



# Neighbourhood Waste Action Project

Annual Report  
2004 - 2005

&

Overall Project Report  
April 2005

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Unit 1 Mount Street Business Park, Mount Street,  
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Company Registration No. 3235455 Charity No 10575590



This document is in three parts: Part 1 is a general introduction to the project; Part 2 is the annual report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005; Part 3 is the end of project report summarising the achievements during the funding period 2003-2005.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks must go to the following people:

The staff at WREN and Birmingham City Council for their funding and support of our work.

Members of all the residents associations, community groups and other local organisations for their enthusiasm and participation.

Rajinder Johal, Project Officer and other colleagues at Brumcan for their assistance and support in the delivery of the project.

Ann Brookman  
Waste Action Project Co-ordinator  
April 2005



## **PART 1**

### **Introduction**

The Neighbourhood Waste Action Project is a partnership between Brumcan and local community groups. Initially funded through SRB 2 and the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, it was supported by Birmingham City Council and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The Project aims to encourage and promote waste minimisation, re-use and recycling by developing a network of neighbourhood-based initiatives. The Project has been working in several different neighbourhoods in the southern part of the Birmingham area providing educational services to schools, youth and community groups. The Project is set against a background of a rising mountain of rubbish and supplements the existing recycling services provided by Birmingham City Council.

Throughout the project, schools and local residents have benefited from newsletters, workshops, seminars and displays at local events to encourage greater participation in the recycling schemes provided by Brumcan and Birmingham City Council. The work provides practical information on waste minimisation and recycling through the provision of information and demonstration of examples of re-use.

Further details of all these activities and the communities involved are included in Part 2 of this report.

Activities in the third year have continued to cement relationships with community groups in the project areas, integrating Brumcan and waste recycling into everyday life. Links with further community groups have been developed and as a result, contracts for recycling services have been signed with additional community partners. Brumcan has continued to be involved in a wide range of local events.

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Community representatives from Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath receive the proceeds from the recycling collections at the Celebration2 event 22nd February 2005.



Display at Monkey Business, Balsall Heath Park, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2005

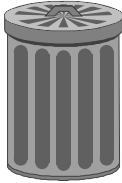


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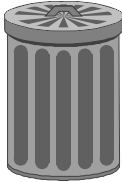
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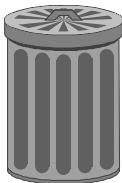
## Project Aims



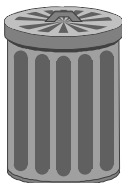
To increase awareness and understanding of sustainable waste management issues amongst community groups in Birmingham



To increase participation in waste reduction and sustainable waste management activities amongst individual households



To encourage better use of existing re-use and recycling services and identify opportunities for the development of new community based initiatives



To develop a high quality sustainable waste management self-help guide for neighbourhoods

## PART 2

### Annual report for April 2004 – March 2005

The areas of Birmingham that have been involved this year are:

- ❖ **Optima Community Association (B15 area)**
- ❖ **Balsall Heath (B12 and B5)**
- ❖ **The Small Heath ward (B10)**
- ❖ **The Moseley Ward (B12, B13, B14)**
- ❖ **The Springfield (formerly Sparkhill) Ward (B11 and B12)**
- ❖ **The Sparkbrook Ward (B11)**

### Project Activities

#### AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOPS

A total of 21 workshops were held in the project areas, these were attended by 411 people from 13 different resident and youth groups. The workshops were designed to increase peoples knowledge on waste and recycling issues through a mixture of talks and practical re-use activities.

The workshops were used as opportunities to distribute information leaflets, newsletters and to promote home composting.



Brumcan Depot Open Day, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Project has been actively involved with 22 community groups and organisations during the year. These groups have been mainly in the Small Heath and Moseley/Balsall Heath areas and are listed below with community partners highlighted.

Small Heath Residents Association  
Small Heath Street Wardens  
Small Heath Transportation & Environment Group  
Digby North Residents Association  
Digby South Residents Association  
United We Stand  
Talfourd Residents Group  
Small Heath & Bordesley Green Community Safety Forum  
Small Heath Practical Care Project  
Friends of Small Heath Park  
Clifton & Brunswick RA  
Bordesley Green North Neighbourhood Forum

Sparkbrook Street Wardens  
Green Association  
Clean Environment Theme Group (Moseley)  
Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum  
Friends of Sara Park  
Mary Street Gurdwara, Balsall Heath  
Good Neighbour Scheme  
Sherron Gardens Residents Ass.  
TRACT  
Tindal, Homer & George RA

### Special Events

Two special events were held during the year which brought representatives from all the project areas together. The first took place in April 2004 when local MP Clare Short officially opened Brumcan's new depot and offices. The second occurred in February 2005 in Sparkbrook when community representatives gathered to receive their share of the recycling proceeds. A total of £3172.98 was returned to ten community partners.

### Additional Events

The Project was also invited to provide a display at two events held at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre in Dudley and at the Green Week event organised by Solihull M.B.C. in summer.



Source: Blackwalls

### Compost bins

Distribution of compost bins to promote waste minimisation continued throughout the year at workshops and outreach events and throughout the distribution of newsletters and leaflets. A further 77 bins were delivered, bringing the total to 465 since the start of the Neighbourhood Waste Action Project.

### Media Coverage

Articles on the Project appeared in neighbourhood, regional and national publications during the year. The depot opening event was covered by The Waste Paper, the journal of the Community Recycling Network and an article on the Green Week display at Merry Hill appeared in the local evening paper the Express & Star. Locally there was coverage in the Good Neighbour Scheme newsletter in Balsall Heath.

An interview with Castle Vale FM, a community radio station, took place during the Green Day event for broadcast later the following week.

## **Events & Displays Attended During the Year.**

### **April to June 2004**

Planting event at the Moghul Garden, Small Heath Park with the Friends of Small Heath Park group. (workshop)  
Brumcan Depot Open Day (display)  
Launch event for Run-a-Muck, community composting scheme. (display)  
Castle Vale Green Day celebrating Environment Day. (display)

### **July to September 2004**

Multi-agency clean up event Barnsville close, Small Heath (display)  
Sparkbrook Community Cohesion Day, Sparkbrook Street Wardens (display)  
Merry Hill shopping centre (week long display)  
South Birmingham Sikh Youth Camp (workshops)  
Balsall Heath carnival (display)  
Small Heath Community Safety Forum 'Peace & Safety Festival' (display)  
Green Association fun day (display)  
Swanshurst Girls School Environment Day (workshops)  
Monkey Business, Balsall Heath Park (display)  
Environmental awareness events in Sparkhill and Springfield (2) (display)  
Asda (display)

### **October to December 2004**

Environmental awareness events in Sparkhill and Springfield (2) (display)  
Merry Hill shopping centre (month long display)  
Planting event at the Moghul Garden, Small Heath Park with the Friends of Small Heath Park group. (Tree planting associated with the alu-can campaign)

### **January to March 2005**

Marlborough Infants School parents evenings (display)  
Celebration 2 cheque handover (display)  
Saltley & Small Heath gardening awards ceremony (display/presentation)  
Asda (display)  
Green Funding Forum (Birmingham City Council) (display)  
External Funding Support launch event (Birmingham City Council) (display)  
Clifton Infants School parents evening (display)

## PART 3

### THREE YEAR PROJECT SUMMARY

#### Project Achievements

NOTE	TOPIC	PROJECT TARGET	ACTUAL ACHIEVED
1	Workshops	60	61
1	Outreach events	15	51
1	Seminars	6	2
2	Compost bins	750	465
	Newsletters	55,000	Achieved
	Information leaflets	15,000	Achieved
3	Waste Watcher Pack	500	103
4	Neighbourhood Waste Reduction Plans	5	Acheived

#### NOTES

- Two formal seminars were held towards the beginning of the project but the format was subsequently changed to become a more informal event with displays from other local organisations to which residents from all the project areas were invited. These events include the two cheque handover events and the new depot opening event which have been recorded as outreach events. Links with well over 60 local community and residents groups have been established.
- The target of distributing 750 home composting bins was not achieved, many of the areas covered by the project consist of dense terraced housing where there are yards rather than gardens. There was also a competing Birmingham City Council compost bin offer. However, promotion has continued and a further 15 have been distributed in April 2005 making a grand total of 470 distributed.
- The Waste Watcher Pack is available in hard copy or CD –Rom version, a total of 103 packs have been distributed in these formats. It is also available to download on the Brumcan website, [www.brumcan.co.uk](http://www.brumcan.co.uk)
- Neighbourhood Waste Reduction Plans have been produced in conjunction with the Optima Community Association, Balsall Heath Forum, Moseley

Forum, Friends of Cotteridge Park, Digby North and Digby South Residents Associations in Small Heath.

## Recycling Collections

During the Project, kerbside collections have been introduced to 16,000 households in the Project areas of Small Heath, Balsall Heath, Moseley and Sparkbrook and mini recycling centres for 1500 Optima Community Association residents in high rise estates. A total of 515 tonnes of materials (glass bottles and jars, food and drinks cans, clothes and shoes, newspapers and magazines) for recycling has been collected. Contracts have been signed with 10 community partner organisations.



Left: electric vehicle used for kerbside collections

Right: mini recycling centre



## Project Staff

Project Co-ordinator

Ann Brookman

Project Officer

Lorna Owen (to August 2003)  
Rajinder Johal (September 2003 – April 2005)

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