disposable cameras to assist them in producing a record of the event. A member of Copeland Homes Regeneration Team attended each event providing moral support and in some cases practical help.

Marketing and Publicity

Groups used the Neighbours Day posters to advertise their events and one group had an article in the Whitehaven News prior to the event. Copeland Homes sent a press release to the local papers with the schedule of events. The Whitehaven news promoted Neighbours day but did not publish the event details. The Neighbours Day name badges were widely used. An article reporting on the events will be published in two tenant publications CHAT and YOU.

Events

All events went ahead on schedule although one or two had to be adapted at the last minute as outdoor activities had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Please see attached schedule of activities.

693 residents including volunteers attended the 10 events.

Several groups were disappointed with the turn out but all are keen to participate in something similar next year and some groups are already planning next years activity.

Examples of success:

- Greenbank Community Association invited residents to a luncheon and talk on “Greenbank past and present”. The day was a great success and residents have requested another day, including those people who did not attend. Some of their older residents now living in sheltered housing or Care Homes also want to attend future events. Their regular luncheon club numbers have grown significantly and they are now planning another event for September where they will use community transport to pick up older residents now living outside the Greenbank community.
- North Copeland Youth Partnership worked with community members to organise a fun day, which was so successful they are already planning a Mardi Gras for next year.

Conclusion

I am pleased with the outcomes the initiative has been a success on several fronts:

- It has met its objectives of bringing together a cross section of neighbourhoods to a social gathering where they can have fun, make new friends and be entertained.
- It has promoted the community organisations within their neighbourhoods.
- It has empowered both individuals and organisations.
- It has fostered community cohesion.

We have received positive feedback from most groups who are eager to take part next year, we are also interested in repeating the exercise next year. We would encourage groups to take up our support to organise and market their events.

Neighbours Day Events 2008

GROUP	VENUE	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	Attendance	Comments
Pheonix Youth Project	Crossfield Community Centre	27 th May	14.00 - 1600	Community Coffee Stop	32	Wet afternoon, outside activities cancelled. Disappointing turn out but those who came had a good time
Creative Egremont	Market Hall Egremont	28 th May	11.00 -14.00	A chance for older people to socialise and meet the people who keep their community safe with lunch and entertainment.	97	Action Day for Older people supported by organisations giving advice on community safety with lunch and local entertainment. Scout group helped with refreshments. The day rekindled many old friendships bringing people together after years.
Greenbank Community Association	CommunityCentre Greenbank	27 th May 30 th May	12.00 hours 18.30 hours	Lunch and slide show Greenbank past and present. Family disco	43 35	Lunch was a great success resulting in new members to their lunch club they are going to repeat the exercise in September. The Disco also went well
Home Older Persons Services	23 Manor Court Wakefield Rd Cockermonth	30 th May	13.00 -1600	Afternoon tea with Elvis	56	The food and entertainment where a great success.

Youth Works Egremont	Youth Centre 4-5 Dryden Way Egremont	30 th May	9.00 - 12.00 14.00 -17.00	Family activities for 5 -11s refreshment and activities for senior citizens	46	The centre was open for the community residents dropped in for a cuppa and a chat catered by the young people. The group were disappointed by the
Crossroads Friday Club	Welfare Great Clifton	30 th May	10.00 - 16.00	Community day with a Coffee morning, jumble sale, afternoon tea, arts & crafts etc activities for everyone.	36	The group was disappointed with the attendance but not surprised. However they are keen to try something different next year and encourage more people to take part.
North Copeland Youth Partnership	Parton Village Hall	31 st May	11.00 -15.00	Village fun day with activities for all	200	A sunny and relaxing day full of activities for the whole family. People also came from the nearby villages.
Mirehouse Action Group	Mirehouse Community Centre	31 st May	10.00 – 15.00	Fun Day	35	Activities and stalls the weather was good but attendance was really disappointing.
Copeland Homes Sheltered Housing scheme	Outing	3 rd June	12.00 – 17.30	Lunch and entertainment	42	Residents from 3 sheltered housing scheme attended providing the opportunity for people to catch up with old friends. A good time had by all.
Valley Tenants & Residents Group	St Patricks & St Gregory's School Esk Avenue	28 th May	12.30 – 18.00	Making hanging baskets to brighten up the community	106	Residents of all ages attended the workshop everyone leaving with a hanging basket to brighten up the neighbourhood.