

## Eden Communities get involved with The Big Tidy Up



Eden communities are now nicer places to live, thanks to a joint initiative between several organisations in Eden who came together for The Big Tidy Up - a 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign.

Nationally, the Big Tidy Up aims to gather ½ million bags of rubbish. Some of the effort in Eden has been co-ordinated by Eden Housing Association (EHA) and two events have already taken place.

The first was in Kirkby Stephen focusing on the Westgarth Estate and the surrounding lanes. It was a really successful morning, despite the cold and 22 people turned up to help - including 17 young people. They collected 14 bags of rubbish in 2 hours before being rewarded with a game of touch rugby and rounders led by the local Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's).

Sarah Bowman, Community Development Officer for EHA said "Collecting rubbish on our estates makes a huge difference - not only is the area cleaner, but it is a great chance for young people to get involved with their community. Organising The Big Tidy Up has been very much a team effort - involving local PCSO's, Eden Youth Work Partnership and Eden District Council (EDC) who provided the equipment and picked up the bulging bags for us. Everyone has been very supportive and it's great to see people working together and having fun."

The second litter pick took place on the Pategill estate in Penrith on Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup> April) where 43 people including 31 youngsters managed to collect 29 bags of rubbish. This litter picking session was also a real team effort which included Pategill Tenant and Residents Association (TRA), Eden Housing Association and PCSO's from Penrith, again supported by Eden District Council.

Eileen Soulsby, Chair of Pategill TRA was heavily involved in organising the Pategill event, she said 'its great to see members of the community setting a good example and making Pategill a cleaner, more pleasant place to live, it's also nice to see local people looking after their own environment and encouraging our young people to think twice about dropping litter.'

When the team finished their 'Big Tidy Up' session they gathered at Sim Court Supported Housing scheme for refreshments, a raffle and a big thank you.

Jessica Worlock, the Community Development Officer involved in this event summed up by saying "If these Big Tidy Up efforts inspire other community groups in Eden to get up, have a go and take responsibility for their own neighbourhoods, that can only be a good thing. The big advantage of involving the whole community is that everyone can now appreciate that litter picking is a job someone has to do and maybe they will think twice before dropping rubbish".

Annie Donnelley, EDC Officer said "Eden District Council has supported community litter picks for many years and we are very pleased that Eden Housing Association has joined in The Big Tidy Up campaign and organised two such successful events. Any parish council, school, community group or business can join The Big Tidy Up and we are happy to offer free advice and equipment loans."

Nationally, 'The Big Tidy Up' has collected 63,403 bags - and with the extra 29 bags collected in Eden that brings the total to 63403 bags. There are other events planned in the UK - including a big push for St Georges Day, more information can be found at [www.thebigtidyup.org](http://www.thebigtidyup.org)

For support and information about The Big Tidy Up in Eden, please contact Annie Donnelley at Eden District Council on 01768 212493 or email [Client.Services@eden.gov.uk](mailto:Client.Services@eden.gov.uk)."

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Picture captions:

EHA's Jessica Worlock with Yvonne South, Josh and Nicole Bailey

PCSO John Nicholson with Andrew Bailiff, Millie, Reece and Kelsie Troy

Some of the litter pickers returning to Sim Court with their rubbish bags - 29 collected in total.

For more information or high res pictures contact Tracey Errington at Market Sense on 07799 640 290 or email: [tracey@marketsense.net](mailto:tracey@marketsense.net)